

Old Hill Malvern Churches

Intercessions for the First Sunday of Lent – 21st February 2021

Everlasting God, your son Jesus Christ was tried and tempted by the devil. May we never be ashamed of temptation but saved from the weakness of giving in. Help us choose the way of faithfulness rather than popularity, service rather than fame and sacrifice rather than power.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we pray for the whole family of your churches across both parishes. May all your people be built up in faith and demonstrate in their lives the gospel of Jesus Christ especially as at this time we are struggling to meet together because of the pandemic but share our fellowship with others online. Help us to play our part in the life of the church throughout the world; through our prayers and by our gifts and service during this season of Lent and beyond. Give courage to those who find it hard to follow you. Give us a fresh vision that leads to action and strengthen us to serve you in the places where we live.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we pray for those in positions of authority and leadership; that they do not misuse their powers but respect and care for all their peoples and for the natural resources of their countries. During our Lenten fasting may we be constantly aware of those in our world who are always hungry and thirsty and of all those who have so little when we have so much.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we ask you to protect our loved ones, our friends and our neighbours. We pray that this Lenten season may bring grace to our friends and relatives who no longer practice their faith, and that they may return in the certain knowledge of your loving acceptance of them.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for those who are ill and in pain, longing to live full lives, for those who are sad and hurt longing for comfort, for those in hospital awaiting treatment, for those convalescing or being cared for in care homes, seeing an end to their suffering and for those whose only relief will come through death. May we always offer gentle support to those in trouble sensitive encouragement to those in need, and strength and support to those in weakness. We especially pray for any suffering from Coronavirus or Long Covid.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for those saddened by the death of someone close to them. Give them your comfort as they mourn for their loved ones and turn their darkness into light. We commend to your everlasting love and care those who have died praying that will rest eternal in the light of Christ. We remember especially...

Lyn Snook, Pauline Cooper, Mary Thomas, Muriel Voce

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, help us to see this time of Lent as an opportunity to develop our discipleship and discipline and as your Son Jesus showed us how to reject temptation, fill us with grace to be faithful to his example in this Lenten season and the year ahead.

Merciful Father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

Your Prayer for Our Prayers - Prayer for the week

After Rosemary and Julia submitted prayers, I have not received any personal prayers to share this week. With a number of good friends passing away in the last few weeks, as we especially remember Pauline Cooper and Lyn Snook, and with a large number of people seriously unwell or recovering from illness and Covid19 from within our congregations, I hope this personal prayer will be of solace and hope:

God of grace and mercy, your son Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Send your Holy Spirit on those who grieve, who struggle, and all who fear. Meet us in our times of questioning, anger, and doubt. Show us what we can do to enable one another to overcome isolation, distress, and despair. And make us a humbler people who know our need of you. In Christ's name.

Amen.

**Remember - your Prayer could be here
and on our parishes website next week if you share it.**