

## HT INTERCESSIONS Christmas Day 2011

**Heavenly Father**, on this glorious Christmas morning, we gather to celebrate the feast of your incarnation; when your *infinite power*, is discovered in the powerless; and the vehicles for your action are found, not in great wielders of power, but in a village girl, in a working man, in foreigners and in the unrespectable.

We ask for insight, to find your *work*, not where it fits, but where it is; not in comfort, but in justice; not in cosy security, but in risk taking.

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

Jesus, came to us from the womb of Mary.  
There was risk in her confinement,  
There was pain at his birth,  
There was confusion in his growing up,  
And astonishment at the man He became.

We think of all those women, expecting at this time; and for the mothers who have recently been delivered, and we ask you to bless the families into which they have been born.

We bring to mind now all who are in pain of body, mind or soul.  
We think particularly of; Joy Jones, Martin, Simon Brayton,  
Tim Maddrell, Lilian Branner, Des Kelly, Prue Carpenter,  
Eric Jamieson, Alex Watson and Connor Riley. May they receive the hope of new life, and the healing peace of your Holy Spirit.

At this Christmas time, we remember the homeless in our own towns, and for those who help to bring them some sustenance and relief. We pray too for all who are facing challenge and change, and for all who struggle to understand where they are being led.  
We remember all who are involved in the myriad conflicts we see on our screens every day. Wherever there is violence and oppression, we pray for peace in the world.

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

**Heavenly Father**, on this day, we find you at the *edge* of things;  
An unremarkable town,  
In an unremarkable province  
Of an immense occupying power;  
At His birth, Jesus lacked much.  
Teach us, the *few*, to appreciate the plight of the *many*.  
Grant us an understanding, of this day's sublime *simplicity*.  
Help us to become as little children, in wonder, love and adoration.

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

**Heavenly Father**, on this day, we find you at the *heart* of things,  
In travel, in birth, in family life, in the work of people, and amid the lives  
of animals.  
Grant us a fresh understanding, of this day's *profound* meaning.

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

**Heavenly Father**, at this season of beginnings, we remember with  
thanksgiving, all those whom we knew and loved, who have died, but  
have begun a new life with you in heaven.  
Today we give thanks for the lives of Ruth Carpenter and  
Majorie Fletcher. May their souls rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Lord, help *us* to live close to you; and at the last, to find a place in your  
presence in heaven.

*“God, who became as we are, may we become, as You are.”*

*“Very many happy returns of the day Jesus.”*

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