

## **Holy Trinity Church**

### **INTERCESSIONS**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

**10.45am**

O Lord, our Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray in faith. At this time of expectation and excitement, grant us a moment's solitude, in which to contemplate the enormity of your coming to Earth in human form.

On this Eve of Christmas, strengthen and guide our Archbishop and bishops, our archdeacon, clergy and lay assistants. Particularly at this time, we pray for John, our bishop designate, and for David, our new Rector. May he, in the power of your Holy Spirit, seek to lead and guide the people in his charge. To instil in his flock, a clear understanding that everyone of us, seeks You in their own way, that there is power and synergy in *unity*, but potential conflict in *uniformity*.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, help us, as seekers after your truth, to use the time of waiting and looking forward, to assess our own lives. We all fall short of your example in Jesus, by petty jealousies, by gossip and note passing, by meanness and ignorance of the facts. Help us to exercise your love, in all our dealings with our neighbours. Help us to find the good, that is within each of us, and to build upon it.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, when the commercial world is determined to plunge us deeper into debt, draw our attention afresh, to the plight, of a third of this world's people, who live below subsistence level.

Dear Lord, you have provided sufficient food in the world to feed all your people. Yet 20% of the world's population, - which includes ourselves - has 90% of the world's riches. As *we* look forward to the birth of the baby Jesus, let us remember that every day, 24,000 babies die for lack of nourishment. Help us to understand how globalisation *could* work, but for the greed and corruption perpetrated by governments,

companies and individuals. What should *our* role be, in helping to redress the balance of resources?

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, help us to gain some comprehension of what it must be like to live and raise a family in areas of conflict: Afghanistan, Iraq, the conflict between Jew and Arab, between Christian and Muslim, Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan, the list is seemingly endless.

Bless and guide the rulers of the nations and all in authority at all levels. Direct them in the ways of justice, truth and reconciliation, that we may all learn to honour one another and to seek the common good.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, we pray for all those who minister to our needs and provide essential services, particularly during this holiday period; the police, council workers, social workers, doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and paramedics, media people, and those on-call offering, guidance, support, and relief of suffering.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen, Come Lord Jesus.***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, we pray for your blessing on the members of our families, on *our* children and *their* children, and particularly on those who are far away and parted from us. We ask for your blessing on our friends, and on our neighbours - whoever they may be. May this time be healthy, exciting and uniting for them.

Be with those for whom this time is *not* a happy one, those who will inevitably remember past sorrows, illnesses, family break downs or bereavements. Help them to remember the good and positive aspects of their lives, and grant them peace of mind.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

Lord, on this Eve of Christmas, we pray that your healing spirit will fall on those known to us, who are in any way dis-eased, whether in body, mind or spirit. On those anticipating hospital treatment and on those *recuperating* from such treatment.

Particularly we pray for: Derek, Richard Hartley, Victor, Sally Galagher Isabelle, Martin, Robert, Joan Hill, Julia Dexter, Heather, Linda Heppenstall, Keith, Kate Bond & Margaret, Marion Bulmer, Giselle Cobb & Ronnie, Nancy, and Mark

Lord, grant final peace to those who have died, and peace to those who mourn the death of a loved one, but rejoice in their life.

Let us keep a moment's silence, as we bring our own names before God.

Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever.

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.***

So now, dear Lord, as we wait in the last few hours, for your coming as a baby, may we join anew in the words of the hymn,

*Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes,*

*The Saviour promised long.*

*Let every heart prepare a throne,*

*And every voice a song.*

***Maranatha.***

***Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen***