**Intercessions**

The intercessions, this week, are based on the wording of the planned giving envelopes. The wording is “**My weekly gift in thanksgiving**” and each word will form the heading for a period of intercession. At the end of each section, I will say the words “Heavenly Father” and I ask that you respond “we thank you”.

Heavenly Father

**We thank you.**

The word **my** is very personal. It can imply introspection and separation from others. Yet, to not use the word MY can suggest that others will do something that I should do myself.

We pray for those who are afflicted by mental illness which has led to introspection and lack of contact with community. We recognise that this can happen to varying degrees.

We pray for those who are separated from others due to relationship breakdown – remembering particularly grandparents and grandchildren.

We ask for strength to do what we should do in whatever walk of life that may be.

Heavenly Father

**We thank you.**

**Weekly** can be spelt two ways. There is the context of ‘not strong’. In the context of this morning, we concentrate on the regular nature of action whilst being mindful of the less strong and those who are unable to act on their own behalf.

We thank you for the opportunity to worship in freedom and the range of worship that we can experience. Locally we give thanks for those who lead our worship and for those who enhance our worship. We have people who are musical; we have people who are creative; we have people who are welcoming. We give thanks for these. We give thanks for the person sitting nearest to us this morning and for the person sitting furthest away – and all in between. For, it is they that also enhance worship by participating. Help us not take worship – or people – for granted.

We remember that you are with us always – to the end of time.

Heavenly Father

**We thank you.**

**Gift** conjures up all kinds of images. Brightly wrapped parcels at Christmas and birthdays; the unexpected token; the bunch of flowers – or even a pint bought by some one else in the pub. Yes, we sometimes lose this sense of fun and excitement when looking at our giving back to God through his Church.

We know that all things come of you for we say the words most Sundays. Help us to do more than to know; help us to fully realise and appreciate what you have given us.

We know that St Paul tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. Help us to regain the sense of cheerfulness and joy that we would have experienced when giving to relatives at birthdays etc – or even when buying a mate a pint at the pub in order to add something to the said thank you when we have done something together.

You have given us so much and we only give back to you.

Heavenly Father

**We thank you.**

The word **in** can be so insignificant yet it means so much. To be in water means that you have to be immersed. Help us to be immersed in our relationship with you. Immerse our whole beings – all that we are and all that we have.

Help us to be in our community – not of it or from it which suggests some form of detachment – but in it, being activists, being the salt and light, being the Hands of Christ.

Enable us to be in your presence – immersed in your glory and allowing your giving to us to flow into and beyond us for some of that giving will remain and be continually refreshed – even as we give to others.

Heavenly Father

We thank you

**Thanksgiving** is such a big word. It is all encompassing and can mean many things to many people. The challenge that we all face is putting it into practice. That is why we have planned giving reviews; why we have planned giving schemes – to assist with the discipline in our discipleship journey of giving. For, it is the giving of money that we often find the most difficult – it is the item of our lives that we hang onto the most.

We thank you for what money achieves. Yes, we thank you for what we have. We thank you for what our giving has achieved, in this parish and beyond. We thank you for what our giving will achieve, in this Church and beyond. We thank you for the work of charities and voluntary agencies that we support as part of the “MY” response and we give thank for what our giving achieves with them in the various spheres of work in which they operate.

We also thank you for people who have influenced us and impacted on our lives. The anthem “let us now praise famous men” has a line “and some there be which have no memorial.” This reminds us that you don’t have to be famous to be remembered – we give thanks for the ordinary people who we have known; loved and respected. We remember those in a moment of silence.

And finally, we give thanks for those of our number and friendship circle (and those without friends) who are ill at the present time. We name them in our hearts and give thanks for those who are caring and supporting them.

Merciful father

**Accept these prayers . . .**