

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Monday 13th April 2020

by David Eldridge



PRAYER FOR AN EASTER MONDAY

Holy Father, we approach you, our unchanging God, at a time of great change for us, on a day when we would normally be enjoying an extra day of restorative relaxation following a weekend when we have recalled first the sacrifice of our Lord and then the glorious news of his resurrection. That first Easter, over two thousand years ago, would have been an overwhelming experience for the followers of Jesus, a time when their world was turned upside down. And here we are now, feeling that our own world has been turned upside down in so many ways, and we have been reminded that death could be so close. But yet that reassurance of resurrection is there still, to carry us through whatever may lie ahead. For this we give our heartfelt thanks.

We thank you too that though we may have been isolated from our family and friends there are many who have wished us well in recent days – and for whatever has brought to us moments of great happiness as we have reflected on the good fortune we have enjoyed over our years, the Christmases and birthdays, the New Years and celebrations, and the wonder that new lives have brought into our own. We thank you for those people with whom we have shared in those celebrations – both the young with all their vitality and excitement and the elderly for whom special memories form an important part of every day. And we pray for each one of them as we picture them in our minds, that their hearts may be lifted up by discovering innermost joy.

We bring you too our prayers for ourselves and others that we know at this time of change which has brought us all face to face with the reality of mortality, and the fact that plans we make are not guaranteed to be realised. Who would have thought only a short while ago that the plenty of

Christmas for us then would be but a distant memory in contrast with the search for necessities now ? But we face the realisation that there are those in this world for whom even the necessities of life are always scarce and health is at perpetual risk. And we pray for them even though we do not know them, because we know that you do.

We cannot tell what lies around the corners of our lives, just as the Simeon we read of in the bible could not be sure that he would actually hold the Christ-child until he actually did so. For some we know the future will hold anxiety and fears, struggle and pain, grief and regrets. For others there will be relief and the discovery of inner peace with resolution. We pray that all may be aware of your comforting presence whatever the days of Two Thousand and Twenty may yet hold; and that no-one we know may shrink from challenge but gain whatever strength they need by drawing it from you.

We ask your blessing upon many individuals: the last person we spoke to on the telephone; the people with whom we normally worship; the people upon whom our health may depend if we become ill; the people with whom we may share some part of the rest of this day even though we may be at a distance, and even though it may just be to say goodnight; someone we may have forgotten about until now; ourselves and those whom we hold most dear. And we gain joy from the awareness that you know each one of them, and each one of us, as you have known those who have gone before us and those who will follow us – in the church to which we belong – in the community where we live – in the world which you have chosen to care for. Be with us as you surprise us, give us fortitude in our faith, and bless us with a real awareness of your presence with us.

God be my Lord; Lord be my God.

Amen