

Dear Lord,
At this time,
Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.
Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.
Let us take advantage of living together (communicating with each other) as a human family
Let us attend to moments of prayer.
Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope. Amen.

A prayer for peace

Lord, may your peace
Descend like morning dew;
Abide in our hearts;
Dwell within our homes;
Bring healing to our families;
Give strength to our loved ones;
Bring harmony to our communities;
Reign through our land;
Abound in all our world
This Christmas, New Year and always. Amen

Opportunities at St Michael's to join with others in prayer can be found in the Newsletter.

Online:-

- Sunday – 10am Zoom service
- Monday – Saturday St Michaels/St Peters Facebook Live at 9am (Monday 8.30am) Morning Prayer
- Monday – Zoom home group 7.30pm starts on 11th
- Wednesday – Morning discussion 11am
- Thursday – Zoom Home Group 7.30pm

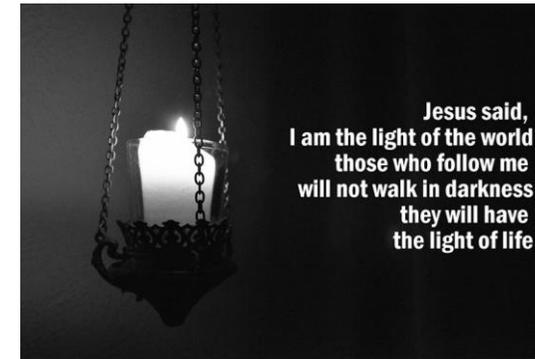
Church:-

Start the Week – Monday 7.30-10am with a service of Morning Prayer at 8.30am
Private Prayer – Monday to Saturday 11am-1pm
Sunday Service 10am

When in church please ensure you keep a distance from others.

If you would like something included in the next prayer letter, or would like to help compiling one, please contact:

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Sue Reid 01625 421 984 clergypa@gmail.com



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

January 2021

**O God, O God of hosts, O Lord God of hosts, restore us
And cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.**

Psalms 80:3, 7, 19

*I stood at the gate of the year,
fearing to tread into the unknown.
And a voice said;
"Put your hand into the hand of God,
so he can be with you every step of the way."
So I ventured forth
and finding the hand of God
trod gladly into the future.
For you, Lord, lead me safely along the right path.
You are at my side every step of the way,
my strength and my guide.
For this I thank you. Amen*

This leaflet has been produced to assist us with our daily prayers; we hope you find it useful. Feel free to use as many, or as few, of the suggestions as you feel is right for you, and of course, add your own prayers.

New Year

Thank God for the blessings of last year:- for all who have supported you, nature, a new skill learned, key workers, Sue creating the Newsletter, Martin and others working to keep church open both online and (when allowed) in the building, anything else which has been a blessing to you.

Say sorry to God for the faults and failings of last year especially in our relationships with others and our friendship with God.

A time of resolutions and looking forward, as we look to the future in 2021 it is difficult to see the way in the current situation. In these times we need to trust in God. A pray that can be used at the beginning of the year or each day:-

To you, Lord Jesus, I open my heart.

Trusting in you I, begin again.

Ready for a better year (day) I make a fresh start.

With this prayer I begin again.

Ready to live life anew, I leave my past to your mercy.

Confident in you I begin again.

Ready for each new day I leave my present to your care.

With your help I begin again.

Ready for life's challenges I leave my future in your hands.

Renewed in your love I begin again. Amen

Epiphany 6th January to 2nd February

Epiphany means manifestation, revelation or appearance. It does not just refer to the star seen in the sky and the Magi visiting baby Jesus, it is also the revelation of the divine nature of Jesus. This revelation is to all people, starting with the Magi travelling from afar. During the season of Epiphany we celebrate the Baptism of Christ (10th) and the Conversion of Paul (25th). Both of these occasions reveal something of Jesus' divinity. It concludes at Candlemas, the Purification of Mary 40 days after Jesus' birth, and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Here they met Simeon who, in what we now call the "Nunc Dimittis", says that Jesus is the "light to lighten the Gentiles", that is, the light to reveal to the whole world the nature of God. In today's secular society epiphany means a sudden flash of understanding. Pray that God will reveal himself in a flash of understanding or a gradual dawning of light, whichever way He chooses, so that His glory will be seen in all the world and so that each of us may carry a flame within "you in your small corner and I in mine".

God of abundant gifts,

show us where you want us to pour out our gifts

in celebration of your life and all around us.

When we see the darkness and fear it is too great,

fix our eyes on your light.

Help us to walk in the way of the Magi,

following the star to the places

where you are breaking into our broken world. Amen

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th – 25th)

The theme this year is "Abiding in Christ". There are resources which can be used including a daily meditation.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>

Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it.

For our Church:

Thank God for the Christmas celebrations: - for those in our church family who have worked so hard to provide services, contributing in person or recording, Karen and the choir for the music, managing technology and enabling church to be open. You will have seen in the Newsletter before Christmas that Sue (with her assistants) is leaving the office to take up a new job. She is not leaving church and will continue to be part of our church family.

Pray for Sue – Thank God for the wonderful person she is and for all the work she has done for our church over the last 11+years. Pray that she will find and give blessings in her new role as a Bereavement Officer at Wythenshawe Hospital.

Pray for those making the decisions regarding the roles to be filled, (team) and St Michael's Coordinator, that the right person/s will be found.

Our Town:

Nightshelter: - the volunteers and coordinators, and the guests. For anyone without a place to call home and who needs protection from the cold weather.

Isolated: - All those feeling sad, lost or unhappy because deprived of contact with family and friends.

Tier 4:- for all the businesses in our town that will be struggling and people who are struggling financially due to lack of work

Schools: - especially Bollinbrook, our church school. For all teachers, staff and pupils as they face the challenges returning to a new term

Our Nation and the World:

Brexit:- a smooth transition to the new rules and improved relations between all countries throughout the world

Coronavirus:- give thanks for the vaccine and pray for effective delivery so that illness can be reduced and livelihoods can return. Remember that it is a worldwide problem.