***Suggested General Intercessions for Justice & Peace Sunday***

Let us pray for peace in our world, for every person and in every place where there is no peace; and for the justice without which there can be no peace. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

For our Church, as we all begin to walk together on the Synodal Way; that communion, participation and mission will be our way. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

We pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Let us thank the Lord for his leadership and guidance. May the Lord continue to inspire him to lead us in the power of the Spirit, so that many more people will know the joy of the Gospel. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the Justice and Peace Commission and for everyone who works for the eradication of inequality, poverty, discrimination, and war. May each person here today, with God’s help, find ways to assist their efforts to protect the dignity of all human life, to oppose violence and to promote peace. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

We pray for an end to the suffering caused by warfare and an end to the scandal of excessive military spending, that the 1.9 trillion dollars spent each year on armaments may be used for human wellbeing and progress, not death and destruction. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

For our civic and political leaders: we pray this New Year that those in authority and government will remember to use their powers wisely and justly for all God’s people, irrespective of race, colour or creed. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

Let us pray at this time for the millions of refugees and displaced people in our world today; over 82 million men, women and children, escaping violence, famine and persecution, hoping for a better life as is their right. May we care enough to provide welcoming shelter and support for these our brothers and sisters and may we work to end prejudice and hateful speech towards them. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

Let us pray, so soon after COP26 took place in our nation, that we won’t forget all we learned then; that the climate emergency facing us now is caused by our careless misuse and exploitation of the world’s resources and our pollution of the air and seas. We ask God’s help to end our exploitation of the Common Home that God has given us. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

For homeless people, and everyone forced to live in poverty, in this wealthy country. May we generously support people and families who are less well-off and, by our generosity, help to restore their dignity and self-esteem as fellow members of the Body of Christ. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

For everyone who is distressed by sadness, bereavement, loneliness or depression during this Christmas season of joy: may their hearts and burdens be lifted by the good news of the birth of Jesus. Lord hear us. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for all who are ill in mind or body: may God’s healing and comforting love be made known to them through family, friends, and our community. We pray, too, that those who support them may find strength and grace to care with patience and compassion. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer.*

For those who have died, especially anyone who has died alone or who has nobody to pray for them; for refugees who have lost their lives in horrible circumstances; for innocent victims of wars they did not start; for everyone who died of COVID for the unjust lack of a vaccine: may they share in the glory of the resurrection in new and everlasting life with Christ Jesus.

We remember especially, from our parish/worshipping community and our own families Nn & Nn. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer; or, “Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord …”*

And on their anniversaries we pray for Nn & Nn. *Lord, in your mercy … hear our prayer; or, “Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord …”*

*Celebrant:* Gracious God of love and justice, Father of Mercy, Prince of Peace and Spirit of compassion, these prayers come from the hearts of your people. Grant them, we pray, if what we ask is for your greater glory and the universal good. Amen.