

Intercessions **24th June 2007**

Heavenly Father,

As we gaze upwards into heaven, bring us down to earth.

We bring our prayers and petitions before you, in the sure faith that you will hear them and answer them, as appropriate to our needs.

We pray for the continuing witness of the Anglican Communion world-wide, and in particular for this Church of England. Strengthen and guide our Archbishop, Rowan, our Bishops Geoffrey and David, for Manuel, Bishop of Faro, for our Chaplain, Haynes, and all those who support him. In the power of the Holy Spirit, may they seek to unite a deeply divided church. To instil into their flocks, a clear understanding, that everyone of us seeks You in their own way, that there is power and synergy in *unity*, but potential conflict in *uniformity*.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father,

We pray for our Queen Elizabeth, as head of the Church of England, for her peers and ministers in both Houses of her Parliament, for the President of Portugal, and for all those who administer our local governments, both here and in the United Kingdom. We ask, that those who hold positions of importance, in both national and local governments, will put aside personal ambition, and concentrate their wills for the good of all.

Lord hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father,

As we watch our televisions, and read our newspapers in comfort, help us to realise the true horrors that are being perpetrated by the few, but felt by the very many. We pray for all those involved in the obscenity, which is the abduction of little Madeleine McCann - her mother and father, her little sisters, her wider family in Leicester and Scotland, the police, and the media. And we pray for the perpetrators of the crime.

Help us Lord, to seek an understanding, of some of the many seemingly intractable problems in Your World.

The conflict between East and West
between Jew and Arab
between Christian and Muslim
between Israel and Palestine
between India and Pakistan
between Shi'ites and Sunnies
and between Terrorists and their targets throughout the World

Bless and Guide the rulers of the nations. Direct every nation and society in the ways of justice and of peace, that we may all learn to honour one another and to seek the common good.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father,

We ask you, to bless our homes, our families, our neighbours, and our communities.

Help us, lest we forget those thousands of babies, children and adults who die every day, from dis-ease and lack of food and water.

Help us not to forget the thousands of families displaced from their homes, lands and countries by the greed of others.

Help us to understand more clearly, the desperate plight of refugees and asylum seekers, before *we* fall into the trap of making uninformed value judgements, and reckless statements and suggestions.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father,

We pray most earnestly for inner personal peace. Jesus commanded us to, "love one another." Before we can truly love others, we need to learn to love ourselves as we are, with all our imperfections and shortcomings, our desires and longings. Calm the troubled minds, which lead inevitably to dis-eased bodies.

(We remember particularly today..... and we ask you to pour out your Holy Spirit, to support and strengthen at this time of trouble.)

We pray for the souls of the faithful departed, now ascended into heaven.

(Particularly today we pray for)

Grant peace to those who grieve for a death, but rejoice for a life.

In a moment's silence, we bring before You our private prayers, for ourselves and our loved ones, our personal problems and those of your world.

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

Amen