

INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 13th July 2003

O lord our God, help us to worship you in spirit, with our minds nourished by your truth, our hearts open to your love, our wills surrendered to your purpose, and may all this be gathered up in adoration, as we ascribe glory and praise to you alone.

As your church continues to tear itself apart, we most earnestly pray for a new awareness of the meaning of your love for us. Jesus said, *“love your neighbour as yourself”* and *“love one another, as I have loved you”*.

Guide Rowan Williams, our Archbishop, and all the members of Synod, as they debate the issues facing the Church of England today. Bless Geoffrey, David and Manuel our bishops, Eric and David our clergy, and all those who have a responsibility to interpret your love. May they develop an increasingly broad vision of your kingdom here on Earth.

Help **us**, to think before we speak, to pray before we act, and to look inside ourselves for signs of bigotry, and irrational phobias. Increase in us **all** a degree of tolerance and understanding.

We pray especially for the Bishop elect of Reading, who has resigned because of the persecution, of literalist and fundamentalist so called Christians. May he know your continuing love in his life, and may his persecutors learn what your love can mean for them.

We pray for the members of all denominations and religions, that we may seek and find your eternal kingdom of love, here and now, within ourselves, and in our lives.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for our mother countries, their rulers and their politicians. We ask that truth, not spin, will finally prevail in the Iraq war deliberations.

We ask that President Bush's five nation African tour, will be more than mere posturing, and will mean something **real** to the ordinary people of those countries.

May we and all peoples, of which ever country, be true and upright, loyal and unselfish, loving You and serving one another.

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

We pray for our families, friends and neighbours here in Portugal and in other countries. At this holiday time we pray for our visitors. May they find peace, refreshment, and re-creation. May they use the time to build stronger personal and family relationships, and to think of Your love and bounty given freely to us all.

(Bless the marriage of Duncan and Camilla, and may your love be reflected in their future lives together.)

May they, and we, learn to give thanks to the myriads of people in the service industries, without whom our lives here, in Your sunshine would not be possible.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, we do not understand the purpose of sickness and suffering. But we do pray for those we know, who are in such situations, whether physically, mentally, or spiritually. Help them to know that your love is there for them, and give them the strength to cope.

In a moment of quiet, let us offer to God those near and dear to us personally and individually.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We think of Your world dear Lord, and the way we mistreat it. And we bring before you the victims of global instability, violent conflict and epidemic diseases. The figures are staggering and incomprehensible. *(There are 69,000 orphans with AIDs in Botswana alone. By the year 2010, it is estimated that there will be 40 million African orphans with AIDs under the age of 15.)*

We give thanks for the brave example of the Iranian Siamese twins who, in spite of the overwhelming risks, underwent a three day operation to separate them, but lost their lives on the operating table. Grant their spirits your peace, and be with those who mourn their dying.

We remember those service men and women, who are still being killed in the conflict in Iraq. We think of the seven holiday makers killed in a car crash on Britain's M56, the 22 people killed in the bus crash in Hong Kong, and of little Jodie Jones and her family.

Lord, we pray for the souls of all the recently departed.

What is before us in life, we do not know, but this we DO know, that all things are ordered by unerring wisdom and unbounded love, by you, our God. Grant us in all things, to see and feel your love.

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

Amen

