



Prayers for the Third Sunday in Lent, 24 March 2019, St Andrew's Church

We pray for the Christian church in this country and throughout the world, and in particular for this parish and community of St Andrew with St Alban here in Mottingham. We pray for our priests Ian and Anne who minister to us, for all who serve - as churchwardens, as members of the PCC, as sidespeople, as readers, members of the coffee team, helpers with the Sunday Club, and all who keep the two churches alive and welcoming.

We pray for peace and stability in the world. Today, we pray especially for the millions of people, adults and children, whose lives have been devastated by cyclone Idai, and who have lost so many family members and friends in the terrible floods in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. We must all do what we can to help and contribute aid.

We pray for an end to hatred in the world, as we remember the savage killings in New Zealand. May we learn to celebrate our diversity, and tolerate our differences, conscious that we are all children of God, sharing this world as a global family.

We pray for our broken society as we struggle to define our future national role in the world. May our leaders and politicians urgently find a way forward that will allow every person, family and community to flourish. and heal the divisions that have so painfully opened up in the last three years.

We pray for members of the Parochial Church Council as they prepare for their meeting next Wednesday. Give them wisdom and guidance to make the right decisions for the future health of St Andrew's and St Alban's, and give them a true sense of cooperation and collaboration in their deliberations.

We pray for those suffering in body, mind or spirit, especially those listed on today's pew sheet. May they find comfort and healing in their troubles, and soon be restored to health and wholeness. We remember those whose work on earth is done, especially those recently departed. We give thanks for their lives and seek comfort for the bereaved.

Lastly, we pray for ourselves, that we may walk ever closer in the ways that Christ has taught us, and grow in his strengths of faith, courage, truth and love.

Amen