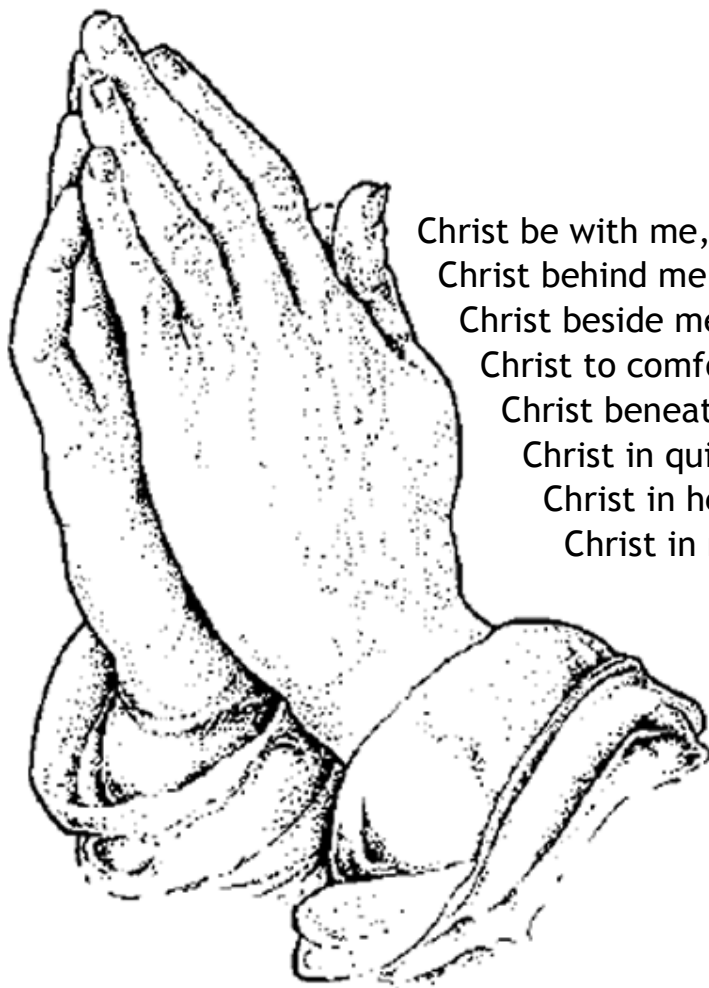


Prayer Leaflet

March 2007



Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Faith Now, Sight Later

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.



Do you see dramatic evidence of God at work in your life, or is your life rather quiet and routine? Catherine Booth, who with her husband William started the Salvation Army, stressed the need for being content to walk by faith. In her final illness she talked to a friend about the difference between faith and sight.

"One of the hardest lessons I've had to learn," she said, "is to discern between faith and realization. ... If I have had to conquer all through life by naked faith, bringing afterward perhaps blessed realizations, I can only expect that it shall be the same now."

Catherine was prepared to pass through the valley of death's shadow sustained by "naked faith," without any reassuring sight of her Saviour's face. She exemplified the confidence Paul spoke of in 2 Corinthians. "We do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord" (5:8). Catherine concluded, "All our enemies have to be conquered by faith, not by realization." Then she asked, "Is it not so with the last enemy – death?"

Today, some are seeking high-voltage experiences to buttress their faith. But as Catherine learned, blessed are those who believe without having seen (John 20:29). Blessed are those for whom God's Word is sufficient.

Our Prayers in March are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events – Frugal Lunch (4th), Concert (10th) – please pray for these events, and those who will attend them.

Mothers' Union – supporting the Women's World Day of Prayer (2nd).

Choir – that their voices may be heard by many people at the Lent concert.

Magazine – give thanks for all the work done in typing our magazine.

Flower Guild – for all couples planning to be married this year.

St Mary's 0-5 Group – as our little ones grow and move on, please pray for new members to join the committee to enable the group to go on.

Churches Together – for the Men's Breakfast (Speaker- Colin Weaver speaking on the work of Seed International in Nicaragua) (3rd)

In the Community

St Anne's School – for the school's Easter Service (30th).

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – We pray for Christians who are subject to discrimination, harassment or persecution. We pray that they will keep in mind Jesus' teachings on love, so they will not resort to revenge or hatred, but instead love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in March:

The Smile Train – changing the world one smile at a time! Their mission is to provide free cleft surgery for millions of poor children in developing countries; and free cleft-related training for doctors and medical professionals. In excess of 200,000 children helped to date.

This month, in our Street Prayer Mission, we'll be praying for:

Week commencing Sunday 4 March:

The Chestnuts; Oak Tree Court; Berry Lane; Offord Hill and Road.

Week commencing Sunday 11 March:

Tudor Road; York Close; Fairy Avenue; The Close.

Week commencing Sunday 18 March:

Post Street; Church Place; Chadley Lane; The Causeway.

Week commencing Sunday 25 March:

Lancaster Way; Fox Grove; Rectory Gardens; Grove Court.

Please remember the residents of the above streets, those known to us, and especially those, as yet, unknown to us.

Some Prayers for March:

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

