

INTERCESSIONS
Advent 2 8th December 2002

Lord, at this Advent-tide, help us.
We want to live Christian lives.
We want to be kind.
We want to be soft-voiced.
We want to be peace-searching.
We want to be generous.
We want to be healing.
Lord help us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, strengthen and guide our bishops, our archdeacon and clergy. Particularly at this time, we pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury. May he, in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to unite a deeply divided church. To instil in his flock, a clear understanding that everyone of us, seeks You in their own way, that there is power and synergy in *unity*, but conflict in *uniformity*.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, help us, as seekers after Your truth, to use this time of waiting and looking forward, to assess our own lives. We all fall short of Your example in Jesus, by petty jealousies, by gossip and note passing, by meanness and ignorance of the facts. Help us to exercise Your love, in all our dealings with our neighbours. Help us to find the good, that is within each of us, and to build on it.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, when the commercial world is determined to plunge us deeper into debt, draw our attention afresh, to the plight, of a third of this world's people, who live below subsistence level.
Help us to understand what the closure of Sangatt Detention Centre will mean.
Help us to understand what effect, the oil spill in the north west of this Iberian Peninsula is having on the people of the area, and will have on their livelihoods for years to come.
Help us to comprehend what it must be like, to be the parent of a child molested by a paedophile.
Help us to gain some comprehension of what it must be like to live in areas of conflict: Jew and Arab, Christian and Muslim, Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan, the list is seemingly endless.

Bless and guide the rulers of the nations and all in authority at all levels. Direct them in the ways of justice, truth and reconciliation, that we may all learn to honour one another and to seek the common good.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, we pray for all those who minister to our needs and provide essential services; council workers, shop keepers, transport drivers, doctors, nurses and paramedics, media people, postal workers and electricians. Give wisdom and guidance to all sides in the fire-fighters dispute, and to those threatening industrial action at airports, schools, and hospitals.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, we pray for your blessing on the members of our families, on our friends, and on our neighbours. May this time be healthy, exciting and uniting.

Be with those for whom this time is *not* a happy one, those who will inevitably remember past sorrows, family break downs or bereavements. Help them to remember the good and positive aspects of their lives, and grant them peace of mind.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, at this Advent-tide, we pray that your healing spirit will fall on those known to us who are in any way dis-eased, whether in body or mind. On those anticipating, hospital treatment and on those *recuperating* from such treatment.

Grant final peace to those who have died.

And grant peace to those who mourn for a loved one, but rejoice for their life.

Let us keep a moment's silence as we bring our own names before God.

At this Advent-tide,
Teach us good Lord, To serve You as you deserve.
To fight, and not to heed the wounds,
To toil, and not to seek for rest,
To labour, and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do your will.

**Merciful Father, Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**