

**Prayer of the Church - Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 - Year B**

Thank you, heavenly Father, for the whole of your creation, and thank for calling us into being and for sustaining us in life by your powerful word. Please give us wisdom that comes from your Spirit, so that we may thank, praise, serve, and obey you in the callings that you have given us. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Dear heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise that in your mercy you brought us to baptism, and there gave us Jesus' holiness in exchange for our sin and impurity. Thank you for all parents who bring up their children in the faith, and thank you for all those you use to bring us the gospel including pastors and teachers, friends and fellow workers. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for the baptised people of God, that we may hold on to your promises in true faith, especially when we experience the wilderness of sin and evil within, and temptations and trials from without. Strengthen us with your Holy Spirit so that Jesus' victory may be our victory. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for all people, that the good news of Christ will be proclaimed and heard by all people, and that many will believe and be baptised. Please send and support pastors, missionaries, teachers, and lay people to give truthful and loving confessions of Christ. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Please give your gifts of good order and peace to our nation, and to nations around the world. Let each person, household, state, and nation acknowledge you as the Creator of all, and give all the grace to live in harmony with your created order. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Have mercy on those in need, those who are struggling because of domestic violence and break-down, and those who are suffering from harmful behaviour and hurting relationships. Heal, restore, and renew them. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Please give your blessings of peace and joy to Clem Traeger as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Keep him firm in faith, and keep us with him growing in Christian love. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, those who are disabled, those in hospital, and those facing death. Show them the light of the gospel, provide helpers, carers, and medical resources, and heal both body and soul. Be with those among us who are sick or recovering from surgery, and in particular Shirley Jones, and others whom we name in our hearts... *(brief silence)*. *Lord, in your mercy...hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, you have shown us your love and salvation in the baptism of your Son. Accept these prayers of your children in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**