

home of Nazareth. In this way, you sanctified that family, which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family, which we dedicate to you this day. Please protect, guard, and keep it in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the Divine model of your family, may we attain to eternal happiness. *Pray for The Diocese of Bolivia – The Anglican Church of South America (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 30

God our Father, lead us to grow in faith and keep a healthy balance in our lives. Remind us that we need to give time and space for ourselves as well as for others. Inspire us to remaining committed in our work, sharing quality time with our families, and enjoying sufficient rest and recreation. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Bondo – The Anglican Church of Kenya (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 31-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

O God, the beginning and the end of all things, who is always the same, and whose years fail not, at the close of another year, we kneel before you, and offer you our deepest thanks for the care with which you have watched over us during the past, for the many times you have protected us from evils of soul and body, and for the numberless blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which you have showered upon us. May it please you to accept the reverence of our grateful hearts which we offer you in union with the infinite thanksgiving of your divine Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Who with you lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.
Pray for Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)

Many rich blessings for Christmas
and the New Year.

Prayers for January supplied by Midge and Mike Graham

PRAYERS FOR PARISHES AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY

**PREPARED BY MIDGE AND MIKE GRAHAM
EMAILED BY THE DIOCESAN OFFICE**

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**PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS
FOR THE PEOPLE AND PARISHES OF
THE DIOCESE OF FALSE BAY**

DECEMBER 2023

PRAYER THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

"Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance.
To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service.
To all, charity. To every child, a good example.
To yourself, respect."

ARCHDEACONRIES OF BREEDE VALLEY AND OVERBERG

Please pray for the Archdeaconry of Breede Valley, unfortunately no prayers were received

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Special additional prayer:

Lord Jesus, in your love and care for this flock, we thank you for guiding the Elective Assembly in the selection of our new Bishop. We pray that you bless our holy shepherd and servant, Bishop Elect Stafford Moses. May he be a courageous teacher of the faith and a humble, wise, prudent, collaborative leader. May he be caring and compassionate. Endow him with the gifts your Church needs at this time. Lord Jesus, we trust in your providence and love. Help us welcome our new shepherd, Bishop Elect Stafford with prayer and open hearts. This we ask in your name. Amen.

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- 1 AIDS DAY
- 2 Disability Awareness
- 3 ADVENT
- 13 Schools Close
- 16 DAY OF RECONCILIATION
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- 26 DAY OF GOODWILL

FRIDAY 1-Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon and Religious, 1637

World AIDS Day, recognised by the UN

On this World AIDS Day we remember all whose lives are blighted by HIV and AIDS, and

hold them lovingly in our thoughts, members with us and with Jesus in the human family. We remember too those who tend the sick and the dying, those who search for new treatments and a cure...O God, healer and comforter, be with all who suffer and all who strive to end the suffering. May your Advent hope be made real to those who struggle with sickness and despair. And God, when the world's grief makes us weary, help us still to care. We ask this in the spirit of Jesus. *Pray for The Diocese of Bangor – The Church in Wales (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 2-International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, recognised by the UN

Gracious God, we ask for your help in bringing about peace among all nations. As stewards of peace, we work to build loving relationships with our neighbours, but we need your help in bringing about world peace. Help our local peaceful relationships to serve as a guide for the desired peace between nations. Help our global leaders to hear the cries of peace from their people and act on those pleas. Help our national differences to be overcome through an understanding of others and a desire for peace and justice. We ask this through your peaceful name. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Banks and Torres – The Anglican Church of Melanesia (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 3-FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Pray for The Church of North India (United) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 4-John of Damascus, Teacher of the Faith, c.760 also International Day of Persons with Disabilities, recognised by the UN

O God, the Father of the helpless, we pray for handicapped people and all who suffer from any kind of disability. Give them courage to face each day and the comfort of the knowledge that you love and care for them. Give sympathy, patience and gentleness to those who minister to their needs, and to those dear to them who share the strain of their illness; and make known your healing love and power. *Pray for The Diocese of Barbados – The Church in the Province of the West Indies (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 5-Peter Masiza, Priest 1907

Dear God, we thank you for your continued grace and mercy on us your children. Thank you for journeying with us through this past year. As we enter the Season of Advent, we do so with joyful anticipation of Your coming into the world, as Lord and Saviour. We pray for all the Parishes in our Diocese. Thank you for the faithful commitment of all your children. Keep us steadfast in our faith. *Pray for The Diocese of Bari – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 6

