

## Bible Reflection - Matthew 3:13-17

### Song – In Christ Alone

### Praise and Thanksgiving



## 1. Our Church Family

### Knowing God Better: Responding to God's Word

- Pray that we would be hearing and responding to what God has to say to us through our sermon series.
- Pray for God's help and leading for all those preaching.
- Pray for small groups through this term as we look at John.
- Pray for our own personal times reflecting on God's word and in prayer.

### Those in Leadership Positions

- Anna De Castro (Minister for Children, Youth & Families), Michael Nicholson (Associate Vicar), Chris Tufnell (Vicar), Amanda Pearson (Kids Club Leader), Sheila Atkinson (Biblical Counselling Intern).
- The PCC and Wardens.
- Pray for our various ministry teams and their leaders, serving diligently and often in the background.
  - Spotlight – The Finance Team - Andrew Shaw, Geoff Lawrence and Mark Lawrence.

### Those who are unwell or grieving

- Unwell: Roy Womack, Doreen Brook, Di Elliot, Dave Elliott, Brenda Birks, Pam Dewsbury, Brian Tomlinson, John Scarffe.
- Any others known to you who are unwell or grieving.

### Safeguarding

- Pray that we would be a caring church community that reflects his goodness and love especially for the vulnerable.

## Giving Sunday (17<sup>th</sup> May)

- Give thanks for the Lord's financial provision for us as a church.
- Pray that God would move our hearts to give generously.
- Pray that OPC would see an increase in giving to cover its costs over the coming years.
- Pray for the Finance Team as they process all the responses to Giving Sunday.

## Children, Youth & Families

- Pray for a small team of Youth Leaders beginning to be trained with a view to taking the lead in Kids Club. Pray for the development of their gifts and that the children attending Kids Club would love their involvement.
- Youth Small Groups – pray for great relationships and a deepening love for and growth in the Gospel.
- Praise God for our growing Sunday Club and Team of leaders. Pray the children would deepen their love for Jesus and enjoy gathering each week.
- Give thanks for our Baby and Toddler Groups, and the teams who serve at them. Pray invitations to Easter events would be well received and the gospel would reach hearts.
- Pray for the Holiday Club (27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May): for the Lord to be at work through invitations and for the children who God wants to come to sign up; for help for the team as they plan and prepare; for deep joy in the gospel and energy for the Team as we serve Him together; for children to come to know and love Jesus; for families to come to the Holiday Club service on the Sunday and to feel warmed to the gospel through it.

## 2. Our Local Mission

### 321 Course

- Pray for the 321 course, which concludes on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in each person attending, that they'd understand the gospel and put their trust in Jesus.

### Coumes Brook Residential Care Home

- Pray for the team who hold Sunday afternoon services for residents. Next service: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May.
- Pray for the ability to communicate the love of God from the Bible in an accessible way.

### Your Mission

- Pray for one person you are seeking to bring to the Lord.

### School Links

- Give thanks for the regular opportunity to lead assemblies at OPS. Next visit: 19<sup>th</sup> May.
- Pray for links with other local schools to grow.

### St Matthias Stocksbridge

- Pray for the Lord's perfect timing to be displayed and for St Matthias to be brought 'Back to Life' for the blessing of that town and its future generations.

### Local Church – Christ Church Walkley

- Give thanks for God's provision of funding allowing them to move forward with their building project. The contractor begins work on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Pray for more funds to be raised for furniture and equipment.
- Give thanks for the Passion for Life season and Easter events, which saw lots of community engagement. Pray for opportunities with those who attended, and pray particularly for those attending their 321 course, which began at the end of April.
- As Kenny Larsen has moved to become the minister at Christ Church Central, pray for CCW's church council as they make staffing decisions and consider next steps.

### 3. Our Country and the CofE

- Pray for our government to use their power in the service of others and to protect the most vulnerable.
- Pray that the government would preserve the freedom for Christians to practice and share their faith.
- Pray for Christian politicians of all parties to be faithful ambassadors for Christ.
- Pray for our local bishops – Bishop Pete (Sheffield) and Bishop Leah (Doncaster) – that they would faithfully follow the Lord and His Word, seeking to uphold truth with integrity and wisdom.

- Pray for the work of The Alliance and CEEC (Church of England Evangelical Council) as they represent orthodox churches in responding to the proposed 'Prayers of Love and Faith'. Pray for unity and gospel partnership among those seeking to remain faithful within the CofE.
- Pray that the House of Bishops would change course following the formal conclusion of the Living in Love and Faith process.
- Pray that Bishop Pete (Sheffield), Anna De Castro (General Synod) and others would be strong in contending against any developments that move away from Scripture.

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### 4. Ukraine & Russia, Israel & Gaza, Iran

- Pray for a just and lasting peace, an end to violence and protection of civilians on all sides.
- Ask God to guide world leaders and negotiators as they seek solutions.
- Lift up those who are grieving lost loved ones, those injured or traumatised, and those displaced from their homes.

- Pray for humanitarian aid to reach all who need it, for the protection of aid workers, and for local churches bringing practical help and hope.
- Ask God to strengthen local believers to be lights of Christ's love, bringing reconciliation and hope.

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### 5. God's Global Mission

*Pray for Galeed House, working cross-culturally in Darnall.*

- Praise the Lord for 25 years of faithful ministry in Darnall, which they will celebrate in June.
- Praise God for the recent Men's English trip to see para snooker at the EIS.
- Give thanks for good attendance across the activities, especially the homework club as a good number of children and parents attend.
- Pray for their Family Fun Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>, which Galeed will run in partnership with local churches.
- Pray for fundraising applications to be looked on favourably.
- Pray for more volunteers for Women's English and Homework Club to come forward.

*Pray for Mark and Rebekah, training in Southeast Asia with a mission agency for cross-cultural work.*

- Give thanks that Rebekah has been able to restart her Bible studies with the local pastor's wife.
- Pray for a couple from the church in their ministry at the church and in their Christian witness to Thai and Burmese customers and employees at the noodle restaurant they run. Praise God for the excellent example they set.
- Pray for a good time of fellowship, and for safety, for the church trip to the seaside on 24<sup>th</sup> May.
- Give thanks that registration for the field conference in June is largely sorted out and that there are now enough children's workers for the conference.

*Pray for Panshak Panbish, his wife Esther and their children.*

*Panshak serves unpaid with 'Jesus Focussed Youth Ministries' in Nigeria.*

- Give thanks that Panshak his family remain safe after recent attacks in the area. Thank God that they have been able to provide refuge for a number of people who were affected.
- Pray that the Lord would provide for their daily needs, particularly with the added pressure of caring for a large number of people at present. Pray that more people would be moved to support their ministry financially so that they are able to cover their costs of living.
- Pray for God to powerfully protect Christians across Nigeria, as killings and persecution continue in many communities. Pray for those displaced from their ancestral lands and who have lost family members, that God would give them his comfort and peace.

### Song – O Church Arise

*Please note: The next Church Family Prayer will be 3rd June, meeting in the Parish Centre.*