

Prayers for December 2022

*Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever.
Amen.*

1. *Spotlight on Elder Abuse. We remember how our Lord ensured his mother would be cared for even after his death (John 19:26-27). We pray for all who live in Conghurst Lane, Risden, Foxhole Lane. In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of Headcorn and The Suttons, and the Vicar, Revd Fiona Haskett.*
2. *Read John 4:1-30 Reflect on this biblical story and how it mirrors the experiences of many in the 21st century. How do we respond to people who feel isolated, unworthy or excluded? Why do you think survivors of sexual violence don't always feel able to report their experience? We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.*
3. *'...as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.' (Galatians 6:10) We pray for the people living in Delmonden Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingham and Hurst Green.*
4. *Spotlight on child trafficking. We pray for children living in desperate situations, whose families are coaxed into trafficking them to orphanages or to other countries for work, believing they can have a better life. We pray for the ministry in and from the St Laurence Parish Office. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.*
5. *We pray that we may faithfully teach God's Word and that it may not be used as a tool to damage and abuse. May church communities work towards being safe places where survivors will be listened to and signposted to places of support. Bless all the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Benenden Hospital and the Hawkhurst Cottage Hospital. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.*
6. *St Nicholas of Myra. Generous God, as we remember today the alms-giving of St Nicholas, we pray for those in need of our own generosity today and the work of the Hawkhurst food bank, supported by the Trussell Trust. We pray for all who work in the shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, and in our village. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.*
7. *We pray for MU Literacy and Financial Projects in communities and refugee camps, where women are fleeing war and conflict. We pray for the women who lead and who attend these projects, that they may gain confidence and invaluable training to enhance their opportunities. We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road. Bless and guide the King and all members of the Royal family.*

8. The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Almighty God may we, like Mary, be always ready and willing to respond to your call to serve you and so fulfil your word.* We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.
9. *Lord, in our lives there are times to accept what life brings and trust in your guidance and love. May power be used for the good of all, and may those who abuse power, remember that, in the end, all power comes from God.* We pray for the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst and with St Mary's Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves.
10. *International Human Rights Day. 'There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28). *We are all created equal and are together one with Christ. Respect for women and girls is the responsibility of everyone. Pray that we may bring love and respect into the small and hidden places, to those who feel unvalued and unseen.* We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and HeartenOak Road.
11. *Living God, teach us to read your word as a message that goes on being realized in new ways today.* We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and the Vicar Revd. Rachel Robertson.
12. *Gracious God, teach us to believe in you as much as you believe in us.* We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrock Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook during their interregnum.
13. St Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse. *Lord Jesus Christ, may the flame of faith burn brightly within us, and your light shine in our hearts, so that we, in turn, may bring light to others to the glory of your name.* Bless and guide those living in Fairview and Northgrove Road. We pray for all who worship in the Parish of Marden and the Vicar, Revd. Nicola Harvey.
14. St John of the Cross, Poet and Spiritual Director. *'The Virgin, weighed with the Word of God, comes down the road: if only you'll shelter her'.* We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgbury. We pray for all members of the Methodist Fellowship in Hawkhurst.
15. *O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.* [Ps 34:3] We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and for Father Patrice Anyanwu. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street.
16. *Christ born for us, Son of God, given for us, help us to know you, to worship and to serve you.* We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartnokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell and the Vicar Rev Ashley Evans.
17. *O Sapientia. O Divine Wisdom, come into our hearts and pour on us the spirit of discernment, that this time of prayer may be sanctified by the gracious covering of your wings.* We pray for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk. We pray for

all who worship in the Baptist Church in our village, and for the Minister Revd. Ben Gotts and his family.

18. O Adonai. *O Almighty Lord, set our hearts ablaze with the fire of your love and teach us your law.* We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park and Highgate Hill, and Herschel Place
19. O Radix Jesse. *O Root of Jesse, you are God, embrace us in your arms.* We pray for all the schools in our village, for the Headteachers, Staff and pupils and in particular for the Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School and the Headteacher Jodi Hacker. We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.
20. O Clavis David. *O Key of David, open our hearts and banish the deeds of darkness, so that we may be blessed by the light of your presence.* We pray for all living on Slip-mill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sobers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam and the Rector Canon Christopher Irvine.
21. O Oriens. *O Rising Sun, enlighten us with your presence, warm our hearts with your healing touch so that our prayers may be a fitting sacrifice of thanksgiving and love.* We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.
22. O Rex Gentium. *O King of the People, the desire of nations and hope of all people, hear our prayer which we bring before you.* We pray for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
23. O Emmanuel. *God-with-us, our king and judge, hear the prayers that we bring before you; in your mercy, hear the cries of our hearts.* We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
24. Christmas Eve. *We wait in prayer with eager longing for your incarnation. Come into the silence of our waiting and listen to our needs, prayers and longings.* We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close. We pray for the parish of Staplehurst, and the Vicar Revd Silke Tezlaff.
25. Christmas Day. *Let us praise the eternal Word of God, who is seated at God's right hand, and yet was born for us in the midst of time, saying: be born in us today.* We pray today for all who are alone this Christmas, for the homeless and those for whom Christmas is, for whatever reason, anything but joyful.
26. St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr. *Filled with the Holy Spirit he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.* [Acts 7:55] We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.

27. St John, Apostle and Evangelist. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.* [Jn 1:1-3] We keep in prayer those living in, Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
28. The Holy Innocents. *A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.* [Mt 2:18] We pray for all living in Attwater Lane and Potters Lane. We pray for Revd. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst, and Revd. Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Assistant Priest and all the parishioners.
29. St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr. *We pray for all Christians who face persecution. May your love and the example of St Thomas shine in their hearts.* We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village. We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.
30. We pray for Justin Welby, our Archbishop, Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover and Stephen, Archdeacon and acting Diocesan Secretary, Andrew, Archdeacon of Maidstone. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.
31. We pray for our Vicar and Area Dean of the Weald Deanery, Fr Rodney Dreyer and his family. We also pray for our Churchwardens, and all the members of our PCC. We remember all the members of our fellowship who live outside the parish.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.