

Intercessions for Mothering Sunday 2020, the fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful God, we pray for the many people who have contracted the coronavirus in the world. Bring comfort to those grieving loved ones have died and peace to those worried, fearful and uncertain as the virus spreads. We also pray for governments and authorities who are developing strategies to contain and deal with the virus and those in the health services who may be risking their own lives to care for sick patients.

We especially pray for the Corona Virus situation and the procedures that have been put into force to try to halt its spread. Help us all to be responsible in the things that we do in our lives to prevent the spread of the virus by taking heed of the recommended precautions and avoiding situations which may make things worse.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Wherever we are, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Holy God, you gave us our Mothers for which we give you joyful thanks. Today we especially thank you for all that our mothers gave to us from the moment we were born into this amazing life. We remember the love and care they surrounded us with through our early years; the guidance they continued to give as we grew to maturity; the support that they continued to give as many of us became parents ourselves and the role they played as grandparents, playing such a vital role in society.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for the role that so many mothers played in introducing us to you and your son Jesus Christ, through bedtime prayers and stories, in the way they served as an example of Christian life and introducing us to public worship in the fellowship of our Mother Churches and our first spiritual homes.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Creator God, as we watch and read the news we see the brokenness of our world and that for many families life is more dangerous than ever before. We pray for healing among the nations; for food where there is hunger; for freedom where there is oppression; for joy where there is pain; that your love may bring peace to all your children.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Father God, your Son, was born into the human family of Mary and Joseph; bless all those that we live amongst who are parents and all who care for children in our local communities. Strengthen all families who are living under stress and shine your love into homes where no human love is found.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all mothers of children suffering from serious illness, recognising not only their anguish but also the way that their love and determination really makes a big difference to chances of recovery. We thank you for the many hours our parents spent caring for us when we were ill and thank you for the many children who grow up to be their parents carers in later life.

We remember all those in our own parish community.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, like a mother you gather your people to you as gently as any human mother with her children. Turn the despair that comes through the parting of death into hope and may we through your gentleness find comfort and restoration in our sadness and loss.

We think of Dorothy Grainge.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Everlasting God, , you alone can see the future and so we pray to you, who can see ahead of us, asking for your protection for each of us, for our families and those who we love.

Merciful Father: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen