

Old Hills Malvern Churches

Intercessions for the Third Sunday of Epiphany – 24th January 2021

Almighty God, today finds us in the midst of the Week of Prayer for Christian unity; help us to listen to your voice still calling us to unity in our diversity. We pray for church leaders everywhere that they may work together and promote unity among Christians

Lord, you made us to be one body and of one spirit, and so we pray that we might establish friendly relationships among Jews, Christians and Muslims, and tear down the walls of indifference and hatred making our unity visible and bringing healing to the world.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for all who work for justice and solidarity, and for all world leaders that they will continue to seek for an end to the suffering caused by war and violence, injustice and inequality, disease and prejudice, poverty and hopelessness and bring healing to the world.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, as we remember the presence of your son Jesus Christ at the Wedding at Cana, we pray for all we know who are preparing for marriage and those who are beginning their married life together and at this time for those who have had to put their marriage plans on hold because of the pandemic. We pray for all couples that we are working with this year for wedding preparation; may they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends. We also pray for any we know amongst our families and friends who are experiencing marital problems that they may find a way forward through their present difficulties.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we raise before you this morning those who are sick, sad or lonely and those who are brave and patient when things are going wrong. We pray that they may be aware of your comforting presence and know that in your hands they are safe and loved.

(add names of those requesting or needing prayer)

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for those who have departed this life and ask you, through your loving kindness, to have mercy on their souls. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we prepare for the weeks ahead help us to remember that we are sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us overcome our conflicts, our divisions and our self-seeking, and to be united to one another by the power the Holy Spirit.

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

Some General Intercessions from some very well-known people of Faith or not:

Lord we ask that you help us and defend us. Deliver the oppressed, inspire and encourage those who feel insignificant, raise the fallen, reveal yourself to those in need, bring healing to those who are sick, show your ways to those who are lost, raise up the hungry and weak, and take the shackles off those who feel trapped by circumstances and the world. May every nation come to know that you alone are God, that Jesus Christ is your child, that we are your people, the sheep of your pasture. **Amen** After St Clement of Rome 1st Century

My Lord God I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Amen Thomas Merton

O Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon thy holy will. In every hour of the day reveal thy will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that thy will governs all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by thee. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray thou thyself in me.

Amen Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow