

* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are affected by the breakdown of family relationships, domestic abuse and divorce.*
* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all who are struggling with infirmity or pain in body, mind or spirit,* ***for Sarah, Leah, Debbie, Stephen, Norman and Jean, Anne and Ian and all who we know by name who are struggling at this time.***
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* ***Lord of comfort and peace,***
* *we pray for all those who are suffering pain, loneliness and anguish in bereavement.* ***We remember with thanks, the life of our friend and brother in Christ, Jack Hull*** *and for his faithful service at St Thomas’ and his kindness and compassion for others throughout his long life.*
* ***"The Lord bless you and keep you.***

***The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.***

***The Lord turn His face to you and give you His peace."***

**Numbers 6: 24-26**

**Prayer Letter**

**11th December 2022**

**3rd Sunday in Advent**

**Joy**



***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**for the people of Somalia** and other nations across the Horn of Africa suffering from the effects of conflict, drought and famine – Especially the most vulnerable, the sick, the elderly and the very young.

**for the people of Ukraine** where millions of people face the terror of indiscriminate Russian bombardment from artillery and air strikes every day on their homes on power supplies on water and on other civilian infrastructure, which we in the comparative safety and peace in our nation find so difficult to comprehend.

**for those people in the other areas of our troubled world** where conflict, poverty and famine are prevalent, and where so many cry out for justice and peace

**for refugees and asylum seekers,** that they are treated with dignity, compassion and fairness within the law, wherever they seek refuge or asylum.

**for the millions of Christians around our world** who face arrest, imprisonment torture and even death, simply for proclaiming You as their Lord and Saviour. From the World Watch List 2022 issued by Open Doors, we continue to pray especially for those in the 10 countries where persecution of Christians is at the highest levels – Afghanistan, North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Eritrea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran and India.

**In every situation where people feel anguish, pain, grief or loss of hope, Lord, we pray** that they will come to know you as the Prince of Peace and the light of the world, who leads people and nations out of darkness to peace, hope and salvation.

***” You are my hiding place;
you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance.”***

 ***Psalm 32:7***

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

for all Church leaders across our nation, and in our community. In our parish, for our Vicar Dave, for Alison and Josh.

for Steve and Lisa and for their ministry in our Church and elsewhere, especially for their work with the Life Association in India

for Matt and Rosie and everyone involved in helping in Matt's ministry.

forThomasas he continues his placement with the Blackpool Ministry Experience at St Thomas’

for our Worship group in all they do both in their preparation and practice and in leading us in worship and praise through their music and singing.

for those who might be at our Church for the first time, that they may know God’s loving presence and accept Him into their lives, knowing His love and forgiveness for them, so that they may have new life through Him.

***Lord hear us as we pray,***

**for all those is positions of power** and leadership across our nation in national government, in parliament, in local councils, in devolved governments and as reginal mayors.

**for our Emergency Services**, Armed Forces, Frontline NHS, Social Workers, Care Workers, Teachers, and all who volunteer to help others in danger or in need of support and compassion. **Also, for all who produce or deliver the goods and services we all rely on across our nation.** We especially pray at this time for farmers, many who now struggle to meet their overheads because of shortages of agricultural labour and the devastating impact of soaring costs of essential machinery, fuel, fertiliser and animal feed – All of which impact on their ability to sustain their livelihoods and remain as producers of our foodstuffs.

**for just and equitable solutions** to end the industrial disputes across our nation. Also, all those across our nation facing fuel or food poverty, that there may soon be sustainable solutions to escape from these situations for themselves and those they care for.