

## **January 2022 Readings and prayers**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas – Galatians 2: 16b-20 and Matthew 10: 17-22**

**Prayer for the Day** – Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ our mediator and advocate.

### **Prayers for the Week**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Psalm 21, Exodus 33: 12-end, I John 2: 1-11**

Lord, thank you for Christmas, and that you have declared the love that never ends, which can fill our lives and make all things new.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Innocents Psalm 36, Genesis 37.13-20, Matthew 18.1-10**

Lord, we think of the year just ending, the things we have done, and the things that we have failed to do.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Psalm 19, Jonah 1, Colossians 1.1-14**

Lord, we think of the year just ending, the things that have been important to us and for which we want to give you thanks and praise for.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Psalm 113, Jonah 2, Colossians 1.15-23**

Lord, we think of the year just ending, the things we want to leave behind, the things that we have done to hurt you so much.

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Psalm 102, Jonah 3-4, Colossians 1.24-2.7**

Lord, we think of the year that is coming, the hopes we have and the good things we are longing for you to do in our lives.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Naming and Circumcision of Jesus Psalm 103, Genesis 17.1-13, Romans 2.17-29**

Lord, we think of the New Year that is here, the opportunities for witness and service and the promise of the Holy Spirit to equip us for giving, caring and loving.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Epiphany – Acts 8: 14-17 and Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22**

### **Prayer for the Day**

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers for the Week**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Psalm 127, Ruth 1, Colossians 2.8-end**

Lord, we think of the year that is here, this is the time to thank you for it, and to firmly place it into your loving open arms.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Psalm 89.1-37, Ruth 2, Colossians 3.1-11**

The Magi journeyed far to find you, Redeemer and Saviour; we too must search for you all our lives.

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Psalm 48, Ruth 3, Colossians 3.12-4.1**

The Magi brought precious gifts to you; our treasure must be the gift of building up your kingdom now.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Psalm 18: 1-30, Ruth 4.1-17, Colossians 4.2-end**

The coming of strangers from the east marked the coming of Christ to the whole world. As Christians we are called to show Christ's love in our everyday lives.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Psalm 99, Jeremiah 23.1-8, Matthew 20.1-16**

You were in the world but they did not know you. You came to your own and they did not receive you. There was no room for you at the inn. Is there any room for you in our hearts?

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Psalm 46, Jeremiah 30.1-17, Matthew 20.17-28**

The Magi were prepared to leave their homes to search for the new King whose sign was a star in the East. We too must be prepared to search, find and worship you.

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Baptism of Christ – Acts 8: 14-17 and Luke 3: 15-17 & 21-22**

### **Prayer for the Day**

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Prayers for the Week**

#### **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Psalm 2, Genesis 1.1-19, Matthew 21.1-17**

Come Holy Spirit of God, come upon us that you may send us out in your power in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Psalm 9, Genesis 1.20-2.3, Matthew 21.18-32**

Lord, fill us with your grace and goodness, that we may be able to bring the Good News to the oppressed, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Psalm 20, Genesis 2.4-end, Matthew 21.33-end**

Lord, you come to us, you inspire us, and you enable us to proclaim your loving presence and show us your saving power; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> Psalm 21, Genesis 3, Matthew 22.1-14**

Let your church be seen to be working for justice and righteousness; for liberty and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

#### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Psalm 67, Genesis 4.1-16, 25-26, Matthew 22.15-33** Lord, make us instruments of peace within our communities and our homes, that all may live in freedom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Psalm 33, Genesis 6.1-10, Matthew 22.34-end**

We pray for any who are hostages at this time; for their loved one and friends that their anguish and anxiety may cease, through the love of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany 2 – I Corinthians 12: 1-11 and John 2: 1-11**

### **Prayer for the Day**

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers for the Week**

#### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Psalm 146, Genesis 6.11-7.10, Matthew 24.1-14**

Where kindness is treated as weakness or rejected through lack of grace, forgive us for not understanding the gifts of your Spirit.

#### **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Psalm 132, Genesis 7.11-end, Matthew 24.15-28**

Where goodness is crucified by the power-hungry and passes unrecognised by a noisy, busy world, forgive us for losing sight of the gifts of your Spirit.

#### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Psalm 81, Genesis 8.1-14, Matthew 24.29-end**

Where faithfulness is abandoned and no one trusts another anymore, forgive us for wiping out the gifts of your Spirit.

#### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Psalm 76, Genesis 8.15-9.7, Matthew 25.1-13**

Where gentleness is ridiculed and people build their lives round aggression, forgive us for misrepresenting the gifts of your Spirit.

#### **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> Psalm 27, Genesis 9.8-19, Matthew 25.14-30**

Where we lose self-control, giving in to the violence of our emotions, forgive us for not trusting the gifts of your Spirit.

#### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm 122, Genesis 11.1-9, Matthew 25.31-end**

Holy Spirit, forgive us our rejection of your riches; open the hearts of nations and peoples to receive love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, but start with us!

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Epiphany 3 – I Corinthians 12: 12-31a and Luke 4: 14-21**

### **Prayer for the Day**

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers for the Week**

#### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Psalm 108, Genesis 11: 27-12:9, Matthew 26: 1-16**

Father, we praise you that you see everything to the ends of the earth and deep into our lives. We thank you that there is nothing you do not see or fully understand.

#### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Conversion of Paul Psalm 66, Ezekiel 3.22-27, Philippians 3.1-14**

Father, we come to praise you, just because you are so very great and wonderful. Your power is complete and there is no weakness in you. There is nothing you do not know.

#### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Psalm 45, Genesis 14, Matthew 26.36-46**

Father, we praise you for your greatness and your supreme authority. It gives us hope and strength as we come to you because in Jesus Christ your Son you first came to us.

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Psalm 47, Genesis 15, Matthew 26.47-56**

Father, we thank you that you always make the first move. You did not wait to be asked to create, to love, to forgive, or to send Jesus to be our Saviour. You loved us before we loved you.

#### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Psalm 65, Genesis 16, Matthew 26.57-end**

Father, it is when we become aware of your majesty that we realise how small our lives are. It is when we begin to grasp your glory that we can be held by your grace.

#### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> Psalm 68, Genesis 17.1-22, Matthew 27.1-10**

Father, it is when we are crushed by life that we are glad we can be strengthened the knowledge of the empty cross. It is when we are defeated by our attempts to follow Jesus that we are glad to be encouraged by the empty tomb.