

## **Old Hills Malvern Churches**

**Intercessions for Palm Sunday 2020**

**5th April 2020**

Almighty God, as we approach Holy Week hearing again, in its entirety, the story of Christ's passion, may it help us to truly understand the sacrifice he made for us as we reflect on his passion.

Despite being unable to gather in our churches, we give thanks for all the resources supplied that enable us to be together in spirit as we relive the Easter story, a story which fills us with hope and confidence that there will be an end to the anxiety and distress of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ the servant – in the words of St Ignatius.*

Holy God, teach us to be generous. Teach us to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ at prayer whilst his disciples sleep.*

Gracious God we recognise that sometime we put off prayer and thanksgiving as we give way to our human frailty. We thank you for those who pray and intercede on our behalf both in heaven and here on earth especially for our priests and ministers (lay or ordained) up and down the country, near or far, and all members of religious orders who live a prayerful life of poverty, celibacy and obedience. We pray especially for Mucknell Abbey, Glasshampton and Mirfield. *(Short Silence)*

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ betrayed with a kiss and with denials*

Almighty God, please help us never to abandon someone in their time of greatest need. We pray for those that our telephone buddies are keeping in touch with. Help us to forgive those who have wounded and abandoned us in times of crisis. There has been an upsurge of social meeting hate and anxiety in the past week as people have time on their hands to dwell on or stir up things that should be given up to God in prayer. Cleanse our hearts from bitterness and resentment so that we can be more like Jesus, who was abandoned and betrayed by those closest to him.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ falsely tried*

Merciful God, we pray today for those facing the mockery of a trial, knowing that there is no justice for them and that their sentence might lead to a long term of imprisonment or even death. We

remember too those who languish in jails that are overcrowded or in inhumane conditions and those who await their fate on “death row”.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ tortured and violently executed*

Everlasting God, your son was tortured, beaten and humiliated, and sentenced to an agonizing death though he had done no wrong. We pray for all prisoners throughout the world and ask you to be with them in the darkness of their prison cell, in the loneliness of separation from those they love and in their fear in the face of torture, execution and death.

In this diocese, we pray for the Anglican Chaplaincy at HMP Long Lartin (Evesham) and HMP Hewell (Redditch). For Steven and Stephen, Margie, Charmain and Stephanie – the Anglian Chaplains - as they minister to the prisoners behind closed doors in their establishments. We pray for the prison families enduring their own sentence.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

*We think of Christ's compassion despite the way he received none himself.*

Loving God we pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing especially the staff National Health Service who are bravely caring for those who are in need in this worldwide crisis. Locally, we pray for Dr Jo Hughes (within the GMN parish) who leads the ITU at Hereford County Hospital and all those in her care and as she prepares to increase capacity. We pray for the sick, the sorrowful, those who have recently died and those who are bereaved by their passing. We especially pray for those experiencing a graveside funeral, rather than a celebration of life, for a loved one lost in the coming week.

**Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer**

Father God, as we move into Holy Week we commend ourselves and all those whom we live amongst, for whom Christ suffered, to His mercy and protection.

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