

Prayers 31 Oct

In response to the message

Our gracious Lord and Heavenly Father, may we – your saints – give of ourselves daily to you. As we bare your image, may we see and understand ourselves to be yours. And please Father, give us grace; work in us by your Holy Spirit, that we may indeed love you with all our heart, our soul, and strength, and mind – our whole selves – and our neighbours as ourselves. We know that we cannot do this without you. So please give us such a clear picture of how you have loved us and served us in Christ, that we might be people who love others and serve them in your name. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

COVID-19

We ask you in your kindness Lord, to intervene and help bring this virus under control especially in the many countries overseas where vaccination rates are currently very low. We pray today for all those who have been infected – please help them fight the disease and may they be spared long term effects. We pray for the families and friends of all those who have died, that they may know your comfort in their grief. Above all Lord, we pray that as people are confronted with their mortality and the fragility of life, they may be led to ask the deep questions of life, and by your kindness, turn to you and find life and forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Our church

Lord of the church, please refresh and renew your church. Refresh and renew us your people. Show us where we need to change. Teach us your word. Excite us again about the Gospel. Equip us in and for your service. Please strengthen our clergy and lay ministers for their work but also show each of us how we may best serve you. Please send more young ministers to fill our parishes who are currently without ministers. And please Lord, knowing we are missing generations of younger people in our churches, please show us how to reach them with the good news of your Son; for we ask it in his name. **Amen.**

For the sick, the bereaved, the dying

Loving Lord, we bring before you those we love who are hurting today. For those doing it tough because of the pandemic; for the unemployed or under-employed; for health workers struggling with the stresses and strains caused by the virus; for the frail and elderly anxious about the disease; for church leaders waiting on new health directives. Father give to each one, patience, wisdom and the assurance of your presence. Help them to lift their eyes to you as their refuge and strength, in the certainty that you are our very present help in trouble. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**