ALL SAINT'S, BREDASDORP Incorporating the Church of the Holy Spirit Bredasdorp, St Mary the Virgin (Struisbaai); St. Saviour's (Napier); St. Andrew's (Arniston); St John's (Klipdale) and St. Peter's (Ouplaas)

We give thanks to God for the Parish of All Saints; for celebrating 160 years of ministry in Bredasdorp and surrounding areas. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the many men and women who have made sacrifices and meaningful contributions in supporting the work of All Saints. We hold before God, our Rector, Revd Canon Francois and his wife Eloise, Revd Craig, our Curate and his mother Louise, Revd Christoffel and his wife Caroline and Revd Yasmille for serving the parish and the various Chapelries. We give thanks to God for the faithfulness and commitment of all the people of the Parish. We are celebrating and giving thanks to God for the recov-

Gracious, loving and merciful God, on this Christmas Eve, as the light of your Word penetrates our hearts, as we are reminded of the gift of life and faith, as the glories of the heavenly hosts are echoed in our church, we open ourselves up to your Spirit and give you thanks. We are grateful, Lord Jesus, that your story has become our story, and we celebrate your birth. Continue, we pray, to instil in us a profound sense of your abiding presence, and help us to take to heart the wonder of your love, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will. Help us, Lord God, to be the faithful, gracious, loving, giving and forgiving people you would have us be. *Pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 25--CHRISTMAS DAY

We praise you, Lord God, for the good news of Christmas; for the coming of your Son to redeem mankind. Let it be good news for each one of us at this time as we open our hearts to your love and welcome Jesus as our Saviour. Show us what we can do to pass on the good news to others, that they may share our joy and give thanks with us for your unspeakable gift in Jesus Christ. (Frank Colquhoun) *Pray for The Diocese of Birmingham – The Church of England (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 26-ST STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR

We pray for the children in our country who are still young but unable to continue with their studies because of the problem of a lack of money for fees, those who give up their studies because schools are just too far away or that they have to go out into the workplace to help support their family. We also pray for the students who finish their studies and fail to get jobs. Lord give them strength, courage, patience and faith to continue with their lives. *Pray for The Diocese of Blackburn – The Church of England (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 27 –ST JOHN, APOSTLE

To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us make our prayer: Show us your mercy, Lord. Sanctify us in mind and body; keep us without sin until the coming of your Son. Make us walk this day in holiness, and live upright and devout lives in this world. May we be clothed in our Lord Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Lord, help us to stand watchful and ready until your Son is revealed in all his glory. To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us make our prayer: Show us your mercy, Lord. Sanctify us in mind and body; keep us without sin until the coming of your Son. Make us walk this day in holiness, and live upright and devout lives in this world. May we be clothed in our Lord Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Lord, help us to stand watchful and ready until your Son is revealed in all his glory. *Pray for The Diocese of Botswana – The Church of the Province of West Africa (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 28-THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Father we pray for the peoples of the world and their leaders. We pray for all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that they may uphold what is right for the peace and survival of humankind. We pray particularly at this time for peace in all countries of the world where violence, war and terrorism are taking place. We ask you to purify the minds and attitudes of those involved in bringing violence and terrorism to the world and pray that the world know Christ's peace without which society loses its direction and ignores a deep desire for all men to live in unity with each other. Lord in your mercy. *Pray for The Diocese of Boga – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 29-Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170

Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, you came to enlighten the world with your teaching and example. You spent the greater part of your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor

gregation, to be outward looking, so that what we find within our fellowship we may share with those outside. *Pray for The Diocese of Bermuda – (Extra Provincial) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 20

Lord, we pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right. May we put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred. We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men were created. *Pray for The Diocese of Bethlehem – The Episcopal Church (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 21

Gracious God, You give us so many blessings that many of us take for granted. Those who have never known hunger, homelessness, illiteracy or illness, cannot completely comprehend the horrors of poverty. We are grateful for the abundant gifts you have bestowed upon us and ask for the opportunity and wisdom to share these blessings with those most in need — in our own country and among all of your children. Around the world, millions of your people are forced to live without the basic necessities for a healthy life. Look over all those who are hungry, give them strength to get through each day and bless them with those things needed for human flourishing. Watch over all those who lack education, give them the means to learn skills that will be the avenue for fruitful work. Protect those who suffer from curable and manageable illnesses, give them the courage to fight through illness and bring them the blessing of health. Comfort all those who are without a home, shield them from the harmful elements and bring them to a place of shelter. And bless all those whose poverty goes unseen. Give us the eyes to see where we can assist and the minds to find ways to end poverty for good. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Bhopal – The Church of North India (United) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 22

