

Holmbury Midnight prayers, from Deirdre

Father of all – once more we come before you on this, the holiest of holy nights, in this church dedicated to your Virgin Mother, awaiting yet again the birth of a baby, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour to be, whom we worship with the shepherds and with the Kings who brought their precious gifts, none of which will ever equal your gift to us.

Hear us Lord, hear us, as we pray for all the nations throughout your troubled world, and think tonight of all the persecuted Christian communities in places where celebrating Christmas is forbidden.

We pray for safety, for our families and friends, our neighbours and all those we love, and we remember particularly all those who have died during this year of our world wide pandemic, unable to have the funerals that they would have wished. Gracious God, comfort those who mourn, and draw close to them tonight.

Wonderful Counsellor, we pray for our Queen , as she does for us, and ask you to give wisdom to all the Leaders of the world, that they may put the future of their people first when they make so many important decisions on our behalf, remembering the inheritors of this earth, our beloved children.

Prince of Peace, who spent your first days as a refugee, look with love upon all those who are affected by war, and all those who are homeless, starving, disabled, desperate and alone. Help us to help them in every way, and always remember them in our prayers.

Mighty God, help us as we struggle to overcome this deadly virus, and in our efforts to take more care of this beautiful planet that you entrusted to us, with all its glorious trees and flowers, animals and insects, birds and sea life.

Everlasting Father, in this new year to come, we pray that our churches may remain open, giving thanks to all who enable this, and that we may raise our voices again in praise, with the Angels, as we come to the miracle of Easter, longing once again for the longed for power of touch.

As we wait for that time, may we lead our lives with the ever-present help of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Light of the world, bring us Light.

Amen.

