

Prayer for others Sunday 13 May 2018

O God, we pray as always that you will give us the grace and wisdom to see the situations and needs of others through the eyes of Jesus, and that you will grant us the strength and skills to change the things that we can, to acknowledge the things we cannot change, and the grace to know the difference.

We thank you that Jesus' message to us is that we should not let the many negatives of this world – the wars, the corruption, the uneven food distribution, the terrible ways in which some people in every society treat others – we should not let these things cause us despair or hopelessness. Jesus' message to us is one of love and hope – love to be shown by us to all those with whom we come in contact: family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, others in our community, and the hope we have that good will eventually prevail over evil despite what pessimists around us might say. Keep reminding us we pray, that Jesus practised what he preached. He did not turn his back on the weak, such as Peter on the night Jesus was arrested, or the woman at the well, or Zacchaeus, who cheated when collecting taxes. Instead, Jesus saw each person he met as a child of God who deserved to have his help. Please help us to be more like him.

We thank you yet again for the commitment and compassion of the many who provide their skills through bodies like the Red Cross, Christian World Mission, Presbyterian Support and Christian Blind Mission as they provide hope to many individuals, families and villages, both here and overseas. We cannot help most of these people ourselves, but when we give our donations to organisations we trust, we know that our love in giving will be passed on by Christian workers on the spot to the people in need. We know that our giving can work wonders in the lives of so many, and we thank you for this.

Lord, we thank you for the beginning of Colin's ministry with us. We pray that you will enable him to help us to know you better, and to continue and enhance our witness in our community to the love of Jesus. Today, we remember Jesus' mother, Mary, her role in bringing him up and his own love for her, right to the end, when he asked the disciple to care for her when he was gone. We remember the mothers of all ages in our congregation, some of whom are also Grandmothers and Great-grandmothers.

As always, we pray that faith in your strength and presence will give hope and peace to all in our church family, especially at times when sickness and the aging process cause distress or anxiety. Jesus promised he would be with his friends always and for this we thank and praise you,

In Jesus' name we pray, and we also remember his prayer which we say together: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, AMEN