



## St. Nicholas Church Prayers January 2022

*"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." 2 Cor.5:17*

As we enter a New Year, we stand at a place between the old and the new.

Looking back to a year now past, and forward to what is yet to be.

We look back to a year in which the normal patterns of daily life have been disrupted;

Where so much has been put on hold, postponed, cancelled.

We look to the new year with it's continued uncertainty. Lives still on hold.

In all our uncertainty we come to you, Lord, for you are our constant. Continue to walk with us through these dark days, assure us of your light which no darkness can ever overcome and of your love by which we are constantly surrounded.

We pray for all those bearing heavy burdens; those facing difficulties and problems to which they can see no solutions, filled with anxiety for themselves or loved ones; those troubled about the lack of money to pay bills and feed the family: worried about health, work or relationships. Loving God open our eyes and hearts to what is around us to respond to any need throughout the year.

Loving Lord we thank you for those who are serving and caring for others, in churches, in charities, in hospitals and public services; those in our neighbourhoods and in our homes. Please give them strength, rest and perseverance as they work to support others and we ask that they too will receive all that they need to thrive.

**Brother, Sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you:" ( SGP 16)**

We bring before you Tom and his team at St. Nicholas serving our community every week by collecting and distributing food to the many people who are in need of help to feed themselves and their families in these difficult times.

***"Keep on loving one another as Christian brothers and sisters. Remember to welcome strangers."* Hebrews 13:1-2**

Remembering that soon after His birth, Jesus had to flee and became a refugee we pray for all refugees and uprooted people in this world. Help us to show hospitality to those driven from their homes and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

Pray for peace and protection for the people of Afghanistan facing great uncertainty and the threat of serious human rights abuses. We pray for a coordinated and effective international response to the humanitarian crisis and for support to reach all those in need of emergency assistance because of the compounded effects of conflict, climate change and Covid-19. We also pray for safe and open borders for all those who wish and are able to leave and ask that they would be met with sanctuary and hospitality.

Lord hear our prayers for this troubled land.

"Know the love of God this day, for it has gone before you and will go ahead.

In the small things and in all things, God will be with us." Amen ( More than Words)