

### Prayer for the Week

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among 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; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Pray for the Faithful Departed

We remember before God: Frederick Fuller, Charles Atkins, Jessie Southcott, Christopher Boniface, Cathleen Ann Balla, Florence Richards, Nicholas Andrew *whose anniversaries occur this week.*

### Commemorations of the week

**November 30** – Andrew, the Apostle. He was a fisherman by trade, lived in Capernaum and was the brother of Simon Peter. He was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming a disciple of Jesus. In lists, he is always named in the first four of the apostles. His later history is unknown. He is the Patron Saint of both Scotland and Russia.

**December 2. Frances Perry** (d.1892), the wife of the first Bishop of Melbourne, Charles Perry. A Founder of the Royal Women's Hospital and the first President of the Royal Children's Hospital.

**December 3. Francis Xavier** (1506-1552). One of the greatest missionaries in the history of the church and one of the original members of the Jesuits. In 1541 he left for the East Indies and served in India, Indonesia and Japan. He died trying to enter China.

**December 4. Nicholas Ferrar** (1592-1637). Born in London, he had a brilliant academic career and later in business and politics. In 1625, he abandoned these and, with others, set up a community at a village, Little Gidding in Cambridgeshire, with a strict life of prayer and good works. He was denounced by the Puritans, his works burnt and the community destroyed.

### First Sunday of Advent

29 November 2015

In the three year cycle of readings today begins the Year of Luke, Year C.

**Sentence:** Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near.  
*Luke 21.28*

### Collect

Urgent God,  
breaking through the static to speak to our hearts,  
disarm our love of control and shake the silent heavens  
to reveal your dawning glory,  
judging all in the light of love;  
through Jesus Christ the one who is to come. **Amen.**

### A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

*Jeremiah spoke these words in the last days before the fall of Jerusalem, when Babylon's power was growing. He predicted that the Davidic dynasty would be restored shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in 586, and the deportation of the Jews to Babylon. The years of exile were prolonged (70 yrs) and the promise went unfulfilled. The Jewish exiles were tempted to abandon their faith in God and adopt the religions of the surrounding nations. In this situation a later writer repeats Jeremiah's earlier prophecy. The Jews saw this prophecy fulfilled in the return from exile, but Christian faith has seen in it a promise that was not finally fulfilled until the coming of Jesus, Messiah.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*Jeremiah 33: 14-16*

Reader            For the word of the Lord  
**All**                **Thanks be to God**

