

Wednesday 1st

Pray for the worsening coronavirus situation in many European and African countries. Pray for the governments and medical agencies in those countries struggling to contain the epidemic. Pray for anyone you know who is suffering from the virus.

Thursday 2nd

Pray for the plight of refugees around the world living in crowded and unhygienic conditions in refugee camps. Pray especially for children who are most adversely affected by this horrendous experience. Pray for the charity and relief agencies trying to help them.

Friday 3rd

Pray the parish prayer on the front of the diary.

Saturday 4th

Pray for our parish as we prepare for all the seasonal services which will take place this month. Pray for those who organise and lead them and pray for those who may only come to church during the Christmas season. Pray that through the worship and celebration of Christmas God will touch their hearts and they will turn to Him become worshipping followers of Jesus.

In the remaining days of December we shall be following an Advent Prayer Calendar which includes a bible reading connected to the Christmas season and a short reflection on it. Feel free to do your own reflection on the passage of scripture as the Spirit leads you.

Sunday 5th 2nd Sunday of Advent - Read St. Matthew 9: 27-31

As we journey through Advent ask God for the gift of Spiritual sight. Pray for those deprived of physical sight. Ask for the gifts of attentiveness and perception.

Monday 6th Read St. Matthew 3: 1-12

What truths do we find hard to hear or understand? Think of your differences with or fears about people or ideas. God may be bigger than our idea of him – pray for fresh understanding of him.

Tuesday 7th Read St. Luke 5: 17-26

Pray for anyone you know who is ill. Pray for all in hospitals. Give thanks for the NHS and pray for the doctors and nurses at this busy and stressful time. Pray for those who will be in hospital over the Christmas holiday.

Wednesday 8th Read St. Matthew 18: 12-14

Give thanks that God is merciful and generous. Consider making a donation to a cause supporting the desperately poor.

Thursday 9th Read St. Matthew 11: 28-30

Jesus promises us rest for our souls but asks us to share his life. Think what this means. What's the next step? Pray for those who cannot rest.

Friday 10th Read St. Luke 1: 26-38

As you write Christmas cards and messages think about how Mary received good news from God. Give thanks for all who've brought good news into our lives.

Saturday 11th St. Matthew 11: 16-19

Pray for all who find it hard to believe and trust in God. Pray for all who resist and oppose faith and religious expression. Ask for the courage to do one random act of kindness today.

Sunday 12th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Read St. Matthew 17: 9-13

John the Baptist was the new Elijah boldly proclaiming the coming of Jesus. Ask God to make us bold to proclaim Jesus and the Kingdom of God into our community.

Monday 13th Read St. Matthew 11: 2-11

Today think of the things that speak of God's love to you. Give thanks for them. Pray for the people in your life who help you see God's love

Tuesday 14th Read St. Matthew 21: 23-27

Jesus faced constant opposition. Think how he answered his critics. Pray for the guidance of the Spirit giving us wisdom in answering our critics. How do we make Jesus' ways our ways?

Wednesday 15th Read St. Matthew 21: 28-32

Pray for strength and joy in God's service, to be obedient to the Gospel, for us to be 'light bearers', bearing witness to our faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour

Thursday 16th Read St. Luke 7: 18-23

Try and keep silent for 10 minutes, concentrating on the word 'Emmanuel' – God with us. Turn it over in your mind. Pray the word 'Emmanuel'.

Friday 17th Read St. Luke 7: 24-30

Many of John the Baptist disciples followed Jesus after John's death. Thank God for your calling as a disciple of Jesus.

Saturday 18th Read St. Matthew 1: 1-17

As the preparations for Christmas intensify pray for the people who shed light and hope in the world and all who serve us each day Pray for shop workers and delivery staff today

Sunday 19th 4th Sunday of Advent

Read St. Matthew 1: 18-24

As we read the story of Joseph seeing the truth of what was happening to him in a dream, pray for insight, to see beyond the superficial and to see God at work in His world.

Monday 20th Read St. John 5: 30-36

Jesus comes with God's authority. What do we expect to receive from him? What do we want from him? Ask for those gifts and the readiness and capacity to receive them.

Tuesday 21st Read St. Luke 1: 46-56

As we give thanks with Mary that she is to be the Mother of Jesus, we give thanks for the values of God's Kingdom; the poor have highest worth.

Wednesday 22nd Read St. Luke 1: 57-66

Zacharias' tongue was freed and he praised God. Christmas frees our tongues to sing familiar songs and Carols. Pray that what we sing and say, we may believe.

Thursday 23rd Read St. Luke 1: 67-79

Zacharias' prayer is known as the Benedictus, say it slowly and prayerfully to yourself.

Friday 24th Christmas Eve Read Isaiah 11: 1-9

As we begin the festivities, we remember the peace and joy God wants for us and his world. Offer yourself again so that he can reign in your life.

Saturday 25th Christmas Day Read St. John 1: 1-18

Celebrate! Enjoy the feasting, the wonder and the joy of this day. Jesus is "the word made flesh who dwelt among us full of grace and truth". Pray for a new understanding of God's love as it reaches us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Sunday 26th Read St. Matthew 10: 17-22

Pray for all who have witnessed to Jesus through suffering and death. Pray to have a share in their courage and their assurance of God's love and purpose.

Monday 27th Read St. John 20: 1-8

As we reflect on Christmas, pray for the way we follow Christ: for grace to believe, to follow, to serve and to understand.

Tuesday 28th Read St. Matthew 2: 13-18

Pray for all who suffer as a result of genocide, ethnic cleansing and the evil intent of others. Pray for the world's children.

Wednesday 29th Read St. Luke 2: 22-35

Give thanks for the new-born for all we do to nurture them. Pray for new parents that they may provide love, care and wisdom.

Thursday 30th Read St. Matthew 2:13-15 & 19-23

Pray for the homeless, the refugee and the migrant – all seeking a home, security and stability. Pray for those risking their lives crossing the channel to reach the UK

Friday 31st

As we celebrate the advent of the New Year prayer for the churches of St. Luke and St. Thomas. Pray that God will give us vision and hope that this year will see the beginning of a new vision in the life and ministry of both churches reaching out and engaging with our communities, especially young families and young people.

Parish of
St. Luke Cannock and
St. Thomas Huntington

PRAYER DIARY DECEMBER 2021



Parish Prayer

*Lord God, we thank you for Christmas
and its message of how, in Jesus Christ,
you came to live with us and die for us.
This Christmas, we pray for those people who,
having once known what Christmas means,
have forgotten it. May they recover its truth.
This Christmas, we pray for those people who
have never known what Christmas means.
May they discover its truth.
This Christmas, we pray for those of us who know
Jesus, that we would, by our living and
speaking, uncover its truth for others.*

Amen