

Prayer Focus 5th January 2020

The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease.

Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning. Lamentations 3:22-23

When the carols have been stilled, When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When family and friends are gone home, When we are back to our schedules

The work of Christmas begins:

To welcome the refugee,

To heal a broken planet,

To feed the hungry,

To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,

To share our gifts,

To seek justice and peace for all people,

To bring Christ's light to the world.

May God make your year a happy one!

Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain, But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;

Not by making our path easy, But by making us sturdy to travel any path;

Not by taking hardships from us, But by taking fear from our heart;

Not by granting us unbroken sunshine, But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;

Not by making our life always pleasant,

But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,

and by making us anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead. Amen

EBC & Local Focus:- Pray for the leadership team as they meet this week. Pray that everything planned for Emmanuel this coming year will be directed by God and in accordance with His plans for us.

Street of the Week :- Sydenham Road

Community Prayer Diary:- Richard Drax our Member of Parliament

National & World Prayer Points:- Pray for Australia during the current crisis.

Conflict and political instability are two of the main issues in urgent need of prayer in 2020.

It's estimated that by 2030 nearly half of people in extreme poverty will be living in areas affected by conflict. Four countries facing long-running crises, which you can focus your prayers on are: Yemen – widely seen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis, conflict has left 24 million people in need of urgent help.

Venezuela – political and economic turmoil has led to a mass exodus of people into countries including Colombia and Brazil.

South Sudan – despite a hopeful-looking peace agreement in late 2018, pockets of conflict persist, and millions have fled their homes.

Burkina Faso – churches have been attacked and many schools have been forced to close because of violent clashes between armed groups.