

Happy New Church Year! If you are using a lectionary for Bible readings, please follow the reading scheme for Year B and we will be journeying through Mark's Gospel too. Mark is quite pushy and anxious – expectant if you will. Therefore, ideal for Advent.

The following paragraph is an extract from a letter sent out to all Clergy by The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London: -

*“Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to **make this month of lockdown a month of prayer**. More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.”*

Please ask if you would like a copy of my new Advent Resources booklet to support your Advent devotions. It is available on www.OLDHILLSMALVERN.CO.UK too.

Please use and share these prayers as you will. There is no copyright on communications with God our Heavenly Father, his beloved son Jesus Christ our Lord or with the Holy Spirit and Lord of Life.

Rev Gary Crellin

Intercessions for Advent Sunday Year B – 29th November 2020

Everlasting God, as we come before you at the start of the Season of Advent, we ask you to prepare us for the coming, of your son Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the Church and the world and to thank you for your goodness.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Mighty God, we pray for your church today, gathering worldwide in churches, chapels and cathedrals, to praise you and to hear your holy word. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go.

We pray for your blessing on all those who lead, preach and teach and we pray especially for our own Ministers, Lay or Ordained, as they seek to do your will and guide us through our spiritual and worldly journey through Advent, until the day when we celebrate together the birth of your Son on Christmas Day.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Creator God, drive away despair from our politics, revive our dreams of justice and truth, and restore our passion for what is good and right. Establish your just and gentle rule throughout the world especially where there is conflict; where peace seems so far away and so many have lost everything, even the faint hope of a peaceful future. Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly and according to your will especially at this time of the global pandemic.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Father God, we pray for those amongst our families, friends and neighbours who will only see in Advent a hectic and worrying run-up to the excesses of a secular Christmas. Help us as we try to set an example of a true spirit of preparation for that incredibly precious gift of the Christ-child. May they see in our Services, whether in church or via Zoom, the true meaning of Advent and onwards to Christmas and experience your love for them through the giving of your Son, Jesus Christ

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for those for whom this day will be long and painful, for those in hospital or ill at home, those struggling with despair or depression and for all who care for them. Comfort and heal all who suffer, especially at this time of the Covid 19 pandemic, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Loving God, we pray for those who have recently died and for those for whom this day will be their last. Be near to all who mourn and comfort them with the knowledge that in the coming of your son Jesus the gates of heaven will be opened wide for all who accept him as Lord and Saviour.

Lord in your mercy: hear our prayer

Advent Lord, as we move into the new liturgical year, draw near to us, strengthen our faith, deepen our love for you and for our neighbours and open our eyes to the wonder of your creation, so that when our Saviour comes, he may find our hearts ready to receive him.

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

Note - St James' Church, Callow End, is open for Private Prayer on Advent Sunday from 12noon – 1pm. Just drop in.