

INTERCESSIONS

Sunday 06th March 2011

Heavenly Father, we believe that you hear our prayers, and will be faithful to your promise to answer them.

Bless, we pray you, Queen Elizabeth, the supreme Governor of this Church of England. Bless our archbishops and bishops, our clergy, their assistants, and *us*, as members of their congregations. Forgive us *all*, our fears, our anxieties, our prejudices, and our misunderstandings. Strengthen our common bonds, and deepen our resolve to promote the *unity*, of your church.

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, you have included *all* your commandments, in the one commandment, that we should love our neighbours as ourselves, so that, if we love *not* our neighbour, we cannot fulfil your law. Help us to interpret your law of love, in the context of our daily lives. We ask for your love, to shine into the hearts of the leaders of the nations, and all those in authority, at whatever level; that their actions may demonstrate a love of your World, and its finite resources, and a love for the people entrusted to their charge. Soften the hearts of the oppressors, in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, and be with those, who are risking their lives, fighting for their freedom, from that oppression. We pray that new found freedom will not become licence, and that the power vacuums will be quickly replaced by democracy. As we watch their unfolding struggle on our screens, grant us a spirit of understanding, of tolerance, and of empathy in their plight.

**Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray that your love may be felt by people in their darkest hours. We think of the families and friends of those caught up in the many struggles and wars be waged around your World; the lonely, the disturbed; the bereaved; the oppressed; those displaced from their homes and lands; the hungry; the sick in mind, body and spirit; prisoners of conscience; victims of fire, famine and flood; and of

earthquakes. Particularly we pray for Dave Wong, whose wife Julie is now assumed to have died, when her office block collapsed in Christchurch, though her body has not yet been recovered, and for their four year old son Ethan, who is left without a mother. Grant them strength, comfort, courage and peace, as they try to build a new life. We remember too, the rescue workers, the charities, the aid agencies, and the medical teams, who seek to bring relief and support around the World. Help *us, too*, to remember at this time of financial restraint, that without *our* support, *they* cannot carry on their humanitarian work.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to pour out your love on *our* families and friends, here and abroad, and on the members of our community: those individuals and families, who are affected by the current financial problems, for those who have lost their jobs, or cannot find work. We pray for the members of our local Camaras, who have to balance their finances, and manage our services, grant them wisdom and patience. We remember; think about; and pray for, all our neighbours who are in any way distressed: particularly Alan Homer (priest), _____ Grant them calm acceptance of their plight, peace of mind, and the knowledge of your love.

Heavenly Father, we commend into your loving keeping, the souls of Dennis Hayes, Julie Wong and Hazel McCormack, _____ and all who have recently died, whether or not they knew your love in their *Earthly* lives. Grant to their eternal spirits, your light, your peace and your love; and comfort those who are left to mourn their passing. And as we keep a moment of silence, we remember those known to us individually, who need *our* prayers, *our* support, and *your* love.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, as the Lenten season approaches, help us today and every day, to realise that you will be speaking to us through the *events* of the day, through *people*, through *things*, through *events*, and through *all* your creation. Give us eyes, ears and hearts, to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be. Grant us your Spirit of discernment.

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

