

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 28th February 2016

Heavenly Father, in these days of Lent, help us to be quiet and prayerful; in these days of temptation and challenge, make us strong; in these days of waiting, open our hearts, to the mystery of the cross.

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

Heavenly Father, bless Queen Elizabeth, the supreme Governor of this Church of England. Bless our archbishops and bishops, our clergy, their assistants, and us, as members of their congregations. Forgive us all our fears, anxieties, prejudices, and misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote the *unity* of your church.

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

Heavenly Father, forgive our complacency, when we see the problems of the world on our screens, and do nothing. Make us painfully aware of the 16,000 children who die every day from starvation; the displaced masses fleeing war-torn countries, seeking asylum in Europe; and the problems and results associated with global warming, as in Fiji. Help us to understand, that we, as guardians of your world, have a moral duty to inform ourselves of the facts. Grant to us a more generous nature, that we might be more proactive in support, be it financial or prayerful.

As we contemplate our position in Europe and in the world, help us to make informed decisions, by reading, listening and debating, what would be the best for the future of our society, our children and our grandchildren, our position and stability, so that we don't make choices based on temporary, personal, and selfish wishes.

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

Heavenly Father, we pray that your love may be felt by people in their darkest hours. We think of the families and friends, of those caught up in the many wars be waged around your world; the lonely; the disturbed; the bereaved; the oppressed; those displaced from their homes and lands; the hungry; the sick in mind, body and spirit; prisoners of conscience; and the victims of accidents, as in Didcot, and fire, famine and flood.

We remember too, the charities, the aid agencies, and the medical teams, who seek to bring them relief and support. Help *us, too*, to remember at this time of financial restraint, that without *our* support, *they* cannot carry out their humanitarian work.

Heavenly Father, your will for all people is health and salvation, grant your healing grace, to all who are sick, injured or disabled, that they may be made whole. Grant to the lonely, anxious or depressed, an awareness of your presence. Mend broken relationships, restore soundness of mind, and serenity of spirit. Sustain and support those who plead to you, and raise all who are brought low by the burdens of their lives. Restore whatever is broken, in our *lives*, in our *nation*, and in the *world*.

Grant to all who minister to those who suffer, whether they be family or friends or professionals, wisdom, skill, empathy and patience.

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

Heavenly Father, we ask you to pour out your love on *our* families and friends, here and abroad, and on the members of our community: those individuals and families, who are affected by financial problems, and dependent on food banks, and charity, and for those who have lost their jobs, or cannot find work. We pray for the members of our local Councils, who have to balance their finances, and manage our services, on ever decreasing resources. Grant to them, and us, wisdom and patience. We remember; think about; and pray for all our neighbours who are in any way distressed. Particularly:.....

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Heavenly Father, we commend into your loving keeping, the souls of
(..... and)
all who have recently died, whether or not they knew your love in their
Earthly lives. Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and
your love; and comfort those who mourn their passing.

Let us keep a moment of silence, and remember those known to us
individually, who need *our* prayers, *our* support, and *God's* love.

(PAUSE)

O lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in your mercy,
look with compassion upon *us*, and all who turn to you for help

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