

Intercessions for Passion Sunday, 21 March 2021

When I say “Lord, hear us”, please respond “*Lord, graciously hear us*”.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord Jesus, help us to open our hearts to the message of your word: that we are called to follow you in the path of sacrifice and service. Help us to put our selfish ways behind us, to die to self, to put the needs of others before our own, that our lives may be renewed by your grace and yield a richer harvest than we would otherwise have done.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We are blessed, Lord, with people dedicated to your service in this parish and in the wider Leith Hill Benefice, for which we give you thanks. We especially ask your blessing on David and Judith, on Tony and Virginia, and on Martha and Hilary. We also thank you for the service of all who keep this church open and welcoming to visitors throughout the week: for our key-holders and for our cleaner.

Lord, we ask your blessing on the work of our Bishops Andrew and Jo. We pray for the work of Guildford Cathedral and its clergy. At a challenging time for our church in this country, with many churches and dioceses suffering financially as a result of the pandemic, help us all in our resolve to contribute what we can to the future flourishing of our church, both here in Holmbury St Mary and by playing our part in the wider church.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks, Lord, for the dedication and sacrifice shown by health and care workers during the pandemic. They have been an example to us all. We ask you to inspire all in authority with the same desire to serve all those in need: to serve the weak as much as the strong; to serve the poor as much as the wealthy; to serve the powerless as much as the powerful. Inspire us all to do what we can to make this a more civil and a more equitable society.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, we pray for our families and friends. We especially ask for your healing touch on all those known to us who are suffering at this time. In a moment's silence we pray for any others known to us personally.

Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, grant that we may go forth today with our knowledge deepened, our love rekindled and with the strength to live better lives, dedicated to your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*