

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 26-09-10

In remembrance of Pope Benedict's state visit to Britain, his historic service with Rowan, our Archbishop, in Westminster Abbey, and the beatification of John Henry Newman, a one-time Anglican priest in Oxford; let us ask God for increased tolerance, for deeper understanding, and for genuine unity, with all our neighbours in Christ.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the church worldwide, which is *one* in the greatness of *your* love, but *divided* by the littleness of *our own*. Help us to be less occupied with the things that divide us, and more with those things which unite us.

Lord, bless John and Colin our bishops, and Toby, Elizabeth, and Sally, our priests. Grant to them, and the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they *too*, seek to heal the disunity, and to bear witness in the community.

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, help us to understand, that the kingdom of God is here, now, in our hearts. Help us to *feel* it, help us to *show* it, to those we meet day by day? Help us to *act it out* in our daily lives, so that it is not just a once-a-week duty here on Sunday?

We pray that those acts of witness, for example, the Team Parish, the Acorns, Witney Churches Together, The Street Pastors, the choir & organist's evensong yesterday in Birmingham cathedral, will all strengthen the unity of your Kingdom.

Help each one of us to *question* our faith, and our witness, and how they could be extended, both personally and collectively.

"Thy kingdom come O God, Thy rule on earth begin."

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the unity of *families*; for those recently united in marriage; for parents and children preparing for baptism. We ask for your unifying Holy Spirit, to heal the families that have broken down, where partners fight, and children are neglected.

Support our politicians at this conference season. May they be bold in setting out an agenda for recovery. But *we* also need patience and restraint, as we come to understand the implications of any agenda. Unions are already preparing to cause *disunity* in the Country, as they prepare to challenge Government decisions, even before they have been declared. Grant to *them*, and to *us*, a true spirit of dialogue and diplomacy.

We ask you to bless the leaders of the united Countries of the European Community, and the continued work of the United Nations.

“Heavenly Father, we come to you as children. Be with us as we learn to see one another with new eyes, hear one another with new hearts, and treat one another in new ways.”

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for those in our community who are sick, sad, lonely, and distressed; and for those who support them, the medical teams and social workers, the charities and the aid agencies. Grant to us all, the love that gives, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we remember Derek, Hazel & Seb McCormack, Julia Dexter, Margaret Lawton, Joy Jones, Jonathan Keane, Martin, Bob Pady, Angela, and Sally.

“Heavenly Father, protect those whom we love, but who are separated from us. Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence. We thank you that neither space, nor time, can cut us off from the love we have in each other, and in you.”

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the dead, and for the unity of the souls of the departed; and for those who remember their *earthly* unity and mourn. In this *Battle of Britain* week, we give thanks for the bravery of the young men who fought and died for the freedom of this Country. May their memory never dim.

And at this time we pray for the soul of Geoffrey Edwards, priest, and for all our departed loved ones.

And for the families and friends left here to mourn.

*“Heavenly Father, send on us the blessing of your wisdom,
The patience of your strength,
And the life of your spirit.
We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord,
Jesus the Christ.”*

**Merciful Father,
Accept these prayers,
For the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**