

St Paul's Letchworth -

Intercessions - 17th December

Lord our Saviour, we praise you for the eternal blessings that you have brought down upon us. We ask that you lead us in our lives and teach us to rejoice, to pray and to give thanks.

Father, this festive season, as we come together with friends and family, we ask that we can find joy, that our bodies will be refreshed and our spirits will be restored.

We pray that amongst the adverts, songs, presents, food and parties, that we will keep our eyes firmly fixed on the true meaning of Christmas. On your story, your gift and your sacrifice.

Father, comforter, we know that for some Christmas will be hard and will present new challenges. We pray that your presence will come alongside them, that your love will bring peace.

Lord, we thank you for your gift and your sacrifice.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, we thank you for the blessing you have brought on our church this month, especially for the hundreds of children who joined us for the Christmas journey.

We pray for the events still to come. For tonight's Carol service, Christingle and the Christmas day services. We ask that people will come and hear your word, and rejoice in your love.

Lord, we pray for our Church roof, that the next stage will go smoothly. We thank you for the amazing journey we have been on, with generosity overflowing through acts and deeds.

Father, for all these events and all this work we thank you for the countless people who have made it possible, who have worked tirelessly and sacrificially.

Lord, we thank you for the gift you have given us of a wonderful church community.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, we pray for our society. That it is a society of compassion and love, one that protects your children and your planet.

During this season we pray especially for those that are on their own, living on the streets or facing an uncertain future. We know this time of year will be tough and we pray for them and for the work of the amazing charities supporting them.

Lord, we say peace on earth and goodwill towards all, yet it feels like we are faced by conflict everywhere we turn. Wars, battles, violence on streets and in homes. We pray that love will prevail and for these conflicts, this opposition, this disquiet to end.

Father, despite these challenges we pray that we can still find time to marvel at the beauty of your world. Of the acts of kindness and love that are shown, of the generosity of spirit and the sacrifice by so many.

Lord, we thank you for the gift of love.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

And as he taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.