

Prayers for 22nd March 2020

'Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all he has done. If you do this – you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand' (Phil 4)

Our loving Father God, the need for your wonderful peace in the world is more urgent now than ever before. Help us to trust your promises, and to realize that even as this virus is spread, so your peace starts in the heart of the individual and then spreads from one person to another. May we be carriers of Your peace.

Be with us in this present storm, and bring Your calm. We pray Father, for all who are sick or ill; and for the doctors, nurses, and other care-workers who are looking after them. We pray for those who are anxious and frightened – may they know Your peace. We pray for all governments and health leaders, who have to make huge decisions – may they know Your guidance and wisdom. We pray for all followers of, Jesus, that we may be clear, calm, and bold witnesses to Your love and peace. Help us to remember that nothing takes You by surprise, and that You hold the future in your amazingly capable hands.

Lord Jesus, as we remember that You were born and grew up having a loving and caring mother – we give You thanks for our mothers today, known to us or not, still with us or not; and we pray for all women, whether they are mothers or not, in all the responsibilities and pressures of today's living. May they be healers of wounds and righters of wrongs. May they weep with those who weep, and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. May they cherish children, embrace the elderly, and empower the poor. May they sing songs of joy, talk down fear and bring peace. May they overflow with goodness in Your wonderful name and power.

Loving Father – despite the difficulties, draw us together as the St John's family, and help us to help one another and our neighbours in the coming days.

'Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown?
Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.
Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?
Jesus has vanquished death and all it's powers.
Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?
In Jesus' keeping, we are safe, and they.

We pray these prayers in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. Amen