## St Nicholas Church Monthly Prayer - January 2024

Matthew 22:37 - Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

The start of a New Year offers a time of reflection on the past year and inspiration for the year ahead. Ending the year with a grateful heart for the past year is a powerful way to refocus and renew your outlook on life. - whether this past year brought you joy, fulfilment, success, or you faced grief, setbacks or struggles. New Year prayers are a great way to give thanks for the past year, seek guidance for the coming year and ask for God's blessings.

## Prayers by - Peter J. Scagnelli

The Greed, an insidious aspect of human nature, has infiltrated the fabric of society, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Resulting in conflict and violence currently on the rise and showing few signs of abating

Please guide leaders and nations to work toward lasting peace and stability in all warring countries around the world.

O God, author and giver of peace, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth and destined for eternal glory,

Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God, that peace which, as your son Jesus Christ told us and as we have experienced in these days, is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders grant the wisdom to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation to that common humanity that makes us all your children and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge or even in the cause of justice grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror, especially the frightened children, be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty and chemical warfare, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.

