

Risen Lord, you are the way, the truth, and the life ***Hear our prayer***

Dear Lord, as we bring to you our prayers of intercession, we ask you to open our ears to hear your voice, open our eyes to behold your glory, open our hearts to receive your grace, open our lips to praise you. When we doubt enrich our faith. When we are fearful fill us with your Spirit and guide us in your Truth.

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Almighty God, you have provided the resources of the world to maintain the life of your children and have so ordered our life that we are co-dependent on each other, and it is your will that we are so. Bless us all in our daily tasks and, as we have the knowledge to produce plenty, so give us the will and wisdom to bring it within the reach of all. Direct the labours of those who work on the land, that they may employ the resources of nature to your glory, for our wellbeing, and for the relief of those in need. We pray for families worldwide, especially those in our Parish; may they support each other in times of need, and may homes be filled with peace, joy, and your love. May the people we encounter day by day, week by week see your light shining from us.

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Heavenly Father we pray for your Church, as the body of Christ, that we may bear witness to the Resurrection and be a place of unity and love. We pray for the leaders of the church both here, throughout our diocese and around the world, that they may be filled with your Spirit and lead us with courage and compassion. At a time when so many seem to have lost direction and others are seeking a roadmap out of crisis let us all hear and believe Jesus' words of today's Gospel – that Jesus is the way by which we travel to the fulness of God.

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Lord of all we pray for world leaders that there may be peace in all those areas of conflict. We pray for wisdom in leadership, and for a fair distribution of resources. We pray for those leaders, mindful of the rapidly changing geo-political landscape in which we live, and which impacts mankind every day. We are aware of the many changes, tensions and questions that this can bring, and the challenge it can pose to the stability and wellbeing of all. God of nations, whose Kingdom rules over all, have mercy on our broken and divided world. Give wisdom to all in authority, guide and direct their decisions, that all may be led into the ways of justice, freedom and peace to the honour of your name. May all that they do and say be rooted and grounded in you.

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Loving God, meet us in our fear and uncertainty and hear our prayer and offer all who come to you the sure and certain hope of salvation and eternal life. Be a tower of strength amidst the shifting sands, and a light in the darkness. Help us receive your gift of peace and fix our hearts where true joys are to be found, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Keep us secure in our faith.

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Father, you show the world the way to live through the words, life, death and resurrection of your Son, our Saviour Jesus. Grant us your grace that we who follow Him may be united to proclaim by word and action your way and hope to all people. Help us to bear the fruit of your Kingdom, that you may be revealed and glorified through us as we rest secure in your love.

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Lord Jesus Christ, who in the days of your life here on earth showed compassion on the sick and the afflicted and made them whole. Bless all those who are passing through illness and trials and bless all those who are carrying on your healing work in our hospitals, places of care and our homes. Give those who care, sympathy and skill, and a deep understanding of the task to which they are called, that in your mercy those who suffer in body mind or spirit may know your power and be restored to fullness of health, for your name's sake. May we all play our part in bringing your healing and wholeness to all the people and nations of the world.

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Jesus Christ as the light of the world, a light no darkness can quench, we remember before God all those who have died. Be with those who mourn that they may be comforted by your word and the knowledge of your Resurrection. You turn our darkness into light and in your light shall we see light.

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Grant us Lord God a vision of our land as your love would make it; a land where the weak are protected and none go hungry or are poor, a land where the benefits of civilized life are shared and everyone can enjoy them, a land where different races and cultures live in harmony, tolerance and mutual respect, a land where peace is built with justice and justice is guided by love. And give us the inspiration and courage to play our part in building it.

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