

Sunday 16 January 2022 - Prayer of the Church - *Epiphany 2C*

God is more ready to give good gifts to us than we are to ask for them. Let us come before him and pray for ourselves and others.

Heavenly Father: we pray for your holy church throughout the world. Fill it with all truth, and peace. Where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided, heal it and unite it in your love. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

God of justice and truth, grant to our governments and all who serve in public life, wisdom and skill, imagination and energy. Protect them from corruption and the temptation of self-service. Help us to commit ourselves to the common good so that our land may be a secure home for everyone. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Heavenly Father, your Son was present at the wedding of Cana and blessed it. Uphold your creation of marriage and family in our land. Help husbands and wives to recognise your hand in marriage and so remain faithful to each other. Bind parents and children together with mutual love and honour, and may they together learn of your love and place their trust in you. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Merciful and loving God, we pray for family and friends who are estranged from our church family. Protect them from harm, direct them in your way, strengthen them in their difficulty, and give them a firm trust in your goodness. Give us loving and forgiving hearts so that relationships can be healed. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Watch over and protect all those who are returning to work after the holidays. Give them integrity and renewed enthusiasm for their various vocations and may they bring the light of Christ to their places of work. Uphold those who are unemployed or underemployed and open up new opportunities for them according to your will. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Father, please give your consolation and comfort to Neil, Simon, and Claire Hodge, and to all those mourning the death of Thais, and to Brian Miller and all those mourning the death of Robert Male. Wipe the tears from their eyes, and let them grieve with hope in the victory of Christ over death and the grave. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Please give your gifts of peace and strength to Dave Hermann, Valerie Naguib, and all those we know to be in need, and whom we now name silently before you. *Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.***

Lord, your Son showed his glory at the wedding feast in Cana. Grant that we may be gathered together at your table in glory to celebrate the marriage feast that has no end. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**