

Sunday 5 May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Prayers written by Yvonne Toms

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love you and share your love with all people. We thank you for calling each of us by name to follow you. We pray that as your disciples now, we may be faithful in responding to your call to grow as the people you have called us to be. Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing for others, bringing the promise of your Kingdom nearer by our words and actions and showing your love to all we meet. Lord, we pray that we may see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day.

Father, we thank you for all the people who are part of our Church community and thank you for all who serve you in this place including the churchwardens and all on the Parochial Church Councils in our Ministry Unit. We pray especially this morning for our Church's work with children and young people – for all who attend Messy Church, for TYPO's youth work and the work with the local schools. May we serve you in all that we do.

Lord, you have taught us that we are members one of another and that we can never live to ourselves alone: we thank you for the community of which we are part; for those who share with us in its activities and for all who serve its different interests.

We pray for those in our own country who will gain new power responsibilities as a result of local elections and that they will fairly represent the wishes of all people in their area.

Help us all as we have opportunity to make our contribution to the community and to learn to be good neighbours, that by love we may serve one another, for your sake and for the growth of your Kingdom.

Lord we pray for all seeking to bring peace and healing where there is pain and suffering: for broken countries for broken communities and for all who suffer as a result of conflict. We pray for refugees and all victims of war and violence. We pray for the children who suffer when people put their faith in weapons and war. We pray for people who do not want conflict and are ready to walk the road of peace. We pray especially today for all suffering as a result of the wars in Gaza and Ukraine. We thank you for all working for

peace and bringing food and healing to all in need. Draw us closer to one another and help us through prayer and actions to attain justice and freedom and to use our resources for the good of people in need.

Tender and Merciful Father, we pray for all who need your healing and redeeming love to touch their lives in a special way. We pray for friends and family who are ill at this time and remember them in the quietness of our hearts. We bring them to you in the confidence that you love them and know their every need and that your healing power is still the same in the past, present and future. Bless all that is being done for their recovery and answer our prayers as you see best. From our own community we pray for Alfred Johnson and for those we name in our hearts before you. Lord bind up our wounds and bring us back to the foot of the Cross.

We remember those who have died and those who love them and hold them forever in their hearts. We remember today the family and friends of Pauline Barwick.

From our memorial book, we give thanks for the lives of: Evelyn Hultquist, Glenece Giles, Frederick Murray and Duncan Nutt.

We thank you for lives well lived and for love shared.

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Merciful Father Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.