**Intercessions for First Sunday of Lent – 21.02.2021**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we ask in faith. As we begin our Lenten journey we turn in prayer to God our Father asking for his help as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection at Easter:

We pray for the Church, that she may be a sign of God’s light and goodness in our world, and a beacon of hope for the most vulnerable. We pray for its leaders, that they may guide the flock entrusted to them and show them by example how to follow Jesus this Lent into their own desert experience. We pray for the Archbishop of Central Africa, Albert Chama and for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, for the Archbishop of Canterbury, for your blessing for Sarah our Bishop, for Richard our Archdeacon, and for our own ministers David, Paulette and Jane.

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

We pray for all who are preparing to be baptised at Easter and all who will be received into full communion with the Church: that they will always recognise the presence of Christ in their lives.

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

We pray for each other as we prepare to keep the Lent Fast day that we may have a true Spirit of self-denial and be content with less so that others may have more.

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

For all who suffer violence, fear or desperation, we pray that they will be strengthened through your mercy and the support of God’s people in society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

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

We pray for the created world, sustained by your mercy but threatened by human greed and indifference….Teach us to live in better harmony with the seasons of the year and with all our fellow creatures.

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

We pray for teachers and youth leaders in our community to lead the young into the right way…Give grace to parents and godparents to fulfil their promises for the children they have brought to baptism.

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

For the leaders of this world, that they may be guided by compassion for all who are entrusted to their care.

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

We pray for those who are sick, especially those with COVID-19, for those whose names appear on our church list, and for their caregivers.

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

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, and according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace

**And rise to glory.**

We pray with Mary

**Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

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