

## **INTERCESSIONS FOR PASSION SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2017**

We meet in the presence of God  
Who knows our needs hears our cries feels our pain and heals our wounds

Lord, in this shared time together we offer ourselves to you and to each other.

Have pity on us for the times we have torn one another and in doing so have torn you.  
We give to you our envy, our scorn, our deceit, our conceit, our grudges, our neglect  
our disloyalty, our discrimination, our exploitation.

Your tearing is our mending

**Lord in your mercy**

**Hear our prayer**

Too often we are warned about our planets future  
Of our destruction of our environment;  
Of increased pollution;  
Of species threatened with extinction  
Of forests being decimated  
Of ice sheets melting and flood waters rising through our actions or lack of concern  
We feel there is little we can do. It is easier just to ignore it or deny it

Creator God

Help us to accept just what we, the human race,  
are doing to the world you have given us.  
Teach us how to live responsibly and to act decisively in order to put things right.  
Open our eyes to the beauty of the seasons,  
Open our eyes to your handiwork in the patterns of the sky  
the colours of the blossom the reflections in the puddles  
Open our eyes to the needs on our own doorsteps  
To the people that we could make such a difference to;  
Help us to see your face in the people to whom we would rather turn a blind eye  
And to those we hear about but rarely see

**Lord in you mercy**

**hear our prayer**

Now that Brexit has been officially started,  
we pray for unity among the four nations of the United Kingdom  
and pray that they may stay united;

We look and pray for co-operation between our national leaders and patience and understanding between all those negotiating the terms of our separation from Europe, so that the final outcome may be advantageous to all of the UK and Europe alike

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

We pray for the nations of the world  
Those that are being devastated from within, torn apart by civil war or unrest;

We pray for those that are threatened from outside  
who live in fear of attack from others  
We pray for the nations who have the power to prevent war  
and could solve these social and relational problems

Saviour of the world  
save us from ourselves  
Fill all world and national leaders  
with the thirst for justice and peace that Christ alone can satisfy  
Give those living in the shadow of fear true hope  
Those driven by hatred, suspicion or greed living faith  
Those obsessed with their own interests sheer grace  
Make your people active peace makers, socially, politically and globally  
And so bring about those changes  
that would turn this our world  
into what you would have it be

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

Christ's crucifixion teaches us that there is no such thing as a worthless life  
or a person God does not love  
so we pray especially for those, who are rejected, enslaved  
or unjustly deprived of liberty and freedom  
We pray for the victims of war and violence throughout the world  
as well as for those who are responsible.  
Too often we cry over harrowing scenes of malnourished babes in arms;  
Of mothers starving themselves to feed their children;  
We feel the despair of fathers who strive to keep their families warm and fed but fail despite  
their greatest efforts and through no fault of their own  
Of young children scavenging for food on rubbish tips or forced to work for little or no pay or  
in dangerous conditions;  
Of adults and children maimed orphaned, homeless,  
Of doctors and medical staff devoid of the life saving medicines

or equipment we take for granted  
We think of those radicalised by extremists in the name of religion  
but who have really lost the true meaning of their own faiths  
of racists such as those who attacked the young Turkish asylum seeker in South London last  
night  
We ask that they may be given a change of heart  
and the courage to end all violent conflicts.

All seeing Lord  
Grant to us all your understanding, and your perseverance  
We are saddened by the events at the mosque in Pakistan last evening  
We ask for unity, understanding and tolerance between all faiths  
Cause your church to open its eyes and take in what is truly there  
Give it the vision to take action and through that action and awareness  
bring light to the darkest corners of the world

Father God  
We give thanks for your church. For our bishops, clergy and lay workers  
For all who work so tirelessly and continuously in your name.  
Today we give special thanks for those planning and preparing for our joint parish week-end  
and ask for you blessing upon it.  
Grant that we may see ourselves as Christ sees us,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate his Passion, Death and resurrection  
in true righteousness

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

Lord God whose son Jesus Christ  
Understood people's fear and pain  
Before they spoke of them  
We pray for those who are unwell  
For those in hospital or care homes  
For those who are house bound  
and those who have asked for our prayers

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Surround the frightened with your tenderness  
Give strength to those in pain  
Hold the weak in your arms of love  
And give hope and patience to those recovering  
Bless those who give support love and care for all in need  
And give us the strength to support them

**Lord in your mercy**

**Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God

Your Son suffered and died for us

In his resurrection he restores life and peace to all creation

Surround with your continuing compassion all who mourn

We think especially of the families and friends of John Johnstone and the 250 or more who lost their lives in the land slide in Mocoa yesterday and the many still missing

You know their hearts and share their sorrows

You see their anger at the loss they have sustained

And the comfort for which they search

They are hurt by their parting from those whom they loved

Turn their grief to true living

Their affliction to firmer hope in Christ Jesus our Lord

**Lord in your mercy**

**Hear our prayer**

Abba, Father

Thank you for bringing us into your family

May we never disappoint or forget you

May others see in us the influence of your love

To your honour and glory

Merciful father accept these prayers