

INTERCESSIONS

Passion Sunday 2007

Lord teach us how to pray aright,
With reverence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in Thy sight.
We may, we must draw near.

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 **Passion Sunday**, we keep the special memory of Jesus' pain and suffering, the insults and abuse He endured, and His ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Grant that by faith in that holy sacrifice, we may find help and salvation.

Lord hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

On this **Passion 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, to our Bishops Geoffrey, David and Manuel, to our Archdeacon, to Canon John our priest and to all their helpers. May they develop 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 affairs. Help us to take our eyes *off* ourselves and to turn them *onto* 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 **Passion Sunday**, we remember how Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

We pray most sincerely for peace in your world. We pray for a peaceful solution to the protracted problems in the Middle East, Israel and Palestine, Afghanistan and Iraq. And we pray, that differences between the USA, Jordan, Iran and Syria, can be resolved through diplomacy and not by threats of more military hostility.

Lord inspire 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 **Passion Sunday**, we think particularly of the families of the service men and women fighting on both sides of this world's conflicts, and of the media personnel, who have put *their* lives on the line for our information. Families who watch and wait, wondering if, and when their loved ones will return.

We pray also for the families in these war torn countries, who have lost loved ones, whose homes have been destroyed, who have insufficient water and food for their children, and inadequate medical support.

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 comes licence and anarchy.

At home, we pray for the victims of knife and gun crime, of muggings and assaults, and for the wasted lives of both victims and attackers.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord, on this **Passion 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 **Passion Sunday**, let us pause, and remember those who are ill and injured, and those who have recently died, through war, accident, or illness. Some we know, some we may have seen on television, some who profess to know you, Jews, Moslems and Christians, and those who profess *no* faith. Particularly today, we pray for the souls of Pam Eggleton and Roger Evans, and for their loved ones left behind to mourn.

(Silence)

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given to us, and for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we learn to know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

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