

## Prayers for December 2023

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, a virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.**

**[Isa 7:14]**

1. *Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916. Father God, we pray for those who are isolated within their homes, especially the lonely and vulnerable. We pray that you would surround them with your love. 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. *Lord Jesus Christ, prepare my heart to welcome you now, and so may I be ready to welcome you when you come again. We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.*
3. **Advent Sunday.** *Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552. God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season and draw us ever closer as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Saviour. Amen. We pray for the people living in Delmond Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingam and Hurst Green.*
4. *Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637. John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749. Lead me to pastures, Lord, and graze there with me. Do not let my heart lean either to the right or to the left, but let your good Spirit guide me along the straight path. 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. *Living God, teach me to seek your guidance and to respond as you direct. 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 Bishop of Myra, c326.** *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. **Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397.** *I have found a Physician. He dwells in Heaven and distributes His healing on earth. He alone can heal my pains. 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. *Living God, you have given me the word of life, forgive me that I fail to read it and then wonder why you fail to speak to me.* We pray for the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst and with St Mary's Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves.
10. **Second Sunday of Advent.** *'A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'* [Isa 40:3]. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Hartenoak Road.
11. *Living God, teach me to read your word, not as some record of past events, but as a message that goes on being realized in new ways today both in my life and in the life of others.* 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, help me to believe in you as much as you believe in me.* We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrock Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook and their Vicar Revd. Richard King.
13. **St Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304.** *Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784. Saint Lucy, your beautiful name signifies light. By the light of faith which God bestowed upon you, increase and preserve this light in my soul.* 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 1591.** *O living flame of love that tenderly wounds my soul in its deepest centre!* We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury. 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 Ethelbert Ukpabi. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street.
16. *Gracious God, as we consider the gifts that we are buying for others, teach us what it cost to make possible the gift of new life for all through your Son – the greatest gift that there could be.* 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. **Third Sunday of Advent, O Sapientia.** *Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928. 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 Slipmill 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. **Fourth Sunday of Advent, 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.** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. [Isa 9:6].* 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.** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [Jn 1:14]* 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 Area Dean of the Weald Deanery and also for Revd. Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Assistant Priest and all the parishioners.

29. **St Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr 1170.** *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. *O Lord God, in exultation our hearts go out to you and your revelation of heaven, your revelation of the Spirit, who can fill our hearts so that we remain steadfast throughout our earthly life.* 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. **First Sunday of Christmas.** *John Wyclif, Reformer, 1384. O Lord, God of truth, whose Word is a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path: We give thanks for those who have laboured to render the Holy Scriptures into the language of the people.* We pray for our Vicar, 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.

**He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse  
the evil and choose the good. [Isa 7:16]**