

With hearts and minds lifted to Christ who has ascended on high, let us pray.

God of today, yesterday and tomorrow, we find it very hard to let go of much in our lives; we want to hold on to what we love like the disciples who held on to the ascending Jesus with their heaven-cast eyes. But let go from human constraints, Christ became alive to his people for evermore, and the power of your Holy Spirit was released to move through the world, making things new.

Loving God, we ask that you help us to learn to let go of all that stops us giving ourselves to you, that stops your Spirit working through us. Help us to let go of the old ways that hold us back from following you into a challenging future. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray that your Church may be committed to the needs of the world, but never conformed to the world. We pray for peace in the Middle East where we see the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the lives that are lost on both sides. We pray that those you have called to your service may be strong in the faith of Christ and given power to reveal his love. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Bless us, our families, friends and colleagues in the decisions, both small and great, which we must make in our daily lives. Be with all who must make decisions that will affect other lives. We give thanks for the organised vaccination programme in our country and the hard work undertaken by so many people. May our government ministers continue to be conscious of any new variants of the Coronavirus. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We bring before you Lord those we know who are sick in body, mind or spirit.....for all who await a doctor's diagnosis or an operation. Support all who wait with a loved one. In silence, Father, we bring to you our individual concerns and joys. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for your renewing powers, and we pray for our loved ones departed, that in you they may know newness of life. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God, our Father who made us all and who may be found in every place: make our parish a caring neighbourhood, make our people a true community and make your Church a living cell of the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

