

**Last Sunday before Lent**

**Prayer Letter**

**19th February 2023**

**Lord of comfort and healing:**

We pray for all those affected by the breakdown of family, relationships, abuse and divorce. Restore their bodies and minds in love and peace. Amen.

**Lord of comfort and healing:**

Be thou the physician of thy servants, raise them up from their beds of sickness, and from their beds of wasting disease, whole and perfectly restored to health; send down from heaven your healing light, anoint the bodies, quench the fevers, sooth the pangs and banish every hidden ailment. Amen (*Mother Thekla*, setting of the Holy Unction).

**Collects for Ash Wednesday:**

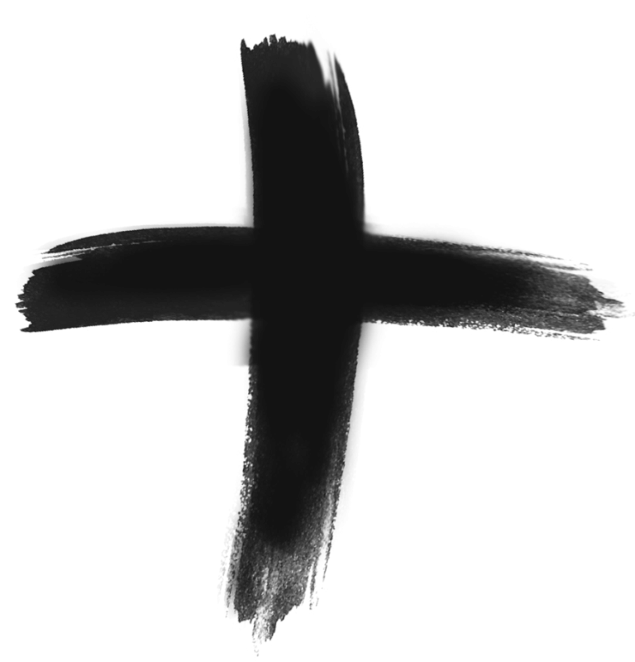
Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you, rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**10** Jesus stood up straight and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?” **11** She replied, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said,

“*I do not condemn you either*. Go, and from now on *do not sin anymore*.”

John 8:10-11



***A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom:***

**Almighty God,**who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting***.* Amen.**

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**For the results of the General Synod,** that your church may discern and administer your grace with wisdom and strength.

**That those in power and authority** may act through the guidance of you Holy Spirit.

**For emergency workers,** that they act with diligence and continued humility amongst the suffering, strife and chaos encountered on a daily basis.

**For all your Christians in Blackpool,** that they may shine forth as honest disciples in the darkness that otherwise persists, and that they may have the strength and confidence in you to defy evil and resist temptation.

**Amen.**

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**For all our church leaders,** Including Reverend David, his immediate family Alison and Joshua, our bishops Philip and Jill, and your archdeacons Mark and David.

**For Steve and Lisa,** as they continually minister to the myriad congregations in this parish and elsewhere in Blackpool.

**For Matt and Rosie,** for the children they minister to and the other leaders who share your love with them.

**For Thomas** as he continues his placement here and elsewhere in Blackpool.

**And for those visiting the church for the first time,** that they may know your presence and feel the grace of you Holy Spirit.

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**The Blackburn Diocesan prayer for Ukraine:**

Almighty God, seated above all the affairs of humankind and sovereign over nations and leaders, hear our prayer for Ukraine at this time of war; that lives may be spared, that national boundaries be respected and that the forces of aggression be restrained. Grant, Lord God, peace in your world in our time. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Diocese will be holding a weekend of prayer for Ukraine, Friday - Sunday February 24 – 26, as that Friday marks a year since the invasion of Ukraine.

**For those scattered throughout our troubled world** where humanities oppressiveness, war, famine and pestilence propagate across your precious peoples and their countries and communities. In particular, we pray for those Christians who suffer persecution and harrowing in those places where your Word has been rejected: Iran, Pakistan, China, much of North Africa and the Near East. Send forth your loving arms around them in protection and vigilance, that they may soften the hearts of those consumed by evil and grant them salvation.

**We pray especially for those in Turkey and Syria** subject to the consequences of recent earthquakes; we beseech you to release from suffering all those affected directly by the disasters, to comfort those who know now the pains of loss, and strengthen the resolve of all those who seek to help those in need in the region. Lord God, please send upon these people your passionate grace and healing; defend them from all perils and dangers that they may encounter, and keep them moving forward through theses painful months to come. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.