

Pentecost 2020– Blessing Prayer for Ipswich

Thank you God for everyone working on the frontline in the fight against coronavirus.

Thank you that in times of trouble you are our refuge, our strength and ever present help.

For all our: NHS and care workers; food retailers and providers; delivery drivers; refuse collectors; school, college and university staff; the police; the military; funeral workers; faith leaders and chaplains – and many others.

The Lord bless you and keep you, safe in his loving care.

We're sorry that so many people are finding this time really difficult.

Thank you God that you heal the heartbroken and bind up every wound.

Father God, We pray:

For everyone grieving the loss of a loved one – please comfort them

For everyone who is ill and the families who care for them – please bring healing and peace of mind

For pregnant women, new parents and their tiny babies – please keep them safe.

Thank you God that you invite us to come to you with all our needs.

Father God, we pray for, the homeless, the hungry and anyone struggling to make ends meet.

Please provide for all their needs. May they know that you love them and are for them.

We pray for charities and organisations giving help and support to have all the resources they need. Help each one of us to be mindful of others and to be generous where we can.

For everyone who is finding life difficult at this time,

The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

God knows that many of us are anxious, lonely and facing uncertainty, during this time.

Thank you God that you say, 'Do not be afraid'. 'I have plans to prosper you – and to give you hope and a future.'

For our children – trying to understand the sudden changes in their lives – we pray for peace

For our young people – finding their way in a very different world - we pray for hope

For our older people and everyone who is shielding – with feelings of isolation and loneliness - we pray for comfort

For anyone who doesn't feel safe in their home - living with fear and emotional pain - we pray for protection

For people who are finding it difficult to keep going – who feel overwhelmed by life - we pray for light in the darkness

In this time of uncertainty,

The Lord bless you, turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Thank you to all of you with leadership responsibilities, who are having to make difficult decisions at this time.

The bible says: 'Entrust your work to God and your planning will succeed'.

We pray for our town and national government, for leaders in business, health and social care, education, police, church and other organisations. We pray for all who give advice, and for scientists working to overcome this virus.

Please guide each one of them and give them wisdom so that their planning will succeed.

For everyone who lives in Ipswich, works or studies here, or visits our wonderful town

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace. Amen