

HT INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 18th November 2018

Heavenly Father, on this first day of a new week, draw near to us, as we draw near to you.

We pray for your church worldwide, that, as it seeks to spread the good news of the gospel, and bears witness in the community, we 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*, but not *uniformity*.

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. Guide our politicians at this crucial time for our Country. May they *truly* act for the people they represent, and put aside personal inclinations and ambitions.

Soften the hearts of the oppressors, in the troubled countries of the World, bring new awareness and understanding, that talking and diplomacy are the only ways, to bring about new signs of peace. Be with those countless millions of Christians, who are persecuted daily for their faith; those displaced from their homes, fleeing poverty and oppression, seeking new lives and new hope.

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, empathy, and perspective, with those on *all* sides involved in the troubles.

*Lord, help us to discern the signs, of 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. We pray that those families devastated by the fires, floods, earthquakes, mudslides and landslips, may be able to rebuild their shattered lives, through the love of neighbours, and the hope of better things to come.

We think of the sad and lonely; the depressed and 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 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. We remember those individuals and families, affected by financial problems, faced with loans and debts, and dependent upon food banks and charities; the sick, the sad, the lonely and the bewildered.

We pray for all our neighbours who are in any way distressed: especially:
Natalie Andy Jose Ann Dorothy Don and Christopher

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; especially those who perished in the Californian fires, 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 eternal love; and comfort and strengthen those who are left behind, mourning their passing.

As we keep a moment of silence, let us remember all those known to us personally, who need to feel God's blessing, and the hope of new beginnings.

Pause

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

Heavenly Father, make us watchful for, and heedful of your signs of hope for the future, of our Country, and of the world

'Thy kingdom come, oh God. Thy rule on earth begin.'

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