

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR

Prepared by Nan Armstrong 2014 - 2017

Gracious Lord our lifeline, we give thanks that we are about to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. We acknowledge his life from the crib to the cross and resurrection - the core of our being. We express our joy by the colours and glitter of tinsel, the sharing and giving, the glowing lights of Christmas candles and the joyful carol singing.

Strengthen us to take the colour and the glitter into the lives of the sad and lonely. Help us to give and share enough with others to show we really care. Walk with us as we take the glowing candlelight into the dark spots of many lives and use our voices to just "be there" to ease the pain of the lost. We have so much to give - help us to be generous in acts of "worship" as we serve in the name of Christ. Amen

Generous God, we rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child and we try to follow in his footsteps each day. We show our joy in worship, singing of Carols, lighting candles and showing the tree bedecked with gifts.

We ask for understanding for those, who for many reasons find difficulty in celebrating Christmas. Help us to share our joy by empathizing with the troubled ones.

When the candles go out, the tinsel loses its brightness and the colours fade, help us to retain the joy of the Christmas season. Lead us into the New Year and give us strength to face the challenges ahead and opportunities to share our living and giving far and wide.

We offer our prayer in the name of Christ. Amen

Dear Lord, our alpha and omega, 'tis Christmas and we rejoice and give thanks for the birth of the Christ Child.

His life, from his crib to the cross and resurrection has become the core of our living.

We pray that we will be able to give, care and share as he did.

Help us in our giving, caring and sharing with those who have difficulty in celebrating Christmas, whether because of broken family relationships, grieving for the voice of those special people who have died, or are homeless, jobless or feeling completely lost.

Help us to reach out and extend a hand in warmth and understanding that they may feel the spirit of Christmas and have hope in the tomorrows to come.

We pray as we approach the beginning of a new year that we will walk closely with others, sharing joy or comforting in sorrow.

Ever present God, we pray that you will take our lives and let them be dedicated to serving in Christ's name whenever, wherever and however, even beyond our comfort zone. Amen

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Dear Lord of our Life, we have recently been involved in the joy of the birth of the Christ Child, sharing the special time with our family and friends. We give thanks for the opportunity within our joyful time to reach out and touch others, especially those who have difficulty coping with the social implications of Christmas.

Gracious God, at this time of Lenten reflection guide us to "be there" for others, and to strengthen our own commitment to Christ and his teaching.

This year we have one extra day, help us to "leap out" and use it to enrich the lives of others – or even just one. Healing God, each day through the media we are confronted with floods and fires, crime and corruption, hunger and hardship, conflict, domestic violence and child abuse. Good Lord, help those undergoing such traumatic events in their lives. We rejoice in sharing again the many joyful events in our daily living and give thanks for those which give us hope for the days ahead.

Loving God, take us as we are, use us as you will, to minister to those in our Church family who are undergoing treatment, facing surgery or grieving. We ask for strength for their carers who give so unselfishly to ease their difficulties. Help us as carers to include those with whom we interact from day to day; help us to get out of our comfort zone to extend our caring selves to them and open our eyes to see fresh opportunities of serving.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, be present with us through our highs and lows. We offer that extra day of this year in living and giving to our utmost in our service of Christ. Amen

Ever present Lord, through the waving palm branches help us to absorb all the emotions which will come to us during this Passion Tide. So much has been given for us.

Help us to evade the selective vision and hearing that causes us to overlook the lost and lonely.

Show us how to be sensitive to the bereaved, to show caring to the carers.

Gracious God, while we try to listen and visualise the difficult areas, we also want to be wholly there when unbounded joy is waiting to be shared and thus ensure that all our actions are worthy of Christ- in whose name we serve and pray. Amen

Dear Lord of all Seasons, we pray that through this Eastertide we will have become enriched by the anointing with oil or the application of ashes.

In reflections through Lent, we see how much was done for us on the Cross and the Crucifixion. We rejoice in the victory as we joyfully sing on Easter Day "Christ the Lord is Risen Today".

Strengthen each one of us to rise up and offer a hand to those who are carrying a heavy cross in their life. Gracious God, heal the spirits of those who are suffering pain, mental or physical.

We give thanks that we never face our journey alone. Just as we are, take us and use us to serve as you will. We offer our prayer in the name of Christ. Amen

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Dear Lord of every day - we cannot change the past but today we do our best to make our actions really worthwhile and the future times give us opportunities to widen our horizons and strengthen our faith.

We have rejoiced in the birth of the Christ child and followed his journey through learning and life to the pain suffered through denial, the crown of thorns, carrying his cross, the physicality of the crucifixion and now his triumphal resurrection. These soul stirring actions inspire us to ask for strength in our shoulders so that we might help carry the crosses which weigh heavily on the lives of our brothers and sisters so that the peace of spirit may be theirs.

We ask for healing for those who suffer pain and illness and for those who are lonely. Give each one of us an opportunity to ease the brokenness in their lives.

We cannot do this alone so walk with us.

As the core of our living we proclaim, "Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!".

We humbly pray in his name. Amen

Dear Lord, core of our being, we give thanks for the spirit of Pentecost. We ask that we can use the Pentecostal message by bringing the strength of the spirit into our daily lives.

Grant to each one of us the power and warmth of the flame to use as a light to the lost and the lonely. Present Lord, help us to use the wealth of words to give comfort and compassion to others. May the Pentecostal wind guide the war torn world to reconciliation and renewal.

We have been given so much in our lives, God of presence, help us to carry the Pentecostal spirit into our everyday lives to strengthen our faith, to live and to give, grant us the humility to accept with grace the generosity of others.

Grant all of us a caring heart to care for our dearest and nearest and to extend this caring to our brothers and sisters world-wide. Grant your peace, which passes all understanding, as a gift to those who are hurting. Teach us to give, as we live, as a service in Christ's name, so that each one of us, in either giving or receiving, is touched by the Pentecostal Spirit. Oh what a gift, what a wonderful gift! Amen

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Everlasting Lord, we give thanks for All Saints Day as we acknowledge the saints of all times. They have given so much to the world.

We acknowledge the special people in our daily living who give of themselves so unselfishly- compassion when we grieve, a kind word when we are feeling down, a sharing of faith, prayer, love and concern when we are unwell and joy in our special days.

Good Lord, there are so many areas which these kind people cover that we have difficulty in recording all of them. Though not beatified or canonised they are never-the-less seen as saints in our lives. They stay in the background and don't post it on Facebook the next day!

Each one of us has a God given gift. We pray that you will give us vision to see how we can care and share our gifts with others- our family, our friends, our church, our community, our country and our brothers and sisters world-wide some of whom are absolutely devastated by hatred and hostile circumstances. Help us in our living and giving to be part of a uniting ministry with Sylvia as we go about our daily lives in serving Christ. Amen.

Dear Lord, our life line; we greet a new month with acknowledgement of 'All Saints Day'. Help us to also acknowledge the value of many "present day saints" in our lives who have given of themselves, unselfishly and sensitively, in so many ways, to enrich our lives. We seek a blessing for each and every one of those 'present day saints'. Show us how to honour our Stewardship words of "A Light On The Hill" by keeping that light glowing and shining far and wide as we give of our optimum of time, talents and treasures as a constant source of power of service in the name of Christ. Amen