

Intercessions for Sunday 22 January 2023

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God and Father, help us to be still in your presence, that we may perceive your light and know ourselves to be your people.

Lord, we ask you to shine the light of your truth on your church throughout the world. Help us to discern your will, in our disagreements as much as when we strive for unity. Strengthen the resolve of all your faithful people to continue the work of building your kingdom, especially when challenged by doubt and division, remembering that all we can achieve is by your grace and not through our efforts alone.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Saviour, shine the light of your love on all who live in the regions of this world that are troubled by conflict, war and disasters, whether natural or the result of man's greed and carelessness. Be with the people of Ukraine: blasted by war, families separated, contemplating a bleak future as the conflict shows no sign of ending. Bring comfort to all who face drought or famine, whether as a consequence of climate change, over-exploitation of land, or war. Soften our hearts towards the plight of all refugees.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the disciples were called to be fishers of men, make us obedient to your call to proclaim your good news in our homes, our work and our communities. We give thanks for all who minister in this church: for David and Judith, for Virginia, for Martha and for Hugh. We ask your blessing on our community of Holmbury St Mary. Help us to love one another, to value our community without becoming inward-looking, and to commit ourselves to supporting the people in need around us as well as in the wider world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As our Lord Jesus in his earthly ministry healed all kinds of sickness and disease, may his healing power come now to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, recalling to mind now those known known to us personally.....

Strengthen and enable all who work to heal the sick. Inspire those in positions of power and authority to seek a just resolution to the resourcing crisis in our National Health Service.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those known to us who have recently departed this life. We give thanks that we had the opportunity to know and to love them. May they now rejoice in the great light of heaven. Comfort all the bereaved.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, we ask that you continue to light our way: be near us to defend us, within us to refresh us, around us to preserve us, before us to guide us, and above us to bless us.

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