

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 30th September 2015

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ, to hear us when we pray in faith.

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

Bless our bishops and clergy and their lay assistants, grant to them all, and to the members of their councils, wisdom and patience, as they seek to heal the disunity, and to bear witness in the community.

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, the Team Parish, the Acorns, Witney Churches Together, and The Street Pastors, will all strengthen the unity of your Kingdom.

Help each one of us to *question* our faith and our witness, and how they might 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, give guidance, wisdom, and courage to the leaders of the countries of the European Union, as they seek workable solutions to the escalating migrant situation.

Help the *warring* leaders, to heed the example of Iran, and learn that diplomacy and dialogue are more effective than armed conflict.

Help those aspiring to leadership, to balance the needs and aspirations of the individual, with those of the community, and the nation as a whole.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to help *us* to develop and strengthen our own patience, understanding, empathy and compassion, so that acting within your laws, we may learn to think before we speak, listen and hear others' points of view, and pause before making value judgements, based on selfish, misinformed and false premises.

Help us to come to informed opinions, about current issues: the migrant crisis, global warming, nuclear power, fracking, and our own profligate waste of food, water, energy, and power, when millions in the world, lack even the basic necessities of life.

Help us to learn to love ourselves, as we are, so that we can in turn learn to love others, as Jesus commanded. Help us to overcome our own individual private issues which we battle with, and strive to change in our personal lives.

“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, for whom today will be long and hard; those struggling with despair or depression; those waiting for news; those who are sick, sad, lonely, and disturbed. Grant to them patience and management of their suffering. And we pay too, for those who support them, their carers, medical teams, social workers, and charities. Grant to us *all*, the love that *gives*, without expectation of a response or a reward.

Today we ask for your blessing to enfold: Tony Eggington, Sylvia, Len, Eric and Edith Parsons, and Joan Potter, as she celebrates her 90th birthday today.

“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.”

Heavenly Father, we pray for the dead, and for the unity of the souls of the departed; and for those who remember their *earthly* lives and mourn their passing.

Today, we pray for the souls of Pam Lee and Lyn Harwood, and for *all* our departed loved ones.

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

Let us pause now, and bring before God, our own private petitions.

*“Heavenly Father, send on us the blessing of your wisdom,
The patience of your strength,
And the life of your spirit.”*

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