

A Sunday Prayer

Lord,

We come before You this morning as we are. Not polished, not perfect, but present. And we thank You that present is enough.

We are grateful for this Sunday. For the opportunity to step away from the relentless pace of the week, to gather in Your name, and to be reminded of what truly matters. In a world that rarely slows down and never seems to stop demanding things of us, this time together is a grace we do not wish to take for granted.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for ourselves today, Lord. For the worries we carried through the door with us this morning. For the relationships that are strained, the decisions that weigh upon us, and the fears we have not yet spoken aloud to anyone. You know every one of them. Teach us to trust You with the things we cannot resolve in our own strength, and may we leave this place with hearts more settled than when we arrived.

We pray for our community. For the people of this town, our neighbours, those we pass in the street and those whose struggles remain hidden from us. Help us to be a church that is genuinely present in the life of this place. Not a congregation that simply gathers on a Sunday and withdraws, but one that is known for its compassion, its openness, and its willingness to stand alongside people when it matters most.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our church. For all that this place represents and all that it may yet become. Grant us unity, Lord. Not the kind that merely keeps the peace on the surface, but the kind that runs deep enough to hold us together through difficulty and disagreement. Where there are differences among us, grant us patience. Where there are wounds that have not fully healed, bring Your gentle restoration. May we be sincere in our worship before You and truly caring towards one another in our daily lives. May what takes place here each Sunday morning bear fruit in how we treat those around us throughout the week.

We pray for Mark our Rector. Thank you for the commitment, the faithfulness, and the genuine care for people that he brings to this congregation. The work of a rector carries a weight that is not always visible, Lord, and it is rarely without cost. Strengthen him. Grant him wisdom for the decisions that lie ahead, encouragement for the days when the work feels heavy, and the abiding certainty that what he is doing in this place matters far more than he may sometimes perceive.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer

We bring before You all who are sick. Those in hospital, those at home, those managing pain and uncertainty with a quiet courage that humbles us. We ask that You lay Your healing hand upon each one of them. Where medicine can help, guide those who administer it. Where only You can reach, please reach. And comfort the families and friends who sit beside them, loving them and carrying the weight of not being able to make it better.

We hold before You the lonely. The person who will return home after this service to silence and an empty house. The one who is surrounded by others and yet feels profoundly alone. The one who has quietly stopped expecting anyone to notice. Lord, let this church be a place that notices. That reaches out before being asked. That makes room for those who struggle to find the door. May each one of us be that presence for someone this week.

Lord in your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer

Sustain us through the days ahead, Lord. When the week presses in and the noise of life returns, bring us back to what we were reminded of here today. That we are not alone. That we are loved. And that You are with us in all of it.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.