**Intercessions – June 13th, 2021**

In just over a week will be the winter solstice. Soon the days will be getting longer, we can look forward to more sunshine and new growth.

After more than a year in which the relative calm and stability that our country offers have been shaken to their core by the pandemic, we need, more than ever, the warmth and hope that our faith, like the gradual progression towards spring, affords us.

Even as most of us in our State are cautiously anticipating a recovery from these upheavals, we pray for those families and individuals whose lives, whose sense of security and confidence in the future continue to be disrupted and undermined.

With them in our thoughts, both in our own country and overseas, we pray for your world, for leaders of nations, that through their efforts – or sometimes, in spite of them – we may learn to live compassionately and in harmony with each other. We pray for the work of all people who struggle to bring healing, recovery and peace in many corners of the globe.

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

Father, after the stormy reminders this past week of the powerful forces that shape our climate, we pray for your creation.

You gave us responsibility for all that you have made. You entrusted every living creature into our care. But often, we do not live up to that trust, and we neglect our responsibility. We have allowed much of the earth to become polluted by selfishness and short-sightedness, and we continue to haggle over major threats to our planet.

Father, by your Holy Spirit give us, and those we appoint to act on our behalf, a renewed urgency to fulfil the task you laid upon us.

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

With Reconciliation Week just past, and in our Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Aboriginal ministries in our Anglican communion and for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. May they, and any small contribution our parish can make to them, play a meaningful part in the healing and reconciliations for which so many individuals, families and whole communities are crying out.

We pray also today for the Anglican Church of Nigeria – one of the countries in Africa most severely impacted by the Corona virus.

We pray especially for a spirit of common humanity to descend upon all our relationships across differences of ethnicity, colour, culture, and faith. Inspire us to make whatever difference we can, however small, in our conversations, in our giving, and our actions in this aspect of our lives.

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

Through the shameful on-going detention of the Murugappan family (the so-called Biloela family), and elsewhere, we have been reminded again this week of the controversy around our nation’s management of asylum seekers.

Wise and compassionate God, help us to understand the needs and drivers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and not simply seek to shift the burden of care on to others. Call our leaders to justice, generosity and compassion. Help them create and implement responses that are fair, and which treat refugees, asylum-seekers, and those who are simply different, with dignity and care.

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

We pray for all who live and work in this community, for our families and friends, that we may live in love for you and for each other.

We are blessed with so many in our congregation - and indeed beyond it - who enrich the life of our parish through our outreach to older people, to children, and to families in need. We rejoice in both the real and the virtual ties that help to sustain our church community - through music; through contributions to our on-line liturgy, through images to remind us of who we are.

We give you thanks for every word of welcome, for every act of generosity, for every work of service.

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

We pray for all in need and in trouble, the lonely, the sick and the dying, and those who care for them, that they may find strength in their adversity and relief from their pain.

We think of the people and families we learn about each day through our media, especially those recently bereaved through illness, accident, crime, and natural disaster. We think too, of those known personally to us. Give them courage to bear their grief.

God of all comfort: quieten our minds that we may make room for your healing forgiveness. You know all our anxieties and fears: grant that we may cast all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may, by your grace, receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**