

***Lord of comfort and peace,***

* *we pray for all who are affected by the breakdown of family relationships, domestic abuse and divorce.*

***Lord of comfort and peace,***

*we pray for all who are struggling to escape from addiction, or from any form of physical, emotional or spiritual oppression.*

* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are lonely and for all who are struggling with infirmity or pain in body, mind or spirit,* ***for Sarah, Leah, Debbie, Alison, Ted, Jude, Mary and Keith, Steve and Lisa, Norman and Jean, Anne and Ian and those who we know personally are suffering at this time.***

A Collect for Lent 5

Gracious Father, You gave up Your Son out of love

for the world:

lead us to ponder the mysteries of His passion,

that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour’s blood, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

* ***"The Lord bless you and keep you.***

***The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.***

***The Lord turn His face to you and give you His peace."***

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**Prayer Letter**

**26th March 2023**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

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**DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, BEING WATCHFUL AND THANKFUL (Colossians 4 v 2)**

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

Our 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 forces of aggression be restrained. Grant, Lord God, peace in your world in our time. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**for those people in the other areas of our troubled world** where conflict, poverty and famine are prevalent, and where so many cry out for justice and peace.

**for the people of Iran**, especially those who have been condemned to death and the families of those who have been brutally executed by the regime, simply for daring to protest for the freedoms and rights which we take for granted.

**for refugees and asylum seekers,** that they are treated with dignity, compassion and fairness within the law, wherever they seek refuge or asylum.

**PRAYERS FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA**

For all those affected and continuing to be affected by the earthquakes – for all those who lost loved ones, for those who lost their homes and are left with so very little. For the orphans and the widows. For those continuing to work tirelessly to bring relief and restore order. Almighty God, we pray for Your strength, for Your justice and for Your restoration. Only You, Lord, only You give life and hope.

**For the people of Taiwan,** where military tensions continue to build - That there will be a lasting peaceful resolution and de-escalation of the situation and also throughout the international waters of the South China Sea and its islands.

**For all who are persecuted because of their Christian faith,** especially at this time for Christians in China where the severe restrictions upon Christians to meet and worship have been further increased in the past week by the regime.

**For our country, region and for Blackpool**

**For all who** continue to struggle with increases in the cost of living or increases in their mortgage, rent or business costs.

**For all those** who work in our economy, solving financial problems and those working to make our country, our region and our town better places to live.

**For those is positions of power** and leadership across our nation in national government, in parliament, in local councils, in devolved governments and the mayors of regions around our nation.

**For all those** seeking to create employment and improve the living standards of all our citizens.

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

for all Church leaders across our nation, and in our community. In our parish, for our Vicar Dave, for Alison and Josh.

for Steve and Lisa and for their ministry in our Church and elsewhere, especially for their work with the Life Association in India.

for Matt and Rosie as they move on from their ministry here at St Thomas.

forThomasas he continues his placement with us.

for all those who work to support our church services and all the activities that go on in church and the parish centre. Pray for the teams that provide our music, look after the grounds, clean the buildings, provide pastoral care.

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

**For our 24 hour prayer event 31st March – 1st April** – Lord, give us the

passion to devote ourselves to prayer, inspire us by Your Holy Spirit to stay

watchful, waiting for You and Lord, give us thankful hearts for all You have

done for us and through us, in Jesus’ Name. Amen

**For all who work in our emergency service workers** across our nation.

**For our NHS and Social Workers** at the front line of helping those suffering acute physical or mental health crises in our hospitals and in our communities.

**For our police force** praying especially that the findings of the recent report on the Metropolitan Police are addressed promptly and correctly. We pray for integrity in all our public services, so that the public can trust those who are in positions of keeping the peace and upholding justice.

**For all Christians in Blackpool,** for unity among all who declare Jesus Christ is Lord. May the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire all believers to share the word of God and the love of Christ.

**For those who work especially in areas of conflict** or in places where there is severe personal danger for the good of others in our nation.

**Fore more workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields** across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

***“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”***

***Ephesians 2:10***