

INTERCESSIONS

Epiphany 3 25th January 2004

At this Epiphany-tide, let us once again, prepare ourselves to receive God's message anew.

Dear Lord, we look to You to liberate us from desire, ignorance and pride: to imbue us with compassion, wisdom and humility: and to embrace us within a conscious, loving relationship with one another and with You, our Creating God.

At this Epiphany-tide, we pray for :

The Archbishop of Canterbury, for the Bishops and for the Clergy, of this Church of England, and of all Christian denominations, that they may inspire their people, by their leadership, and by their example.

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

At this Epiphany-tide, we pray most ardently for world peace, for the leaders of the most powerful nations, who often seem bent on war; for those who are already the victims of war, and for those who are caught up in continuing conflicts, whether they are troops deployed in Iraq and other troubled places around the world, or the inevitable innocent civilians.

We pray also, for victims of people's ill-treatment of others. Those who are physically, sexually or mentally abused. Those who have been robbed, those who have been tormented and bullied, or wrongly accused. We think of people who are: in care, homeless and displaced, cold and hungry, the sick, the sad, the confused, the bereaved, the lost and the lonely, those of other faiths, and those with no faith.

But we also ask for Your help, in understanding, how we should relate to the perpetrators of crime. What does it mean to forgive?

At this Epiphany-tide, help us *not* to find the faults in others, but rather to seek ways of helping, supporting and alleviating the problems of others, by our time, our talents and our resources.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

At this Epiphany-tide, we pray for our families, our friends and our neighbours, both here and abroad.

Deepen and strengthen every relationship, so that all our earthly love may be gathered up into Your love. Help us to be helpful and considerate, forbearing and forgiving, so that the harmony of our daily dealings, may be strengthened and sustained.

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

At this Epiphany-tide, we ask for the grace of Your Holy Spirit, on the souls of those who have recently died. For those whose lives have been cut short by violence, and for those who have died naturally, but are nonetheless, mourned by loved ones.

Be with the families and friends left behind, bitter, baffled and bereaved.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

Lord, at this Epiphany-tide, we pray for ourselves.

Sin is turning away from You, and the call of Your love; and turning towards our own egotistic desires. Sin is putting ourselves first.

At this time of Prayer for Christian Unity, help us to understand the differing ways, in which people come to understand Your love. Help us to strive for Christian Unity, by seeking to understand one another's points of view, whilst maintaining non-uniformity in our differing modes of worship.

Help us to prepare, and to be prepared, to accept Your message of salvation, turning our human natures, into unity with You. So that ultimately, we are at-one.

O God, show us Your heavenly light, and like the wise men of old, give us grace to follow until we find You, and finding You, rejoice. And as the wise men presented their gifts, so may we, make the offering of a loving heart, an adoring spirit, and an obedient will.

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