

Intercessions 18 March 2018

Readings: Jeremiah 31. 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12. 20-33

We thank you for Jeremiah's words that we heard in the first reading.

For the new covenant in Jesus that has written your law on our hearts.

That we are your people and we can all know you.

That our sin is remembered no more.

We pray for our church leaders: Archbishops, in the Diocese, in our Parish.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Dear Lord, thank you that we all have a part to play in the restoration of your world. This Lent, help us to recognise opportunities we have been given to bring hope to those around us who are in need. We lift up to you all who are suffering as a result of the food crisis in East Africa:

(Beth Mather, Tearfund)

(Early last year a severe food crisis struck East Africa. A devastating drought compounded by conflicts in the region left 23 million people in need of food, water and medical treatment. The Disasters Emergency Committee launched an appeal on 15 March 2017.)

- *We pray for the rain to come and for the drought to be broken. The changing climate is fuelling the crisis, so we pray, Lord, that world leaders will commit to ways of reducing the impact on those living in poverty.*
- *We pray for the resources needed to meet the immediate needs of millions of people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somaliland and South Sudan. We bring before you, Lord, each person and family suffering in these countries, and pray that they will receive the help they desperately need.*
- *We pray for long-term programmes to promote peace and reconciliation, reduce communities' risk to disasters and prepare them to cope better in the future. We pray for these programmes to be effective and to be multiplied across many communities*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

Father, we thank you for the wonderful planet that you have entrusted us with. We ask forgiveness for the ways in which we have damaged and continue to harm our home. May we seek your wisdom in the decisions we make, understanding that you have placed us in close relationship with your creation and its global community.

(Tom Price, Photographer)

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord, please shift our understanding of community to include the people we don't see. Please help us to be the restorers of your global community, as we look to lift people out of poverty. When it comes to our communities, help us to choose togetherness over separation and action over apathy.

Dan Preston (Tearfund)

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

We hold before God:

Within our community, we ask for healing, protection and restoration for

We remember those who have died and their families and friends who mourn

We remember the anniversaries of

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer

Lord,

*When the busyness of life distracts us from the need around us,
Help us to love our neighbours.*

*When selfishness keeps us from reaching out our hands,
Help us to love our neighbours.*

*When the volume of need in the world seems too great,
Help us to love our neighbours.*

*When the world around us seems indifferent or hostile,
Help us to love our neighbours.*

*Because your love for us is greater than we could ever know,
Help us to love our neighbours.*

(Gideon Heugh, Tearfund)

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