Today’s readings encourage us to be gentle,

to share with those who have less than ourselves

and to not be anxious because the Lord is always with us.

Given the struggles the last year has thrown at us,

these three important pieces of advice,

which are among the cornerstones of our Christian faith

will have proven very difficult to adhere to for many of us.

If our behaviour has hurt others

don’t use as an excuse

the lack of restraint and graciousness which currently seems prevalent among the leaders of the world

but instead let us turn to God

Lord: please forgive us for the unkind ways we have talked or touched other peoples’ lives.

Guide us towards better ways of coping with our frustrations

and help our hearts and minds to remember that in prayer we can find peace and relief.

Lord in Your Mercy

Hear Our Prayer

As we are only a few weeks away from celebrating the birth of your Son,

let us make a promise for the future

to be better at sharing with those who are in greater need than ourselves

and to not mindlessly take from others or indeed our Planet, just because we are able to or feel entitled to.

Our everlasting Father gave us his Son

not because he wanted to show off or claim a point

but because he wanted to show the whole world that mindful sharing brings lasting love which lights up even the darkest nights.

May this Christmas bring lasting love and the ability to share it indiscriminately to anyone we can think of.

Lord in Your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

So, bearing in mind the Bible readings today:

Let us make firm these promises to our Lord Father, Everlasting God:

To love each other, just as God always will love us

To be gracious even when faced with anger or bitterness

To love the Lord, even if we are stressed, tired or angry

Lord in Your mercy

Hear our Prayer

Let’s pray for each individual on our God-given Earth.

From the very visible, famous, and infamous:

Royal families, politicians, industry leaders and community leaders,

To those who may not be well known to anyone but their closest contacts:

neighbours, friends, and family.

If they are in pain, may their faith bring them comfort

If they are struggling, may Your Light bring them towards a path of solution

If they are feeling nothing and running on empty,

may Your Word open their hearts and minds to a better way of life

Under your protective wings.

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers

For the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ

Amen