

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 16th March 2014

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, help us to focus on those aspects of our individual and collective lives, which we know, need to be addressed.

We pray for your church with all its problems and divisions: women bishops; gender and sexuality issues; conversations with other denominations; dialogue with other religions; the list goes on.

Lord, forgive us all, our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, our preoccupations and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote the *unity*, of your church.

Give guidance to our clergy, as they seek to help and support us.

“Lord, heal the dissensions which divide us from one another, and bring us into a unity of love for you.”

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

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, we pray for the leaders of the nations of the world, and the organisations which cooperate to keep the peace; The United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the G Summits, the Arab League ... Soften, and turn the hearts of the despots and tyrants, who bully, torture and kill their own people for their own selfish ends. Help those on all sides of the conflicts, to learn that the only way forward, is diplomacy, dialogue, and compromise, not aggression and senseless killing. Be with all those involved in today's referendum in Crimea, and calm the renewed unrest in Egypt and Northern Ireland. May peaceful solutions be found for all the world's troubles.

*“Lord, you have shown us what is good, now enable **everyone**, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you our God.”*

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

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, we remember those who are the innocent victims of war, terrorism and violence; the used, the abused, the exploited and the trafficked; the starving and the homeless; and those who have no work, no money, and no prospects.

We pray for those travelling on the Malaysian Airways missing plane. Support them with your love in their ordeal, which is beyond our imagining. Be with their families and friends, whose lives are on hold, as they wait, and pray for news.

Lord, forgive our complacency, when we see the problems of the world on our screens, and do nothing. Help us to comprehend the enormity of the one single fact, that 16,000 children die every day from starvation. Grant to us a more generous nature, that we might be more proactive in support.

“Lord, grant that we may never pass by the poor, the bewildered, the sick, the sorrowing, or the struggling; but may respond with generous hearts, to the cry of the helpless, whose cry is your own.”

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

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, we ask what we can do, to support the needy in our *own* local community: those individuals and families, who are affected by financial problems; those who depend on food banks and the charity of others; those who have lost their jobs, or cannot find work; those whose lives have been turned upside down by the floods; the sick, in body, mind or spirit. Today we remember particularly: Joy Jones, Martin, Muriel Greenway, Zac Durkin, Seb, Win Carr, Alison Potter, Barbara Williams, Tony, Kate, Brian Hole and Joan Hill. Grant to them all, relieve of their suffering, and peace of mind.

We pray for the members of our local Councils, who have to balance their finances, and manage our services, grant them wisdom and patience.

Lord, we commend into your loving keeping, the soul(s) of Don Laws, and the members of our armed forces killed in action, the victims of Thursday’s helicopter crash, and *all* who have recently died. Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and comfort those who mourn their passing.

As we keep a moment of silence, let us remember those known to us individually, who need *our* prayers, and support, and *your* love.

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

Heavenly Father, at this Lenten-tide, we pray for ourselves, with all our imperfections, our anxieties, and our prejudices.

“Control in us, whatever is contrary to your holy will, so that we may better know how to please you. Grant us patience in our troubles, and strong wills in the face of temptation. Grant us sorrow for our sins, thankfulness for all your gifts, love of your mercies, and mindfulness of your continued presence in our lives, now and for ever. AMEN”

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