

INTERCESSIONS

Palm Sunday 2003

At this time of **Lent**, Lord grant us the courage to give up distractions, and help us in our daily lives, to follow the example given to us, in Jesus Christ.

On this **Palm Sunday**, we keep the special memory of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Lord, we lay ourselves before Thee, in full and joyful homage.

Lord hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

On this **Palm Sunday**, Lord give your church, the courage to give up her preoccupations with herself, and to give more time to your mission in the world and in our community.

Give grace and guidance to our Archbishop, Rowan Williams, to our Bishops Geoffrey, David and Manuel, to our Archdeacon, to our clergy, Eric and David, and to Jackie and Shirley, our readers, and all their helpers. May they have an increasingly broad vision, for the future of your kingdom.

Bless *us* who worship here. Save us as a congregation, from being too inward looking and over-occupied with our own little affairs. Help us to take our eyes *off* ourselves and to turn them on those outside. Help us to remember that your church does not exist for itself, but for the sake of others.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

On this **Palm Sunday**, a day of triumphal entry into Jerusalem, we are reminded of the triumphal entry of coalition tanks into Baghdad. We pray most sincerely for peace in Iraq, that this week's celebrations by the Iraqi people, may not be premature. We pray for a successful outcome of today's Civic Meeting of Iraq's own people, that a speedy return of

order, power, water and supplies, can be brought about. We pray also for the talks just started, that they will lead to a stable, democratic and free government for all.

We pray for a peaceful solution to the protracted problems in the Middle East. May the proposed Road Map for Peace, be made possible. And we pray, that differences between the USA and Syria can be resolved through diplomacy and not by threats of more military hostility.

Lord guide the leaders of the countries of the free world, the future deliberations of the United Nations, Nato, the European Community, and the Arab League. May they all learn to work together and to trust each other, and aim for peace amongst all the peoples of your world.

Oh God, we pray for a cessation of all wars and violence. Where Jew or Moslem or Christian are oppressed by their history and their hatred, make us aware of your aching love for *all* your peoples.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

On this **Palm Sunday**, we think particularly of the families of the service men and women fighting on both sides of the Iraqi conflict, and of the media personnel, who have put *their* lives on the line. Families who watch and wait, wondering if, and when their loved ones will return.

We pray also for the families in Iraq, who have lost loved ones, whose homes have been destroyed, who have insufficient water and food for their children, and inadequate medical support. May the international aid agencies be given the resources and the logistics to get succour to the people quickly.

We pray for a generation, which has grown up in fear and privation. May they learn how to live with their new freedom - freedom within new structures, without which is licence and anarchy.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, on this **Palm Sunday**, we pray for ourselves. We pray for courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousies within our families, our church and our community. Let us pray for all those in the caring professions, upon whom we rely on a daily basis: doctors, nurses, paramedics and ancillary staff, for social, psychiatric and support workers, teachers and lecturers, marriage guidance counsellors, police, probation and prison officers, magistrates and judges ...

We pray that by their skills and training, they may ease the burden of those in need, and in their care.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

On this **Palm Sunday**, let us pause and keep a silence. Let us remember those who are ill and injured, and those who have recently died, through war, through accident, or through illness. Some we know, some we have seen on television, some who profess to know you, Jews, Moslems and Christians, and those who profess *no* faith.

(Silence)

Lord grant us the courage to give up our fear of death, and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.

And remembering St. Luke, St. Vincent and all your saints, we commend ourselves and all your creation, to your unfailing love.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ..
Amen.**