

Prayers 29 November

In response to the message

Gracious and loving God, thank you that there is a day coming when everything that is wrong with our world now, will be put right and we will live with you forever. Thank you for the amazing reality that all who trust Jesus' death and resurrection, will never actually die. Help us to look forward this Advent, with great anticipation, to the coming of our Saviour, to the resurrection of the body and to the life everlasting. And so may the things of this world, no longer hold us, control us or make us anxious, as we keep our eyes on Jesus. We ask in his name. **Amen.**

OUR WORLD

This time last year Lord, we were watching our TVs with grave concern at the impact of the bushfires and many of us were suffering from the impact of the drought. So we thank you for the rain throughout the year, for a less severe bushfire season and for the hope that the harvest this year has brought. And yet, we still long to see a solution to COVID-19 that allows us to find a new 'normal', without some of the restrictions and precautions we must now follow. Please bless those undertaking research for a vaccine, and guide those making decisions to keep us safe. Please give us patience. And for those nations where the virus is still raging uncontrolled, please comfort the bereaved, strengthen those who have the disease, and bless all efforts to reign in its impact. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For our church

Lord of the church, we pray your great blessing on our Diocese. You know the difficult times we have faced and the financial constraints under which we now operate. Save us from despair as we sell more property to assist those abused. Give us a heart of love and care towards those whose lives have been so deeply impacted. Grant us a spirit of generosity.

We pray for the many parishes seeking new ministers or solutions for ministry in their towns. Please – Lord of the harvest – send more workers for your harvest field. Bless those who will be ordained on 12th December and be with Bishop Mark as he prepares them. May they be a great blessing where they serve. And for our parish here, please help us to love and serve you faithfully and make us more the people and church you would have us be, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the sick, the bereaved, the dying

Loving Lord, we pray for all we know and love who are doing it tough today. Please Lord, strengthen them to keep trusting you even though the way is hard. May they be very aware that you are with them in their struggles and that you have never stopped loving them. May they know you as their refuge and strength and very present help. Help them to be still and know that you are God. And help us to be a blessing to them as we are able. All this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**