

## Intercessions 17 June 2018

Readings: 2 Cor 4:7-9 and Mark 4:26-32 (including parable of the mustard seed)

Recalling the words of our first reading today:

“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are

afflicted in every way, but not crushed;

perplexed, but not driven to despair;

persecuted, but not forsaken;

struck down, but not destroyed.” (2 Cor 4:7-9)

We name some of the countries and regions of the world afflicted by persecution, political turmoil, war, violence, enforced migration, social inequality, and food and water shortages:

In Africa: Burundi and Central African Republic

In Central and South America: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Venezuela.

In the Middle East: Yemen, Syria, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza

Refugees, including Rohingya people in Bangladesh and Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

Lord, we pray for organisations and individuals in these areas working to deliver aid, and negotiate peace and reconciliation. Give them strength and wisdom, and may their work bring relief to those who are crushed and in despair, to those who feel forsaken.

Lord, we pray for successful outcomes to negotiations and processes set up to control and reduce nuclear weapons in Iran and on the Korean peninsula.

Lord, we also pray for those who are working to reduce human trafficking, especially as global sporting events such as the football World Cup generate an increase in the trafficking and exploitation of woman and girls.

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

Comfort and heal those amongst us who are suffering, feel afflicted or who are in despair. We particularly remember today:

Give them courage and hope, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

We remember those who have died, and pray for comfort for those who mourn them:

We remember the anniversaries of:

As we think of people who are afflicted, perplexed, in despair, struck down, we remember the residents of Grenfell Tower, particularly those who died, suffered injury, those who are left without a home, and the entire community that has been affected. As the Bishop of Kensington said:

“We pray.....that from the ashes of the tower will rise a new resolve to seek each other’s welfare before our own, to listen to each other, to ensure no community has to grieve again like this one has, where we learn to love one another just as we are loved, not just in times of disaster but as a regular way of life, whatever our differences of ethnicity or faith.”

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

The wording of intercessions in the Alternative Service Book includes:

“.....give wisdom to those in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and peace; that men may honour one another, and seek the common good.”

Lord, we see the need for wisdom for our political leaders today as much as ever, and pray for them as they think, debate and reflect. May they not lose sight of the importance of justice and peace, may they put aside their differences and honour one another, and may they seek the common good of the individual countries that make up the United Kingdom, and of our neighbouring countries in Europe.

We also pray for civil servants and government officers who have to wrestle with the complexities and implications of leaving the European Union, and negotiate with their counterparts in Europe.

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

Lord, strengthen and give wisdom to the leadership of your church: Our archbishops Justin and John, our bishops Alan, Michael and Richard; at St Andrew’s Alan, Bill, lay readers, church wardens and PCC, and Tracy in her work with young people. We pray for Wendy Sellers as she prepares for her ordination in 2 weeks time on 1 July and comes to work in our parishes.

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

If we are feeling afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, struck down, if we feel that we are living in turbulent times, Lord help us to be radically rooted as followers of Jesus before anything else, and help us to apply this to:

Our thinking about everything happening around us and around the world today; and

Our thinking about nationality, political parties, ethnicity, gender and geography.

May our identity in Christ precede every other identity.

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