

## HT INTERCESSIONS Christmas Day 2017

**Heavenly Father**, on this *glorious* Christ-mass morning, we gather to celebrate the feast of your incarnation; when your *infinite power*, is discovered in the powerless; in a village girl, in a working man, in foreigners, and amongst the unrespectable.

We ask for the insight, to find your presence, not where it *fits*, but where it *is*; not in comfort, but in justice; not in cosy security, but in taking risks.

Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem, a journey not of their own choosing. Comfort those in our own time, who are separated from us; those who have been evacuated or displaced from their homes and Countries, the refugees and the immigrants.

There was no welcome for the travellers, and nowhere for Mary to deliver the baby Jesus. Help us to remember and support, those in our own time, and in our own community, who are homeless, destitute, and those sleeping rough.

As the baby Jesus was born to Mary, bless the thousands of mothers around the World, who will give birth today. Comfort them in their labour, and bless the families into which they are born.

*Jesus, came to us from the womb of Mary.  
There was risk in her confinement,  
There was pain at his birth,  
There was confusion in his growing up,  
And astonishment at the man He became.*

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

**Heavenly Father**, on this *holy* day, be with those who are at work, on-call, or on-standby, the volunteers and the carers, those who maintain our essential services, those who monitor our safety, and those who attend to our medical needs.

Comfort those for whom today is *not* a happy time. Those with painful memories, the lonely, the sick, those in pain, the oppressed, and the suicidal.

At this special time, be with\_\_\_\_\_

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May they all receive the hope of new life, and the healing peace of your Holy Spirit. And as we remember all who are involved in the myriad conflicts between peoples, and between Countries, we pray for peace in the world.

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

**Heavenly Father**, on this *remarkable* day, we find you at the *edge* of things; in an unremarkable town, in an unremarkable province of an immense occupying power; At His birth, Jesus lacked much. Teach us, the privileged *few*, to appreciate the plight of the deprived *many*. And grant us an understanding, of this day's sublime *simplicity*. Help us to become as little children again, in wonder, love and adoration.

**Heavenly Father**, on this *momentous* day, we find you at the *heart* of things, in travel, in birth, in family life, in the work of people, and amid the lives of animals.  
Grant us a fresh understanding, of this day's *profound* meaning.

And at this season of beginnings, we remember with thanksgiving, all those whom we knew and loved, who have died, but have begun a new life with you in another place.  
(Today we give thanks for the lives of\_\_\_\_\_)  
May their souls rest in peace, and rise in glory.  
Lord, help *us*, to live *close* to you; and at the last, to find a place in your presence.

*“God, who became as we are, may we become, as You are.”*

***“Many Happy Returns of the day Jesus.”***

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