



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL 3rd Sunday of Easter, 3-4 May 2014

1 We give thanks today for the 125 years of worship and service completed at St Canice's. We call to mind the original benefactors whose generosity made this church possible, and all since whose support has helped its work continue.

Lord, giver of all good gifts, teach us to see increasingly the abiding worth of that on-going generosity and to want to emulate it.

Lord, hear us.

2 Our minds turn also to those who have ministered generously around the church: the many priests who have done so at the altar; the nuns and other teachers who once taught in the school; the lay people who have assisted through their music, and all sorts of other gifts.

We pray again, Lord, to be strengthened by the efforts of our predecessors. And at a moment when there is some uncertainty about the church's future, we ask you help us move forward with faith, and a determination to be true to St Canice's heritage.

Lord, hear us.

3 We think too of the special works St Canice's is presently supporting: the work of the kitchen that feeds the homeless, something only made possible through the support of many volunteers from a lot of other places; and what we do for our sister parish at Railaco in East Timor.

Thinking of today's Gospel, we beg you, O risen Lord, to help us find you in the breaking of the bread. And that, in your power, we may continue to be able to reach out usefully to the poor; and those whose lives were all but destroyed by terrible violence in East Timor.

4 Also, still thinking of today's Gospel, we remember the people St Canice's has a habit of meeting along the way: those who have come here over the years to be married; or may come to Mass when they are holidaying in the Cross from the country; or who simply drop in when they see the church open; or who come for funerals, or celebrations like today's.

Help such outsiders to find here what they need, Lord, and even more than they might hope for. And help us to reach out to them as St Canice's people seem to have done in the past.

Lord, hear us.

5 And finally, we pray for the parish's sick and disabled, who have not been able to come here today. Raise them up with you, O risen Lord – especially Robert Barnes, who has been so involved in the parish over recent years. Bless him and his family.

Lord, hear us.