We pray for homeless people and for refugees who have no country to call their own. Let your blessing be with those who work to help the homeless this Christmas, and give to all of us the determination to help where we can. We pray for people who are lonely, those who are lonely because they have lost a partner, those who are lonely because no-one seems to care, those who are lonely because of handicap or illness. Let your presence be with those who are alone at this season of friendship and may we take your friendship to those whom we know will be alone this Christmas. *Pray for The Diocese of Bida – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 23

We pray for the Christian family who will be celebrating this festival in so many different ways, and for those who dare not celebrate openly; for Christians in countries where there is persecution; for Christians in our own country, with whom we will share our celebrations; for our Church family. Grant that all who come into our church this Christmas time may be enabled to renew their relationship with you. Help us all to be glad of your presence, and to rejoice at the coming of Jesus. May your blessing be upon all who worship with us, give us grace to live as faithful members of your family that we may learn each day afresh to love and serve you. *Pray for The Diocese of Biharamulo – The Anglican Church of Tanzania (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 24-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ery of Revd Craig and his Ordination to the Priesthood. We continue to pray for our retired clergy residing in the parish, Revd Vincent and his wife Christina, and Revd Lilian and her husband Abraham. We hold before God the recent floods in our parish and the many families, including the farmers, that were affected and traumatized by the loss of their livelihood. We give thanks for the many individuals and social service agencies that assisted all those who were in distress. We continue to hold in prayer, all the services that are being planned to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the All Saints Parish. We give thanks to all the clergy from the parish who assisted with services during the year. We continue to give thanks to God for the episcopal leadership of Bishop Margaret, now retired, who Presided at our Patronal Festival and Archbishop Thabo who Presided at the Eucharist to conclude our celebrations for the year. We continue to hold before God all our Confirmation and Bible Class candidates as they continue with their Christian journey. Giving thanks for the support of their parents and the facilitators. We pray for all matriculants and learners as they await their exam results. We pray for the unemployed and those who are struggling in life. We hold before God the increase in the crime rate, substance abuse and burglaries, praying for God's intervention in these situations. We pray for the newly established drug awareness support group, praying for their work among the various communities and may they offer support to those who are crying out for assistance. **Amen.** *Pray for The Diocese of Baringo – The Anglican Church of Kenya (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 7-Ambrose, Bishop Milan and Teacher of the Faith, 397

Dear Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort, you are the one we turn to for help in moments of weakness and times of need. We ask you to strengthen those who suffer with mental health issues and for them to have the power to ask for help; to recognize their victories and to love themselves. We ask you to give us all the tools to support those suffering with mental health problems, equip us with: empathy to understand their problems; love for them always and the strength to keep on supporting them. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Barisal – The Church of Bangladesh (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 8

ST ANDREW'S, HAWSTON

Standing on the eve of our 154th patronal festival, we ask God to bless our last ministerial activities for 2023, namely the blessing of the boats, garden competition, 2024 planning, baptism Sunday, confirmation classes, blessing of new bible class candidates and council. We ask God to bless our distinctive organisations; marimba band, Sunday school, AWF, lay ministers, council, servers guild and sacristans. We pray for God's grace and love to inspire our leadership with gifts of stewardship, as our church community makes small steps in accomplishing our mission for 2023. We are in awesome wonder as God allows us to take ownership, leadership and discipleship in order for our parish to walk the extra miles with our beloved parishioners. *Pray for The Diocese of Barrackpore – The Church of North India (United) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 9– International Anti-Corruption Day, recognized by the UN

God Creator Spirit, walk with us and give us the strength to stand for life, in the face of destruction and greed of the Earth. Teach us to be respectful and gracious for all that our land and waters provide. Instil in us the spirit of unity with our indigenous sisters and brothers from around the world. Lord, with your grace, help us to endure the challenges placed before us, and our Earth. Let us take time to reflect on the spiritual connection to our lands and the fragility and beauty of mother Earth. With your love and spirit, let us walk together in unity, peace and harmony on these great lands. God, strengthen our love and respect for each other and our connections to country and all creation. We pray, as one global family, for a safe and just world for our children and our children's children. Let us bring your love to all people. *Pray for The Diocese of Bath and Wells – The Church of England (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 10-SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

International Human Rights Day-recognised by the UN

Lord, our God, may your peace shine among us, may your love set us free. May the leaders of the nations seek the way to peace and may human rights everywhere be respected. Teach us to recognize your presence in every person, and above all, in those who suffer. Teach those who have plenty to share the fruits of the earth among all peoples. *Pray for The Church of Pakistan (United) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 11**THE PARISH OF HOLY TRINITY CALEDON**

