

Prayers for Sunday 17th January 2021

Lord, as we turn to you in prayer, we pray that we may always be open to hear you when you call us to your service. May we, like Samuel and like the disciples Philip and Nathaniel, be ready to do your will with joy in our hearts.

We pray for your church throughout the world. At this challenging time, we ask you to be with all those who are unable to attend church, and with all Christian communities whose churches are closed on account of the pandemic. May they continue to feel your presence in the absence of opportunities for collective worship: by loving and caring for one another and showing it in the many ways that modern communication allows, as well as through acts of charity and kindness to each other and to all in need.

We give thanks for all who are contributing to our services here at St Mary's, both in church and online. We ask you to be with Tony as he resumes taking services at St James' after his recent operation.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer

We pray for the world and its political leaders. At a time when trust in those in authority is at such a low ebb, we ask you to inspire our leaders to appreciate and be guided by the virtues of humility, honesty and service, that they may start to re-build the trust of the people that they lead and serve. We pray particular for the leaders of the United States at a critical moment in their history, as they seek to calm the storms of dissent and distrust of their democratic processes.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer

Lord, with so little opportunity to get together with our families and friends, they are naturally much in our thoughts and in our prayers. Help us to show our love for them, despite the difficulties in doing so as we would wish. Help us to find ways of serving our community that serve your will. Encourage us to be generous in our actions towards those less fortunate than ourselves. We give thanks for the work of all local groups that provide services to those facing particular hardships as a result of the pandemic.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer

We ask your blessing, Lord, on all those who are particularly vulnerable at the present time. We think especially of those whose medical treatment has been postponed, and whose health is consequently threatened, due to hospitals struggling to cope with those seriously ill with Covid-19. We also ask you to be with all health and care workers at this most challenging time, especially those who are suffering mentally under the strain of over-work, limited resources, or simply the burden of grief at watching those in their care suffer and die.

We give thanks for the work of the scientists who have developed vaccines against the coronavirus, and for all involved in the logistical challenge of vaccination across the world. We pray that the people of

poorer nations will not be disadvantaged in the distribution of the vaccines, and that wealthier nations will honour their commitments to assist those less fortunate than themselves.

Lord, we ask you to be with all those known to us who are suffering at this time, whether in body, mind or spirit. We particularly ask you to be with Leonard, in Bramley House after a fall, and with Marion. Let us take a moment to remember those in need know to us personally...

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer

Finally, Lord, we give thanks for all those who have answered your calling, and we ask you to give us the grace to follow their example.

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