

Intercessions 31<sup>st</sup> August 2003

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son, Jesus Christ, to hear us when we pray in faith:

Bless, we beseech you O Lord, the leaders of your church, Rowan our Archbishop, Geoffrey, David and Manuel, our bishops, Eric and David our clergy, and all their lay helpers. Strengthen them with your heavenly grace. May they be diligent in prayer, and in the study of your holy Word, that by their wise counsel and good example, they may guide your people, and work for the extension of your kingdom here on Earth.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord, we pray for our national leaders. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and unselfishness. May they seek and practise truth, not spin, that they may develop a vision, of equality for all people.

Bless, we beseech you O Lord, all who bear rule amongst us, in state, industry, commerce and community, and all who speak to us through broadcasting and the press. Grant them the humility to seek your guidance, and the courage to do your will.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Bless, we beseech you O Lord, all those presently on holiday here in Algarve. Grant them refreshment of spirit and renewal of strength, that they may return to their daily lives, better fitted for *their* undertakings, and *your* service. May they, and we, ever be mindful of the inter-dependence we all have with those many people, who work in the service industries, without whom, our enjoyment would not be possible.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

As school terms restart, we ask your blessing Lord, on all those undertaking education at whatever level and whatever age.

We think of those, who have recently received the results of their public examinations; for those changing schools; for those about to enter higher and further education; and for those seeking their first employment.

Bless, too. Those who have a responsibility for their education. Bless we beseech you O Lord, our universities, colleges and schools, that knowledge may be increased, and all good learning flourish. Bless all who teach and all who learn, and grant that they may ever look to you, the fount of all wisdom.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Dear Lord, we ask you to bless the sad and the sick in our society.

Particularly at this time, we think of those people who were in any way involved in the recent fires; those who have lost family members, homes and livings; the fire-fighters and the medical teams.

We continue to pray for a peaceful solution in Iraq, in Israel and Palestine: and in the many other countries, where people are caught up in seemingly endless strife.

Bless, we beseech you O Lord, the souls of the 18 people who died in the fires in Portugal; for the 1300 who died in Portugal, and the 11,000 who died in France as a result of the recent heat-waves. There are many others, in many countries.

But we ask you Lord, to grant to those who are left to mourn, a quiet mind.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

And we pray Lord, for ourselves. Grant us a deeper understanding of what it means to love our neighbour; help us to develop charitable minds and lives. Lord, in your tender love, grant us a like compassion, for all who claim our help, and a willingness, to identify ourselves with them in their need.

**Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your son.  
Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**