

Prayer 18 July

IN RESPONSE TO THE MESSAGE:

Our Father thank you that we are more loved than we could ever dare hope, and we that we see this in the gift of your Son. For those of us who have known this for a life time, help us to revel again today in the gift of your love. For those of us who are battling – struggling with some sadness today and wondering whether it's still true that you love us, help us to go back to the gift of your Son and to rest assured that you would not give us your Son and then turn on us later. And for some for whom this is brand new, help them to discover more of the rich nature of your love; to come to turn to you and say "I'm sorry", and receive your love into their lives. So Father, no matter where we're at today, may the news of your love be good news; comforting news; assuring news; wonderful news today, for we ask it in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

For our world

Loving heavenly Father, thank you for inviting us to cast our anxieties on you knowing you care for us. We therefore cast on you today, the anxieties we feel for our world. We are anxious due to the local spread of COVID-19 and the lockdown in Orange, Blayney and Cabonne. Please give us all grace to trust you and wisdom to our leaders to know how best to respond. By your grace, may it not spread further across central and western NSW.

We also feel deep sadness and concern about the uprising of violence in South Africa in response to the arrest of former President Zuma. We feel deeply for those who have lost family members, homes and livelihoods because of the devastating flooding in Europe. We are sickened by the situation in Myanmar with escalating COVID cases and the military preventing intervention to assist the sick; we fear for Indonesia with the escalation of COVID cases there and the scarcity of resources both in medical personnel and equipment. Father, we cast these cares on you today; asking you in your mercy to intervene to bring help to those in need; to calm the protesters and rioters, to stop the spread of COVID; to strengthen and protect persecuted Christians everywhere; and above all, to cause the good news of Jesus to go out with power and lead people to the only way of hope which comes through relationship with you. And grant to us in all these issues, a peace that can only come from trusting you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those we know and love you are struggling

Almighty God, we lift before you today, our brothers and sisters in Christ or family members or friends who are struggling. Lift the spirits of all those who are depressed. Give peace to all those who are anxious. Supply the needs of the financially stretched. To the lonely, please give real friendships. To the sick, please heal and restore them. To the dying: please assure them of your presence with them and give them the certainty that if they serve you as Lord and have run to Jesus as Saviour, they will have eternal life. We name in our hearts to you today; _____ . May they know you as their refuge and strength and very present help in all their trouble; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**