

All Saints Church Clifton
Cycle of Prayer - December 2018

Date	Festival	Prayers
1	Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916	We pray for all who 'submit to the will of God'. This is the translation of the word 'Islam' – we pray for, Muslims, the billion followers around the world of whom 1.5M live in the UK. Pray for all those who encounter and assist us to encounter with contemporary Islam.
2	Advent Sunday	Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal
3	Advent Sunday Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552	Pray for all who are engaged in the drinks industry. Bartenders and publicans, brewers and wine makers, distillers and distributors. Pray also for work of Alcoholics Anonymous , men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.
4		Pray for Christians who live and work in Japan. 1% of the population is Christian (though eight Prime Ministers have been Christian). Pray for the people of Japan who follow the 'way of the Gods' – Shinto.
5		Blessed are you, Lord of all creation, it is through your goodness that we have so many gifts which the earth has given, and that human hands have made for our benefit. We pray for our farming communities, all who work on or with the land, and that we may learn the meaning of responsibility in terms of your gift of creation.
6	Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326	We remember those whose circumstances mean that Christmas will not be a time of celebration. People who through poverty, homelessness, fear, illness and many other adversities are unable to experience any joy in their lives.
7	Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397	We pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters (Ambrose did not have a positive attitude to Jews). Today we pray for Rabbi Monique and the Progressive Jewish Congregation in Bristol.
8	The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	We give thanks for the gift above all gifts, that God became man, the Word became Flesh, in the person of Jesus Christ for our salvation. At this time of Advent we pray that we may prepare ourselves for the Feast of the Nativity and be enabled to see the incarnate presence in the faces of our brothers and sisters.
9	Advent 2	O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us
10		Corruption is dishonest or unethical conduct of those in authority. We pray for victims of corruption and for those who work in roles of prevention. We pray for those in authority that they may not be tempted by personal objectives.

11		Human rights day. Help us to uphold the values that are so central to whom we are: human beings created B'tzelem Elohim - in the image of God. Help us to recognize that the inherent dignity of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family are the foundations of freedom, justice and peace in the world.
12		We pray for the people of Mexico. Trump actively campaigned against Mexico's national interests and has caused an existing rift to enlarge. We pray for Mexican immigrants who fear mass deportations. (Today is Poinsettia Day).
13	Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784	Pray for those who suffer visual impairment or loss. Issues concerned with sight are hugely disabling and often put individuals on the periphery of society. Pray for all who work to reduce the suffering, research the causes, provide medical treatment and campaign for change for positive impact.
14	John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher of the Faith, 1591	Pray for all who suffer from poor mental health. In particular we pray for those who suffer depression, anxiety disorders, relationship problems, grief, addiction, ADHD and learning disability, mood disorder. Pray for their families, carers and medical and support staff.
15		Pray for those whose lives are enriched by their 'Companion Animals'. Human lives are often transformed through befriending dogs and cats (and horses) – the lonely, disabled, housebound, poor mental health, prisoners, those in recovery. (Today is Feline Day)
16	Advent 3	O Sapientia (O Wisdom). O Wisdom, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: come, and teach us the way of prudence.
17	Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928	O Adonai (O Lord) and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.
18		O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse) O Root of Jesse, that stands for an ensign of the people, before whom the kings keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: come, to deliver us, and tarry not.
19		O Clavis David (O Key of David) O Key of David, and sceptre of the house of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens: come, and lead forth the captive who sits in the shadows from his prison.
20		O Oriens (O Dayspring) O dawn of the east, brightness of light eternal, and sun of justice: come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.
21		O Rex Gentium (O King of the nations) O King of the gentiles and their desired One, the cornerstone that makes both one: come, and deliver man, whom you formed out of the dust of the earth.
22		O Emmanuel (O With Us is God) O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people: Come and set us free, Lord our God.
23	Advent 4	O LORD, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and

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24	Christmas Eve	Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope.
25	Christmas Day	You have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit.
26	Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr	We pray for all those who are in preparation for ordination and those who will be ordained this year. May they and your whole Church have a rich outpouring of God's grace. We pray also for their families, friends, for all those who support and encourage them on their journey and for those with whom they will serve.
27	John, Apostle and Evangelist	We pray for our friends. John was the 'disciple whom Jesus loved', we pray for and give thanks for those who are close to us, whose opinions are important to us and for whom we care.
28	The Holy Innocents	Remembering the infanticide of Herod the Great, we pray for all children who suffer death, injury and loss in the war zones of this world. A child, 'Nour', in Syria aged 6 described: "Nour was such a kind, friendly girl, but I watched her go crazy. She is always alone. She won't talk. She won't eat. She wakes the neighbours with nightmares. The fear stopped her mind. She is too shocked to have a personality anymore."
29	Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1170	We pray for Archbishop Justin. We pray for the three priorities on which he focuses his ministry: 1. Prayer and the Religious Life, 2. Reconciliation, and 3. Evangelism and Witness. Enable us to work with him in bringing positive change in these areas of priority.
30	Christmas 1 Sunday before New Year	God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.
31	John Wycliffe, Reformer, 1384	We pray for those who are willing to speak out for what they believe is right: "Englishmen learn Christ's law best in English. Moses heard God's law in his own tongue; so did Christ's apostles." And "I am ready to defend my convictions even unto death. I have followed the Sacred Scriptures and the holy doctors." John Wycliffe