**Intercessions - Second Sunday of Easter - 19 April 2020**

**Heavenly Father**, have mercy on your people, for whom your Son laid down his life.

God of new life, of resurrection, we come before you this Easter season with our hearts rejoicing in you, while we recognise the darkness all around us through the worldwide impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

May we each know your healing presence in this darkness, and may your light shine in and through us.  Comfort and strengthen us that we may be beacons of your light to all those around us.

 **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

**Gracious God**, you walk among us, but we do not always recognise you in our midst.

Like Thomas, we will still face times of doubt and uncertainty; but as you did for him, open our eyes, ears and our hearts to you, that we may see you at work all around us during these difficult days, through our neighbours and our community.

Be with all those in the medical and care professions who seek to heal and help those affected by this pandemic, and put themselves and their loved ones at risk for the sake of others. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them wisdom to act collectively, with clarity and true charity for the well-being of the people they serve. May they also recognise you in unexpected places and know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

**Faithful God**, our source of comfort and peace, we ask that you be with all those who suffer.

Lord Jesus, come to our aid now during the spread of the coronavirus and heal those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. Hear and comfort those who cry out in pain, fear and desolation.

May they regain their strength and health, and may we know you as the healer of all, as you stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. We ask for your comfort and peace in the face of our fear, anxiety and grief of loss.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

**Merciful God**, bring comfort to the dying and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory. Give rest to the faithful departed and bring them with your saints to glory everlasting.

Be close to all those who approach death with fear and who have died unprepared to meet you. Have mercy on them, forgive them all that is past and gather them into your loving arms and everlasting kingdom of peace and joy.

Be close and bring comfort to the families and friends of those who have died. As they now grieve the loss of loved ones, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your protection and peace.

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer**

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