

INTERCESSIONS

Passion Sunday 2009

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.

Heavenly Father, on this **Passion Sunday**, we keep the special memory of Jesus' pain and suffering, the insults and abuse He endured for us, 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.

Heavenly Father, on this **Passion Sunday**, 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 and David, and Manuel Bishop of Faro, to our Chaplain Haynes, to Bishop James our priest, to our newly appointed Chaplain designate, and to all their helpers. May they develop an increasingly broad vision, for the future of your kingdom here on Earth.

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, as we meet after this service, to remember that your church does not exist for itself, but for the sake of others.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, 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, Zimbabwe and Northern Ireland. And we pray, that differences between the USA, Jordan, Iran and Syria, can be resolved through diplomacy and willing dialogue, not by threats of more military hostility.

Bless the current initiatives of President Obama, and inspire all 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.

Heavenly Father, on this **Passion Sunday**, we think 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. For 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.

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.

Today we pray for the victims of the devastation in Indonesia, for those who mourn their dead and for those made homeless.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, on this **Passion Sunday**, we pause, and remember those who are ill and injured, and those who have recently died, through war, accident, or illness, 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 *Harry and for Fred*, as they struggle with their afflictions, may they feel the power and comfort of your Holy Spirit; and we remember Esme and Rosemary who are constantly by their side. Give them too, strength and patience as they watch and wait.

And we pray for all those in the caring professions, upon whom we rely on a daily basis. We pray that by their skills and training, they may ease the burden of those in need, and in their care.

We pray for the souls of (the faithful departed, may they rest in peace, and rise in glory) _____
and we think of their loved ones left to mourn.

(Silence)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

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.