

Prayers for the second Sunday of Advent

First a thought to bear in mind as we come before the Lord in prayer.

We are all asked to do more than we can do. Every hero and heroine of the Bible does more than he or she would have thought it possible to do, from Gideon to Esther to Mary.

Lord God we come before you in prayer to pray for peace to reign in the beautiful world that you have created for us.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

We pray for wisdom and for the strength to act at all times in a peaceful way and to speak words of peace to our family, friends, neighbours and to strangers that we encounter.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

We pray for a just society in which all people are treated as fellow heirs in your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit, that they may be made whole and find peace and comfort in your love for them.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

We give thanks Lord for the ways in which we are able to keep in touch with each other during the time that restrictions on our everyday life are in force and pray especially for those who feel alone and isolated. Those who see nobody, those who do not receive a telephone call; those who do not receive a letter. May we seek out the lonely to make your love known to them so that they come to know your love and peace in their hearts.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

Eternal God we give you thanks and praise for the wonderful gift of life and for the promise of life with you in eternity when our days on this earth come to an end. We give thanks for the lives of those whom we have loved and see no more; for good examples set and for love given and received. We pray that all who mourn will be comforted and rest in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from your love which binds the whole of the created order together.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

Lord God as we pray for all of your people in the parishes of the West Hereford Team we pray that you will give us wisdom to know your will and strength beyond our own to build your kingdom in the communities which we are called to serve.

Lord, in your mercy...**Hear our prayer**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.**

Amen.

