

Sunday 19 November – Second Sunday before Advent

Prayers written by Ruth Le Poidevin

Almighty and all-loving God, you promised through your Son to hear us when we pray in faith; so we come to pray and to praise you. We praise you for your goodness and faithfulness to us; for your answers to our prayers, not always what we expect but answers which remind us that you are in control.

Loving God, we hold our broken world before you and ask that you will bring justice where injustice rules.

You carry our weary world without growing weak; give strength to those struggling and hope to the hopeless.

You are our compassionate God; we ask healing for the hurting, and restoration to broken lives. We thank you that your compassion never ceases, your love for us never runs dry even when our trust and faith fail.

Bless all those who through no fault of their own are forced to flee their homes and take along with their families only that which they can carry to seek a safer place to live, Remind us of Jesus who as a child was a refugee finding shelter in a foreign land. Give us as a nation hearts and hands willing to reach out and help these our brethren in your world-wide family.

We pray, Lord, for your blessing on our country, asking that in these troubled times, our leaders may put loyalty to what is right above loyalty to any party or class. May their only motive be to promote the welfare of all the population. In the face of so much unrest we pray for our Police force; give discernment to those responsible for controlling civil unrest and wise counsel to magistrates, probation officers and members of the mental health professions who seek to direct offenders to a better lifestyle.

We bring before you all worshipping communities. We know that many who seek your presence do so with great difficulty, some facing persecution and some who are in fear of reprisals for professing their faith. We pray for those worshipping in inadequate buildings with few resources and for those who still wait patiently to have the Bible brought to them in their own language.

Loving God we thank you for comfort and sympathy, reassurance and practical caring when we are in need. Make us all the more aware of the needs of those

around us and let our loving show in action. We bring before you: Margaret; Trudie Brown; Eileen Moses; Erica; Andrew; Caroline; Jan Banks; Ellen Vigar.

We remember before you those who have died : Rosemary Gates; George Fleck; Cedric Chivers, James Taylor, and we pray for those who ache with sorrow at their passing.

We remember and give thanks for the life of Christopher Brace who is commemorated in our Memorial Book this week.

In this coming week, Lord, may we live in faith, walk in love, and be renewed in hope.

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