

Intercessions Advent Sunday

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.

Loving God, in days to come, the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for your church today, gathering worldwide in churches, chapels, and cathedrals, to praise you and to hear your holy word. We pray for our church, as we work in this community. Give us a sense of expectation as we come and inspiration as we go. We pray that we would be inspired by your Word, as this new church liturgical year begins, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, in days to come, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. We pray for our nation, and all nations. 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. Govern the hearts and minds of all world leaders and those in authority that they may act justly, honestly, and according to your will. We pray particularly for the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Sudan. We pray that your peace would be known in every corner of the earth. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, in days to come, all the nations shall stream to your house. We pray for those in our community who are yet to know you, for those who find Advent and Christmas a sad, stressful or difficult time. Help us to share the Good News of Christmas. May people, through our words, our actions and our services this season, come to know the true meaning of Christmas and experience your love for them through the giving of your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Loving God, in days to come, even the wilderness and dry land will be glad and rejoice. 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. We remember before you particularly today... Comfort and heal all who suffer, 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, in the fullness of time, you sent your son to be born of Mary and his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. We pray particularly for... Be near to all who mourn. Comfort and strengthen them with the hope that you bring when we turn to you in our sorrow and our loss. Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Advent Lord, as we move into a 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**

Adapted from prayers written by Fr. Rick Morley