

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 19th November 2017

Heavenly Father, God of gentleness and love, draw near to us, as we draw near to you.

We pray for your church worldwide, that it may become more contemplative, compassionate and courageous.

Help us *all* to put aside, our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote *unity*.

Lord, fashion in us the likeness of your Son, Jesus Christ

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

Heavenly Father, we live in a deeply divided world, where selfish, unthinking people take what they want, for their own ends, despite the devastating effects on the innocent.

Soften the hearts of the oppressors, in the troubled countries of the World, and be with those displaced from their homes, who are risking their lives, fleeing their poverty and oppression.

As we witness the unfolding struggles on our screens, we ask you to bless the international efforts to bring about peaceful settlements of hostilities; and a true humanitarian solution to the problem of migration. Grant *us* a spirit of compassion and understanding, of tolerance and empathy, and perspective, with those on *all* sides involved in the troubles.

*Lord, help us to discern together, all that you are calling us to be, and all that you are calling us to **do**.*

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

Heavenly Father, we pray that your love may be felt by people in their darkest hours. The victims of the latest earthquakes in Iran and Iraq and South Korea, and the floods in Greece; the starving people in Yemen; those driven out of Myanmar; and those affected in Zimbabwe. We think of the children who have lost parents; the lonely; the depressed; the oppressed; the exploited and the abused; the homeless and those sleeping rough; the hungry and thirsty; the sick in mind, body and spirit; and prisoners of conscience and injustice.

We remember with deep gratitude, the charities, the aid agencies, the food banks, and the medical teams, who seek to bring relief and alleviation of suffering. Help *us*, to remember that, even at this time of restraint, without *our* active support, *they* cannot carry on their humanitarian work. Let us not pass by on the other side, but bring our weekly offerings, here to the Food Bank box.

Lord, help us to act together to serve the poor, feed the hungry and welcome the stranger.

**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 *own* community. Particularly today, we pray for Ann and Phil, as they prepare to move. We remember those individuals and families, affected by financial problems, faced with loans and debts, the sick in body and mind; the sad and lonely

We pray for all our neighbours who are in any way distressed: especially: Natalie Ruth Andy Jose Ann and Eric

Grant to them all, alleviation of their suffering, peace of mind, and a knowledge of your love for them.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the lives and witness of all those who have died; family members, those killed in accidents and acts of terror, our armed forces, and those overcome by natural disasters.

Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace, and your love; and comfort and strengthen those who are left behind, mourning their passing.

As we keep a moment of silence, we remember our families and friends, and those whom we have met, or seen this week, who need our love, our support, and our prayers.

Pause

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

*Heavenly Father, as the colours of autumn give way to winter once again, help us today and every day, to realise that you are **with** us, and **speaking** to us through the **events** of the day, through **people**, through **things**, through **all** your creation. Give us eyes, ears and hearts, to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be.*

May our Christian witness in the community this coming week, be courageous, happy and complete.

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