

Prayers of the People – 17 March 2024

Passion Sunday

Bidding

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Almighty God, beyond personality, time, and space,
write in our hearts the lessons of your commandments which we have heard again today.

We pray for a world where an elite few:

- are appropriating the gifts of your creation you intended for all, for ever increasing profit, while millions go without basic food, shelter and ready access to water,
- are demanding the obedience once reserved for you,
and,
- where your own fearfully and wonderfully made people are encouraged to supersede you by recreating themselves in their own images.

We pray for your forgiveness for where we have become:

- more obedient to the jingles from our phones, than to you,
- we have made idols of ourselves, our talents, appearances, and achievements; forgetting that we have nothing that we have not received from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Your Son Jesus Christ was given the Name that is indeed above every name, yet He came:

- not to be served but to serve,
- to bind up the broken-hearted and,
- to bring good news to the last, the least and the lost.

Move us, the Parish of St Peter, to do likewise by to offering warmth, hope and hospitality to those beyond our red doors so they may truly know us as His disciples, and explore what that “Name above every name” may come to mean to them.

And let us not be too condemning of that maligned innkeeper of old when the only time we ourselves make for you is when there are no “better offers”.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Help us to remember that all people, regardless of race, history and social-economic status are created in your image and deserve to be:

- treated with honesty and respect,
- to live their lives to the end, and,

- not to be used for our own self-fulfilment.

Comfort and restore all:

- who suffer in body, mind and spirit,
- who grieve, who are lonely, marginalised, or forgotten, and,
- all innocent and unwilling victims of injustice, war, violence, and terrorism.

We thank you for your saints in every age including St Patrick whose feast day it is today
+May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We pray for ourselves and our own ministries, pausing to reflect on and ask you to show us what parts of our lives or selves we need to let fall to the ground and die, so we may be able serve you according to your will, and to become the people you intended us to be from the beginning.

Brief silence

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Almighty God,

you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking:

Give us contentment with your good gifts and forgive us our need to covet, upgrade, outdo and one-up,
in the knowledge you will not let us lack any good thing, as you alone are enough for us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.