## Prayers for Easter 5

Almighty God, we pray for your Church today, gathering all around the world in tiny churches and great cathedrals, to praise you, hear your holy word and meet you in the bread and wine. Give us a sense of expectation as we come that we may draw closer to you, and inspiration as we go on our way rejoicing.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for our Church, that we may be caring and loving. We pray for our outreach in the parish; help us to seek out the needy and those who struggle in their day to day lives so that your love in Jesus may be revealed in action.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Lord, so many countries are suffering and have been denied freedom and peace, particularly Ukraine, where communities have been destroyed, and families divided and separated. We pray for wisdom for decision makers and support for agencies who seek to heal the divides.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Following the local elections we pray for a recognisable desire to serve the communities where they have been elected as in some areas it will mean a change of direction and the need to adjust to new ways of working. We particularly pray for the situation in Northern Ireland.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for the Queen as her participation in the life of the nation has become restricted by mobility problems; thanking you for her Christian witness and asking for strength for her to be able to enjoy the Platinum celebrations next month. We continue to pray for our government that honesty and integrity may prevail over self interest.

Lord in you mercy hear our prayer

Lord, be a strength to all who are finding life difficult, for those with difficult decisions to make, problems in their relationships or waiting for medical diagnosis. In a moment of silence we bring to you those in need of your touch today.

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