

Intercessions for 10.00a.m. service 18th December 2022

Let us join together in prayer.

Our prayers this morning reflect on the Christmas themes of peace, joy and love.

Peace

Lord we pray for peace in the world. Today we pray especially for an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine.

We ask that those with the power and authority to change things, may be filled with your spirit of peace and strive to find ways to end the conflict.

We lift to you all who are suffering because of the destruction of war. Those who have lost loved ones, those whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed. All who have been forced to leave their homeland to find safety and all left behind struggling to find warmth, food and shelter.

We pray that whatever resources they need may be provided to support and comfort them all.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*

Closer to home, Lord, we pray for an end to the strikes and industrial action in the Postal service, on the Railways, amongst Border Control staff, Ambulance drivers and Nursing staff. Bring people together in peace, Lord, and inspire productive negotiation, mutual respect, and a willingness to compromise. We pray for the economic prosperity of our country in these difficult times and a fair wage for all people.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*

May we be peacemakers, Lord. Help us to grow in thoughtfulness and understanding. Through kind words and deeds may we encourage peace and healing in difficult situations and tricky conversations.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Joy

We pray for services and celebrations filled with joy.

Lord we ask your blessing on all the services and celebrations taking place in our parish this Christmas time. Especially we pray for the Carol Service later today.

We ask that all who take part in our Christmas services, and those who attend them, may experience the joy of your presence. May they open their hearts to receive again the wonderful gift of your precious Son in their lives.

We pray especially for people who come to this church for the first time this Christmas and ask that the seeds of faith may be sown and nurtured and that they may begin to experience the joy of knowing you in their lives.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

We pray for our ministry team at this incredibly busy time of year, asking that you would sustain them with energy and enthusiasm and fill them with your joy in sharing the good news of Christmas. Bless them with opportunities to draw sustaining strength and peace from private prayer and quiet contemplation.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Love

We pray for love in our communities, our homes and our relationships.

Heavenly Father, may our lives overflow with your love this Christmas. Pour out your blessing on our homes that they may be places of welcome, love, sharing and caring. May the wonder of your gift of love for be at the centre of our celebration, worship and fellowship.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*

We pray for all those in our community who have little to celebrate this Christmas especially those who must be away from home and loved ones - and those who don't have a loving home or family.

We lift to you all who are struggling to heat their homes or feed their families this Christmas and pray that they would feel able to seek and receive help without fear of judgement, shame or embarrassment.

Lord in your mercy, *hear our prayer*

Loving Lord would you encourage and support all charities and relief organisations who work to help and support the many people who are in need. In our own community we ask your blessing on the work of the Love in Action team, Warm Spaces team and Community Café and show us how we can help our neighbours in need.

We ask your comfort and protection on all who are ill, sick or in pain.

Lord, may we love and trust you as Mary did, and, following her example, try to live our lives in your name.

Merciful Father, *accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen*

THE LORDS PRAYER