We give thanks to God for his blessings and grace upon the parishioners. By God's grace the Parish of Holy Trinity is celebrating a worship space for 174 years. We give thanks for the chapel of St Michael and All Angels for celebrating 170 years and St. Thomas for 160 years. Deep gratitude to those who serve you so willingly in all our worship centres. May our young people always be willing to serve you and set an example for others. We also uphold the chapelries of Holy Cross, St Andrew, St Barnabas, St Paul and St Mark and all our people in prayer. Lord, uphold our Rector, Venerable Patty Edwards, our assistant priest Revd Davene Vermeulen and their families in your loving care. We also pray for Revd Edward and Elizabeth Delpont and Revd Edwin and Desiree Arrison and Revd Paul and Helena Oliver and their respective families. Bless their ministry amongst the people of the parish. Lord, thank you that you choose all people to receive your grace, your mercy and your love. May we always spread your love to all people we come in contact with. Lord, direct our thoughts, our hearts, our minds through Christ our Lord. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Bathurst – The Anglican Church of Australia (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 12

Almighty God and creator of humankind, your desire is that people live in peace and harmony with each other, so we pray for our community where people are living in fear especially with the gang violence. We pray for our young adults that you may lead them with your unfailing love, that they may discover themselves as a person created by and loved by you. May they be protected from evil influences and wrong choices. *Pray for The Diocese of Bauchi – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

WEDNESDAY 13-Ember Day**ST PETER THE FISHERMAN, HERMANUS.**

Lord God, we thank you for our blessings, for the world in which we live, for our families and friends. We thank you especially for keeping us safe during the recent storm and for giving us regular rain showers during the time of water restriction thereafter. We thank you too for the growing unity and mutual support between our chapelries. We ask for your blessings upon our clergy especially Rev Jerry, who gives each of us space to develop our personal ministries, for his leadership in breaking down barriers and for leading the community to greater unity of spirit. Help us to be better examples to our friends and families. Help us to find that solitude to draw closer to you and the obedience to follow you. Help us to serve the community yet not to follow the standards of the world. Help us to understand others and their worldly ways, to be able to help them yet not become like them. Lord in our work in the world let us try to have the same dedication as the disciples without withdrawing from the world. We pray for an end to strife, poverty, corruption, war and any other adversities faced by your people. Grant them safety, peace and mercy in this life and the joyful hope of resurrection with Christ. All this we pray in the name of Christ our Saviour. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Belize – The Church in the Province of the West Indies (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

THURSDAY 14

We give thanks for the fellowship of the Holy Spirit which unites us in the bond of peace as members of one body. We ask for a deepening of our communion with one another in Christ. We pray and give thanks for the gift of human friendship, for the joy and enrichment it brings in our lives. *Pray for The Diocese of Bendigo – The Anglican Church of Australia (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

FRIDAY 15-Ember Day**EMBER DAY**

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a fellowship of faith. Bless our retired Bishop Margaret, our Bishop Elect, Fr Stafford Moses, our clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Pray for The Diocese of Beni – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SATURDAY 16

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to a needy world; for the world, which is already Christ's, that all its peoples may recognise their responsibility for its future, and may be inspired by the message of Christmas to work together for the establishment of justice, freedom and peace everywhere; for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the bereaved, that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness. We commend all whom we love, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father. *Pray for The Diocese of Benin – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

SUNDAY 17-THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this third Sunday of Advent, we quietly reflect on the mystery. We rest in awe, in wonder, at how our God entered our world and came to be with us. We pause to receive the gift offered us: that the Spirit of God will open up our lives and that Jesus will really come into our hearts. May we have watchful hope today, believing what the Lord promises us. Let us pray today that we might be God's servants, that we might be instruments of God's love for our families and all we serve this week. *Pray for The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

MONDAY 18**ST PETER'S, BOT RIVER**

Dear God, we are so incredibly in need of Your power and Your strength. We ask that You would fill us with Your Spirit of love and unity among all our Church families. We ask for Your help to set aside our differences and look to the greater cause, the cause of Christ. We need Your wisdom to guide us, we need Your Spirit to lead us, to live out godly lives that would bring honour first to You. Guide us as we strive to walk together in Your love as a family this Advent tide. As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen. *Pray for The Diocese of Bentiu – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Anglican Cycle of Prayer)*

TUESDAY 19

We thank you for our church, for those who have worshipped here over the years and for those who serve it today. Grant that all who enter its doors may be enabled to renew their relationship with you and may find your peace, your strength and above all your presence. Help us, as a con-