

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 15th March 2015

Mothering Sunday

Heavenly Father, on this (glorious) Mothering Sunday morning, we pray for the work of our mother church, Christchurch. Give guidance to those responsible for the appointment of our next Bishop. Bless our Queen Elizabeth, as mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and Supreme Governor of this Church of England. Give guidance to our clergy, as they seek to guide us and support us. 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.

“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. Soften, and turn the hearts of the despots and tyrants, who bully, torture and kill, even their own people, for their own selfish ends. Help those on all sides of the conflicts, to learn that the only true way forward, is diplomacy, dialogue, and compromise, not aggression and senseless killing. Particularly this morning we pray for the Christians, killed or injured as they worshipped in Lahore. 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, on this Mother's Day, we remember the mothers and their children, who are the innocent victims of war, terrorism and violence; the used, the abused, the exploited and the trafficked; the starving, the homeless, the sick, and the dying; and those who have no work, no money, and no prospects.

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 mothers' children die every day from starvation and disease. Grant to us a more generous nature, that we might be more proactive in support of the fund raisers and aid agencies. At this weekend, for Comic Relief and Red Nose Day, and the victims of Cyclone Pam in the Pacific.

“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 momentous time for the future direction of our Country, help us to more fully understand the implications of the issues, by engaging in meaningful discussion, without making hasty and misinformed decisions.

Heavenly Father, at this time of self-denial, we ask what we can do, to support the needy in our *own* local community: those mothers and their 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 recent brutal loss of their loved ones.

Today we pray particularly for your blessing on Louise Claremont, Sylvia, Lily Herne, and Tony Eggington. Grant to them all, relief of their suffering, and peace of mind.

Lord, on this special Mothering Sunday, we commend into your loving keeping, our mothers, living and deceased. Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and be with us all, as their children.

As we keep a moment of silence, let us **remember** our mothers, **and** our fathers, and all those known to us individually, who need our prayers.

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

Heavenly Father, on this Refreshment Sunday, we pray for ourselves, with all our imperfections, our anxieties, and our prejudices. Renew our resolve to stay steadfast to the self-denial of our Lenten vows.

“Control in us, whatever is contrary to your holy will, so that we may better know how to follow 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**