An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) led by Wendy Curto
The responder on behalf of all is Jill Fitzpatrick

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

The following or another suitable hymn may be said or sung

Before the ending of the day, Creator of the world we pray, That with thy wonted favour thou Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes From nightly fears and fantasies; Tread underfoot our ghostly foe, That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done, Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son; Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee, Doth live and reign eternally.

The Word of God
Psalmody - One or more of the following
psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; \bullet you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦ how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ◆ when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦ commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ◆
 Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, ◆ more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ◆ for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦ and abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ◆ my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ◆ and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦ his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦

nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦

nor of the sickness that destroys at noon-day.

- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, ◆ yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ◆ to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ◆

and the Most High your stronghold,

- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦ neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦

to keep you in all your ways.

- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦ lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder: ◆

the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

- 14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; ◆ I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦

I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦ and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦ you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ◆

and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth

give you blessing out of Zion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Matthew 15:29-37 read by Fr. Rodney

At that time:

Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there.

Great crowds came to him,

having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute,

and many others.

They placed them at his feet, and he cured them.

The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking,

the deformed made whole,

the lame walking,

and the blind able to see,

and they glorified the God of Israel.

Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days

and have nothing to eat.

I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way."

The disciples said to him,

"Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place

to satisfy such a crowd?"

Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?"

"Seven," they replied, "and a few fish."
He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground.

Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves.

and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied.

They picked up the fragments left overseven baskets full.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Reflection

The following responsory may be said Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia. Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦ your word has been fulfilled.
- My own eyes have seen the salvation
 which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦ and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen. Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace.

Prayers led by Robin Crowther

Lord God, as today we continue our journey through Advent to the birth of your Son, the light of our world, we pray that you will help us to grow in our love for you and for each other. Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

In our longing to see you, we pray for all religious leaders. May their service light up the hearts and minds of the people who sometimes find it easier to see the darkness than to recognise the hope that you offer.

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

In our longing to see you, we pray for governments, scientists and health care workers as Covid and the latest variant continues to cause concern. May they act with wisdom, sensitivity and compassion to protect the lives of those who are vulnerable and afraid.

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

In our longing to see you, we pray for refugees and migrants who are escaping from violence, bloodshed and poverty. Grant eternal life to all those who have died in their search for security and a new home. We especially remember the men, women and children who died in the Channel last week.

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

In our longing to see you, we pray for rough sleepers and all those who face homelessness and hunger as winter draws in. May they find the shelter, hope and support that they need to escape loneliness and hardship

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

In our longing to see you, we pray for ourselves as we start our Advent journey towards Christmas. May our loving Lord be our light, our hope, our love, our beginning and our end. May we support each other as we travel towards Bethlehem.

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

Loving God, light and hope of our world, be with us in all that we say, think and do. Almighty Father and Holy Spirit, fill our hearts as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!" Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

We pray for <u>those recently departed</u>: Brian Fitzpatrick, Joan Doreen Thirkell

We pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur this month:

Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, Hebert Fautly, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah May Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey May Fautly, Irene Nora Reed

Lord hear us....Lord graciously hear us

We keep a moment of silence......

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Silence may be kept.

Visit our homes, O Lord, we pray, and drive far from them all the snares of the enemy; may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace, and may your blessing be always upon us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep:

For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

For the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning, So do we look for you, O Christ.

Come with the dawning of the day

And make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen.