

Old Hills Malvern Churches

A Prayer as we approach the Christmas Season this year:

Loving Father, as we approach a Christmas season that looks very different from normal, we thank you, that while we may not be able to be with our families and loved ones in person, we know that You are always with them. Where there is weariness, would you bring Your rest; where there is hopelessness, would you bring fresh encouragement; where there is despair, would you bring hope. In Jesus' name we pray - AMEN

Intercessions for 3rd Sunday of Advent Year B – 13th December 2020

Mindful of the words of the prophet Isaiah, we gather our thoughts and prayers with hope and humbly call on God to help us in our needs.

Holy God, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ our Saviour, we ask that you will answer our prayers and make us a holy people, fit to greet him with eager hearts. May our Church leaders be blessed with wisdom and holiness to guide us through this season of Advent despite the pandemic, to a holy, peaceful and joyful Christmas. We raise before you our Churches, and ask that with eager longing for the return of Christ, our Advent activities (the windows of light, the Tree of Hope and our pop up foodbank collections) may help all who join with us to prepare a place in their hearts and homes for you and your son Jesus Christ our Lord

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Creator God, help the leaders of nations to seek that justice and peace which come from the Word of God, may there be good news for the poor and the broken hearted; release for those illegally or wrongly imprisoned and an end to the conflicts throughout the world which lead to so much grief and mourning.

We pray for all those who are striving to adjust to a new way of being “normal” in these difficult times as Covid 19 continues globally, but pray for positive uptake of the Covid vaccinations as they come on stream and fairness in the vaccines' availability and distribution.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father God, your son Jesus you lived an ordinary life in Nazareth, with human parents, brothers and sisters. He understands the difficulties faced in families. We pray for all of those involved in providing support for troubled families and strengthening our community life. We especially pray for our family members who have not yet heard of the coming of Christ and that this Christmas they may hear and believe the Good News and receive the gift of the Christ Child. We pray for our schools at Madresfield, Powick and Callow End as they approach the end of a hard term for all. May they be blessed with peace and good health over the coming Christmas time.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, may your blessing be upon all those who are in pain or sickness, those who are anxious or troubled. We know that you are always present with us, even when sometimes you seem far away. Help us to feel your presence when we pass through dark places, and sustain us and all who suffer through our pains and sorrows.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God, may those who have died may be granted the peace of your heavenly kingdom. Give rest to the souls of those who have gone from our lives to meet with you and may they now, released from pain or sorrow, find life eternal at rest in your presence.

We especially pray for the families of Maureen Coleman and Margaret Hemming

(Short Silence)

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, as we continue this Advent journey, teach us to turn to you in times of joy and pleasure as well as we do when faced with fear and sorrow. Help us to put our differences behind us and to unite behind the great commission of Jesus to make disciples of all nations and all people.

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