

Intercessions

21st July 2002

God of Mercy, God of Grace.

We bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith that you will hear them and answer them.

We pray most earnestly for Your Peace in our lives;

“Deep peace of the running wave,
Peace of the flowing air,
of the quiet earth,
and the shining stars.

The deep Peace of the Son of Peace.”

Strengthen and guide our Bishops and clergy. Particularly at this time, we pray for the new Archbishop of Canterbury, soon to be appointed. May he, in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to unite a deeply divided church. To instil in his flock, a clear understanding that everyone of us, seeks You in their own way, that there is power and synergy in *unity*, but conflict in *uniformity*.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Help us, as seekers after Your truth, to refrain from petty bickering. Help us to seek those things which unite us, not those things which separates us.

Help us to exercise the Love of God in all our dealings with our neighbours.

Help us to find the good, that is within everyone, not to constantly dwell on the more obvious defects, which we all have in abundance.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

As we watch our televisions and read our newspapers in comfort, help us to realise the true horrors that are being perpetrated by the few, but felt by the very many.

Help us to seek an understanding of some of the seemingly intractable problems in Your World.

We think of just a few of the more prominent:

The conflict between Jew and Arab

between Christian and Muslim

between Israel and Palestine

between India and Pakistan

between Spain and Morocco

between Terrorists and their targets throughout the World

and between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

But at this time of IRA apology for decades of atrocities against innocent people and their families, help us to recognise that there is *always* a basis for hope and for Peace.

Bless and Guide the rulers of the nations, and all in authority at whatever level of society. Direct every nation and society in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may all learn to honour one another and to seek the common good.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We ask You, Lord, to bless our homes, our families, our neighbours, and our communities.

Whilst it may be easy here in the Algarve (sunshine) to thank You for our blessings, help us lest we forget those thousands of babies and children who die every day, from dis-ease and lack of food and water.

Help us not to forget the thousands of families displaced from their homes, lands and countries by the greed of others.

Help us to understand more clearly, the desperate plight of refugees and asylum seekers, before *we* fall into the trap of making uninformed value judgements, and making reckless statements and suggestions.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray, Lord, for those who work to reconcile marriages; those who work with abused children and battered wives; the agencies which tackle disasters of all kinds; and those who counsel the victims. At this time, we pray for the victims of recent fires in Colorado and here in Portugal. May they feel the love and peace of those around them, when everything seems lost.

Give grace and peace to us, our families and friends, and to our world-wide neighbours.

Lord, Hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray, Lord, most earnestly for inner personal peace. Before we can truly love others, we need to learn to love ourselves as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

Grant Peace at the Last to those who have died.

And grant peace to those who grieve for a death, but rejoice for a life.

“Lord God, You are Peace eternal, and Your chosen reward is the gift of Peace. Pour Your Peace into our souls, that everything discordant may utterly vanish, and all that makes for Peace be sought and loved by everyone.”

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

Amen