Sunday 22 November – Christ the King

Prayers written by Jenny Cass

Today is the last Sunday of the Church's year and is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King so we pray, giving thanks for the gift of Christ our king and his sacrifice for us. For the worldwide Church, grant to the church light to know the will of God and the grace to perform it; for all clergy, lay ministers and church workers, praying for the Holy Spirit to continue to guide, strengthen and encourage them.

Lord you are our King and we are all called as Christians to serve you in many different ways, but always in humility with small acts of kindness, as you showed us how to be a servant to others.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that the peace of Christ our King be known throughout the world breaking down all the barriers that divide nations and draw people together for the common good. For all those countries ravaged by war; for the innocent caught up in violence and conflict. May the love of Christ our King comfort and uphold all who suffer, also remembering those who are persecuted for their faith.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Thank you for our local neighbourhood, our schools, the local shops and businesses the Medical Centre, the Foodbank and Community Hub, our Councillors and all who look after us in many ways. We thank you for St Luke's and all who are working so hard during the Vacancy. We continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead the right person to apply for the position of Rector.

As we approach Christmas we pray for and remember those who will find it difficult to celebrate this year. We pray for those who are lonely, those who are struggling financially, for those who have no family or friends and for those who are housebound or homeless. We give thanks for the work of the Salvation Army, Crisis at Christmas and Samaritans Purse and many other charities bringing comfort and help to many.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Dear Lord, we bring to you those known to us who are unwell and in the silence of our hearts we lift them to you. From our community we continue to pray for Jean & Owen. May they all know the power of your healing on their lives today.

We pray for our local Hospitals who are struggling to cope, the staff working 12-hour shifts in extreme conditions. We thank you for their dedication and care.

We pray for those who mourn remembering the families and friends of Sally Hunt, Graham Chislett and Sarah Moss.

From our Memorial Book we give thanks for the lives of Michael Corbett, John Poyntz and Georgina Leigh. Comfort and give strength to all who mourn.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally for ourselves we pray that the glory, majesty and example of Christ our King will fill our hearts and lives with a deeper compassion and open our eyes to see the presence of Christ in all people.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.