

INTERCESSIONS for PALM SUNDAY

Today's Intercessions are offered by Jonathan Arter who would have been leading the prayers of intercession during the 11.00 am service in the Cathedral this morning. Thank you Jonathan.

Almighty God, as we approach Holy Week and reflect on Christ's passion, may we truly understand the sacrifice he made for us.

Despite being unable to gather in our cathedral and churches we give thanks for all those who are putting together and posting digital worship, enabling 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 chaos of the Covid-19 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 while his disciples slept:

Holy God, we recognize that sometimes 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 chaplains and all members of religious orders who live a life of prayer, poverty, celibacy and obedience.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We think of Christ betrayed by a kiss and with denials:

Holy God, help us never to abandon someone in their time of greatest need. Help us to forgive those who have wounded and abandoned us in times of crisis. Cleanse our hearts from bitterness and resentment so 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, tortured and executed:

Merciful God, we pray today for those held and tried falsely by corrupt regimes knowing they have no hope of justice. We remember all prisoners, especially those enduring inhumane conditions and in fear of execution. Be with them in the darkness of their cells, in the loneliness of separation and in their fear.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We think of Christ's compassion despite receiving none himself

Loving God we pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing, especially our Health Services bravely caring for those in need in this worldwide crisis. We pray for the sick, the sorrowful, those who have recently died and those who have been bereaved.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

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

A prayer from the Jesuits in the USA

Lord Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages curing every disease and illness. At your command the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, amid the global spread of the corona virus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick. May they regain their strength and health through their medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are at home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Lord Jesus Christ heal us. Amen.

+ + +

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church,
where the Holy Eucharist is being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself to you,
and embrace you with heart and mind and soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live and die in your love. Amen