

Together we can turn fear into hope

DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place

At Depaul UK, we exist to end youth homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

Our Nightstop UK network is a crucial part of how we do this. Nightstop provides young people in crisis with same-night emergency accommodation in the homes of trained volunteer hosts.

The prayer on the reverse of this card was written by Mark Bryant. Mark is a retired Anglican Bishop and one of our Nightstop hosts. Mark has opened his home and heart to young people in crisis, offering them not just a bed for the night, but the reassurance that someone cares.



Within the Christian tradition, there's great hospitality that goes back at least as far as Saint Benedict. He says, 'whoever comes to the monastery must be welcomed as if they were Christ'. I'd like to think that informs how I treat each Nightstop guest.



**FIND OUT HOW TOGETHER WE
CAN TURN FEAR INTO HOPE FOR
A YOUNG PERSON WITH NOWHERE
SAFE TO STAY THIS WINTER**



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A Prayer for Nightstop

If you can just sit calmly for a moment.

Imagine that you are walking the streets as you did last night and all of today. Perhaps you are feeling afraid and wondering what is going to happen.

Imagine perhaps that you are cold and wet through.

Imagine how your feet feel and the rest of your body.

Perhaps you are imagining the row you had at home three nights ago and the unkind things that were said.

And then imagine coming to a house, somebody welcoming and kind opens the door. Inside it is warm.

There is a hot shower and a clean towel and your clothes can be washed and dried.

There is a meal and you realise you have not eaten properly for days.

All of a sudden life feels a bit less frightening and a bit more hopeful.

What might you want to say to God about that?

Lord God,

Mary the mother of your son was homeless when she gave birth.

She was homeless again as she had to flee with him into Egypt.

Bless all at Depaul UK who work alongside those that are without a home or shelter this winter, and seek to turn people's fear into hope.

Help me/us to know what you are asking me/us to do to turn fear into hope.

We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord.

Amen.