

Parish of St Stephen's Norbury & Thornton Heath Intercessions.

THE CHURCH

Let us pray for grace as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Keep the Church faithful to heed your warnings and to trust in your promises. Make her ministers ever watchful to protect your people against evil and to lead them into the way of truth. We pray for all churches and places of worship in the Holy Land. We give you thanks for the precious gift of the Scriptures, for our mothers and fathers in faith down the ages who have passed onto us knowledge and understanding of God. Help us, here in Norbury & Thornton Heath, to be witnesses to the faith handed onto us by the apostles. May your Church point to your coming again in all her works.

Lord in your mercy...

THE WORLD

Look with compassion on the world where many are weighed down by care and trapped in the desire for ever-increasing pleasure. We give thanks for all those who keep watch over the safety and security of the world, and pray during this season of Advent that the world may turn its heart to the ways of peace. Come to your world as King of the nations; before you, all rulers will stand in silence. We pray for all people in the sphere of learning; for all who gaze at the stars and find inspiration in the gift of life and the universe.

Lord in your mercy...

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

We pray for those who live in **Kenley Gardens and Strathyre Avenue**. We pray for Norbury Hall, for the Winterbourne schools; for our local businesses and public spaces. We ask for your blessing upon all the homes and peoples of this parish. We pray that you will inspire those who visited our church yesterday at the Christmas Fair, and all who will come to this holy place during Advent and Christmas. Be with each of us, Lord, as we deepen our faith and journey with you through the season of Advent; make us ready for your coming again.

Lord in your mercy...

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

We pray for those who are unwell at this time, that they may know God's healing and his peace; We pray for Bishop Christopher as he recovers from his injuries, We continue to remember MICHAEL GORDON, SONIA COOPER, MAX FERNANDES, LORNA JOHNSON, MARGARET MURRAY, HELEN LEADER, SONIA ROSS, CONSTANCE BARTHOLOMEW, DAPHNE ERVIN, MALCOLM WALKS, STEPHEN NELSON, SARAH HICKMAN, LILLY DEY, AILEEN ESTWICK, ROBERT AND RICHARD BROWN, REV ANDY DOVEY, MILDRED SKINNER, EDWARD GRANT and BRENDA CREESE. We pray too for the lonely, the anxious and the bereaved. **Lord**

in your mercy

THE DEPARTED

We remember before our heavenly Father all the departed: all those who have died recently including **Ezekiel Thompson**. Those whose anniversary falls at this time and those who have no one to pray for them. May all who have gone before us be gathered into the full joy and peace of heaven. **Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

We join our prayers with those of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Stephen, St Bernard and all the Saints in glory.

MERCIFUL FATHER ACCEPT THESE PRAYERS, FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SON OUR SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST, AMEN.