

## **Sunday 21st November – Christ the King**

### **Prayers written by Christine Eaton**

Lord we come before you in this time of remembrance and thank you for all the services and people who came into our village last Sunday to remember their relatives and friends, who gave their lives in service to their country. We thank you too for those who led services in their churches and around the war memorial

Lord we give our lives to you. Let it be seen that we have been with you, let there be traces of glory in our lives. Fill with radiance all who lead worship, all who preach, all who reach out in mission. We remember all who, in your name care for the outcasts and needy in our world. We ask your blessing on all relief organisations and particularly remember those who provide practical help in teaching people for employment, to look after the land and to manage budgets.

We think today of our Prime Minister and the government, as they are dealing with controversial and unpopular measures for the good of our country. Give them wisdom and godliness as they vote for bills and actions necessary to protect and define governance. May they be fully aware of compassion and mercy on all those who are in the greatest need and legislate the economy accordingly.

We pray for all those who are misled into dangerous excursions and debt to escape their countries and to seek asylum, who are often desperate and gullible and misused, forced into debt and forms of slavery to repay debts to the evil traffickers who thrive on human misery. We pray for fairness and justice to all those who seek to flee as refugees and economic migrants. We bring to you our Home Secretary who has to ensure that the law and refuges are not conflicted and unfair in their dealings. Lord be a strength to all who have suffered through the greed, the insensitivity or the violence of others.

As we come into the season of Advent and Christmas Lord, we pray that the right spirit of the season may be perpetrated. Help us as Christians to set examples of the coming of Jesus and how it is that which is at the centre of our celebrations and preparations as we think of those who do not know, the poor in spirit and those struggling to pay for extravagance beyond their means. We thank you for organisations like Shelter and the Salvation Army who try and ensure that those who are homeless are catered for and fed and given shelter. Lord we pray for any without a proper wage or dependable income. We give

thanks for our homes and our loved ones. Please give hope to all those caught up in disasters and all who are suffering from famine or flood in many parts of our world.

As the Covid pandemic persists, we thank you for the skill and determination of scientists and the medical profession for vaccinations and care for the sick and suffering from this virus. We pray against this virus, that we will in time eradicate it from our world and that our lives will continue to progress towards more normality. As we ask too that everyone continues to take adequate precaution for their own and others' safety and wellbeing.

We remember today those in our own community who are unwell and we bring before you those known to us as follows - Jan Banks, Ken Cathcart, Dorothy Lawrence, Hazel Chapman, John Leaworthy, Donald Rooke, Ellen Vigar, Linda Tuthill, Roger Hoare.

In this time of remembrance we bring to your loving care and comfort the families of those who have been recently bereaved – Val Bell, Raymond Munson, Mary Munson, Bryan Boardman.

Also, we think of those who are remembering anniversaries of loved ones lost and we bring to mind those in our Book of Remembrance – Christopher Brace.

Finally Lord we pray for all the children and staff in our schools, during this anxious time when many seem to catch the infection and it affects time having to be spent in isolation. Thank you for the testing kits which have been helpful in finding out who is affected. We think of the pupils and staff all preparing for the Christmas season, and for disappointments and frustration through enforced absence.

Be with us all as we look towards this season of penitence and reflection, as we cope with the shorter days, darker nights and colder weather. Help us all to appreciate all the blessings and gladness of your creation and the area in which we live and for all those good things we take for granted.

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