

Prayers of the Faithful / Intercessions from the National J&P Commission.

These Intentions accompany the Justice and Peace Letter of Archbishop Nolan for the New Year

The suggested prayers, below, were edited from contributions of several of our National Commissioners. You are encouraged to use some of them at the Sacred Liturgy in your worshipping community. But not all need to be used, of course – there would be too many for any one liturgy and there will be other important Intentions to pray for also.

D.Stewart SJ, Commissioner; Dec.2022.

1: We pray for those Majority World nations & people most affected by climate-change they did not cause, the first-hit and the hardest-hit and that the richer nations will remember their promise, at COP 27, to assist them.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

2: We pray that we may hear the cry of the poor, as the Lord does, in our own communities and that we might respond generously, supporting organisations that work to relieve the suffering of vulnerable people and families; we pray also that our political leaders will remember that each of us must be treated with dignity.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

3: We pray for all who are experiencing fuel poverty this winter; we pray for the work of Justice & Peace groups and the voluntary agencies, who reach out to people who are forced to choose between eating and heating. We remember to pray for all who suffer fuel poverty in our cities and our rural areas.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

4: We pray for peace, as the war in Europe continues with little obvious prospect of peace; even as we remember other conflicts in places such as Syria, Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia. We beg the Lord for the grace of repentance that there is

no shortage of armaments, supplied by the richest nations, or that this, our, country wishes to spend billions on nuclear arms when so many are lacking basic necessities. Lord, place a love of peace in our hearts this New Year, that all may be made whole, in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

5: We pray that God will help us to recognise Christ in the refugees that continue to arrive on our southern shores, and in each of more than 100 million forcibly displaced persons in our world, victims at the start of their journeys and victims at the end. May they know Christ's preferential love for them and may governments work to provide them safety, not rejection, and explore the root causes of their suffering.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

6: We pray that the Lord will place in our hearts his own compassion for everyone who feels lonely and lost, particularly in these testing economic times, those whole lives are being wrecked. May God's grace pull them back from the wreckage of their lives and all that drags them down; may they find freedom and hope.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

7: We pray that the Holy Spirit will stir us into action, as we begin this new year praying for peace and justice. We ask the Spirit to help us see how our world suffers under human mismanagement. May the Holy Spirit confirm in us our need to pray and not doubt the power of that prayer, that is not just to soften the hearts of those in power, but to soften our own hearts also. Let us not doubt either that there is much goodness in the world, so many good people showing concern and compassion for those in need. May God's Spirit work with us and through us to bring about the peace and justice for which we all long.

Lord, in your goodness, hear our prayer.