

Prayers for the week beginning Sunday 29th March 2020

We thank you Lord for the many acts of kindness, courtesy, concern, consideration and care which we have experienced, or of which we have been told, during recent days. Lord Jesus, give us in turn strength to follow your example by extending friendship to neighbours and strangers alike; and send your Holy Spirit to watch over them, and over all our friends and families, at this time of great uncertainty and fear. **O Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for our children, isolated at home for reasons they can little understand, separated from friends. We thank you Lord for the efforts of schools, of broadcasters, and of other online resources, to develop programmes to help the children and to help their parents and carers in facing this wholly unexpected challenge. Father of all, help the children to understand, and give their parents patience and courage. **O Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for our older children, their education disrupted, and unable to pursue the many other activities outside the classroom with their friends which are an essential part of their childhood. We think of those whose preparation for exams has been frustrated, and we pray for this generation of young people denied for a time the

freedom to develop the relationships which help them to grow together into maturity and responsibility. Father of all, help the young people to understand, and help us all to understand the frustrations and disappointments which they must feel to be so constrained at this critical time in their lives. **O Lord hear our Prayer**

Faithful One, we pray for our St Barnabas community of all ages; help us to stay close and to pray for each other.; Give your strength to those who are elderly and physically vulnerable to ward off and fight off infections during this season. Help them to find daily joy in the beauty of nature, in the good things that they see around them and in safe contact with their loved ones. Thank you for the strength of their faith and trust in you, their example of fortitude, their prayers, love and care for others; Holy Spirit, watch over them. **O Lord hear our Prayer**

We are all now isolated physically from our wider families and friends. We pray for those who were already lonely, for those who regard themselves as friendless; those long separated from their families: Holy Spirit, watch over them. For those who have lost their faith May they again find you we pray that revival, hope and peace will grow in our community. **O Lord hear our Prayer**

For those living in constant fear Lord of all, help us all to remember your words spoken by the prophet Isaiah

So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you. Is 41:10

Ageless One, our rock of peace, keep our hearts from fear; help us to have the strength to reassure those who are anxious and afraid. **O Lord hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are ill from whatever cause in body in mind for those who are currently sick with the virus, a frightening time for them and their families. Give them your strength, your peace and comfort. Give their bodies the ability to fight the virus and contain the virus so they don't pass it along to the people they love. Thank you Lord Jesus that you, "Took up all our infirmities and carried our diseases." Matthew 8: 17

We pray today and in the days to come for all those who are working in the frontline to control the spread of the pandemic, we give thanks for their courage and devotion. We pray for your protection and grace for all medical professionals who are courageously treating those infected with coronavirus. May they be shielded,

strengthened and guided as they administer healing treatments and care.

We pray for all working in the health services, including the thousands who have returned from retirement and the hundreds of thousands who have volunteered.

We pray for those who maintain the basic services on which we all depend - for all working in the food chain, from fields to supermarkets; for the police, with the difficult responsibilities placed on their shoulders; for the refuse services; for the postal and distribution networks; for electricity, gas and water. Father God we thank you for the unstinting work of those helping to care for us and for the risks they are taking on our behalf. Help us to accept what they are able to offer at this difficult time, and not to complain.

Keep them and all of us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy at this time of uncertainty and distress. May we rejoice in your comfort, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Holy Spirit, reach out your arms to uphold us;

O Lord hear our prayer

Lord of all, help us to hold on to your promise,

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16