**INTERCESSIONS – SUNDAY 29TH AUGUST 2021 – Proper 17**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. Hear us now as we pray for the church, for the world and for ourselves.

Lord, we thank you for our ministers here in this parish, and for all who hold positions of leadership. May they be strengthened by your guidance as they implement plans for easing of COVID restrictions and look to our future. Give us all the power to resist evil and the conviction to do what is right as we work together in our church family. Make us generous and hospitable people, lovingly enabling others to seek you for themselves. There are many Christians worldwide, working in areas of hatred, hostility and violence, where it is not safe to openly practice their faith. May they be filled with your Holy Spirit and have the courage to fearlessly tell others about Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, you reign supreme over all the earth and so we boldly ask for protection of all who are working for liberty and freedom, all who are risking their lives for justice and peace. So many countries are ravaged by war, governed by corrupt governments where people live in fear of violence or torture. For all those caught up in the unfolding devastation in Afghanistan; the military, the people in fear for their lives, the women and the children; we humbly ask that you surround them with your protective arms and give them hope in the face of adversity. May all who arrive in this country be shown compassion and safe refuge as they begin to build new lives in a foreign land.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we bring before you all people who are suffering from extreme weather patterns or natural disasters, thinking especially of the people of Haiti where the number of deaths are still rising. Give strength to all fighting fires and droughts and also those combating extreme rains and flooding. We give thanks for the countries coming together, recognising the causes are in part due to human activity and ask for wisdom to help reverse the damage. Help us to play our part, however small, to preserve this planet’s resources for life.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the many opportunities you give us to serve the wider community, especially supporting families during the school holidays. May we always serve for the right reasons, never for praise or acknowledgment but with pure intentions to let others see your love for them. As school term begins again soon, we give thanks for our schools and for all who accept the responsibility of guiding our children in their search for knowledge. Equip them with all the skills and wisdom they need to lovingly teach our children. May the power of your presence be in each school community, and in each friendship the children form.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we stand alongside all who are hurting in body mind or spirit; all who need courage, support or practical help. Our thoughts are especially with those who have become frail and weak; those whose eyesight is failing; those who find it difficult to hear. Teach us to be watchful for their needs and patient with their frailty and slowness, loving and serving them as honoured members of your family. May the skills and knowledge of all who care for the sick in hospitals, care homes, hospices and at home, be fully used to help and to heal. Make us all willing to become part of your answer to our prayers for them. In a moment of silence we bring before you those who are in particular need of your healing at this time…………..

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, we commit to your keeping those who have recently died and now freed from all pain. May they now live in the peace and joy of heaven. Comfort those whose hearts are grieving the death of someone close and dear to them, whether recently or remembered at an anniversary which falls at this time. Give them strength to carry on as they cherish precious memories.

Rest eternal grant unto them Oh Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them, may they rest in peace and rise in Glory.

We pray with Mary. Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

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