

## INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2003

In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

As this world-wide Anglican church, teeters on the brink of another schism, we pray for Bishop elect Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. We also pray for those who find the whole issue of homosexuality painful and confusing. We ask for tolerance and understanding, in discussing the meaning for ourselves, and for your Church.

We pray for Rowan, our Archbishop, his archbishops, bishops and clergy. Particularly we ask your Holy Spirit to guide *our* bishops - Geoffrey, David and Manuel - *our* clergy, Eric and David, and their lay assistants.

Lord and heavenly Father, you have called us to be one, in the family of the Church; gives us grace to break down the barriers which keep us apart; that accepting our differences, we may grow in love for one another, to the glory of your name.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end of this Bible Week, we pray that its effects will be lasting. That unity across the various Christian denominations, will continue to grow, whilst recognising that this does not mean uniformity of worship.

Grant that we may continue to read, and *interpret* what we read in the Bible, with understanding and relevance to our lives today.

Lord we pray for the outcomes of the discussions, which were entered into at yesterday's Chaplaincy Day Away. Whatever those outcomes may be, we ask that, putting aside personal prejudices, we may all unite to further *your* work and *our* witness, here in the Algarve.

Lord grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change. The courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

**Lord, hear us.**  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord we continue to pray for peaceful outcomes, to seemingly intractable problems in your world. For Israel and Palestine, for Northern Ireland and this week's significant step towards a lasting peace. For Iraq trying to work out a future democracy. Give wisdom and understanding, tolerance and skill, to our leaders and negotiators. Without compromise on all sides, there *is* no possibility of lasting peace.

The Book of Proverbs tells us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Help us all to realise, that everything we do, should be based on the two commands of Jesus, to love God, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We pray O Father, that when the interests and aspirations of nations conflict with one another, their leaders may not turn to war, but together seek a just and acceptable way forward. So that suspicions may be allayed, misunderstanding clarified, violence averted, and peace preserved.

**Lord, hear us.**  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Lord we pray for our families, here and in other parts of your world. For our friends and neighbours, and for all those people upon whom we depend, day by day. No-one is an island. Help us, regardless of our own problems, to help others.

We pray for the sick, whether in body, mind or spirit, and for those who seek to care for them. And we pray for the dead and dying, and for those who mourn their passing. For .....

**Let us keep a moment of silence, as we think of the needs of others.**

Father, you hear those who pray in the name of your Son, grant that what we may have *asked* in faith, we may *obtain*, according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Merciful Father,**  
**accept these prayers,**

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

Govern and direct your holy Church; fill it with love and truth; and grant it that unity which is your will.