

Prayer of the Church - Epiphany 3, 2021

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for making us followers of Jesus. Turn us away from all sin, and strengthen our faith in him. Help us give ourselves wholeheartedly to our callings, in the world and in the church. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who spread the gospel - pastors, teachers, evangelists - that they would have courage for their work, and teach only the truth in love. Provide pastors for all your flock: bless those studying for the public ministry and encourage those who are struggling with the call to serve you in this way. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who hear the gospel, that they would repent and believe in the time that you provide. Grow the seeds of your word that have been planted among the children attending our schools, Sunday Schools and children's ministry activities, and help them to be a witness in their homes. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Thank you for the many blessings we receive in this land of Australia. Meet the needs of those who do not have enough for daily life. Bless our leaders, and uphold this country in peace and prosperity. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick and those near death whose appointed time has grown short. Bring all to call on you in the day of trouble, and comfort them with your love. Be with those among *us* who are sick, including *(insert names)* and others we know to be in need and whom we name in our hearts... *(brief silence)*. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We give you thanks and praise for the safe arrival of Georgia Grace to Simon and Ella Pietsch. Thank you for protecting mother and child through pregnancy and birth, and for the joy you have given to this family in the gift of new life. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer*

Lord, you have called us to follow your Son in repentance and trust. By your Holy Spirit strengthen us when we are weary, fill us with hope when we despair, and give us your light when we walk in darkness, for you alone are our rock and salvation. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.