

A

ABSENCE

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

ADDICTION - VICTIMS OF

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen*

AGRICULTURE

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*
See also Rogation and Harvest

AIDS

World AIDS Day

PRAY For greater awareness of HIV and AIDS,
For greater dignity and rights of people living with HIV and AIDS,
For more compassion and care
For the rejection of discrimination and stigmatisation,
For wider prevention activities that address root causes of vulnerability
For efficient mobilisation of resources and treatments,
For increased access to treatments and care,
For support for those left behind to grieve the loss of their loved ones,
For trust and hope in our God. Amen

The Mothers' Union, Living Positively, "Prayers and Reflections"

ALONE - THOSE WHO LIVE

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfilment in loving you and their neighbours; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

ANIMALS

Hear us, O God, when we pray for our friends the animals, especially for animals who are suffering, for all that are overworked and underfed and cruelly treated, for any that are hunted or lost or frightened or hungry. We ask that those who deal with them may be given a heart of compassion, and gentle hands and kindly words. Make us ourselves to be true friends to all animals. *Amen*

APOSTOLIC WITNESS

O God, who by the preaching of the apostles didst cause the light of thy gospel to shine upon the nations: Grant, we beseech thee, that we, having their life and labour in remembrance, may show forth our thankfulness to thee for so great a gift, by following the example of their zeal and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Almighty God, who didst give such grace to thy Apostle Saint Andrew, that he counted the sharp and painful death of the cross to be an high honour, and a great joy: Grant us to take and esteem all troubles and adversities which shall come unto us for thy sake, as things profitable for us toward the obtaining of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Almighty Saviour, who didst call thy servant Saint Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles: We beseech thee to illumine the world with the radiance of the gospel of thy grace committed to his trust, that all nations may worship thee and acknowledge thee to be the Lord; who art with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, world without end. *Amen*

Father of Mercies, who to thine Apostle Saint Peter didst reveal in threefold vision thy boundless compassion: Forgive we pray thee our unbelief, and so enlarge our hearts and enkindle our zeal, that we may fervently desire the salvation of all men, and with more ready diligence labour in the extension of thy kingdom; for his sake who gave himself for the life of the world, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

Eternal Father, who art the God not of the dead but of the living: We give thee thanks and praise for all the generations of the faithful, who, having served thee here in godliness and love' are now with thee in glory; and, we beseech thee, enable us so to follow them in all godly living and faithful service, that hereafter we may with them behold thy face, and in the heavenly places be one with them for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God, whom the glorious companies of the redeemed adore, assembled from all times and places of thy dominion: We praise thee for the Saints of this our land who stand before the throne and serve thee day and night in thy holy temple; beseeching thee that we also may be numbered among them that work thy righteousness and see thy face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Lord God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us always to rejoice in thee, and to be anxious for nothing: Grant, we beseech thee, that, making our requests known to thee, we may be partakers of the peace that passeth all understanding, which thou hast promised us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

ARMED SERVICES

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

God our Father, we pray for all who serve our country as sailors, soldiers and airmen Grant that meeting danger with courage, and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace, for the honour of your name. *Amen*
New Every Morning

To your care and protection, O Lord of hosts, we commend the men and women of our armed forces at home and overseas. Defend them in the hour of danger; strengthen them in the fulfilment of their duty; and enable them to serve their country with loyalty, courage and honour; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

See also Remembrance

B

BAPTISM

Those About To Be Baptised

O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the heart(s) and mind(s) of (name) (and all your servants) ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that she/he/they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

For all who are baptised into Christ

Gracious God,
we who have been brought from death to life,
dedicate ourselves to you.
Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit.
Equip us to serve your people
and advance your gospel in the world.
Enable us to live in holiness and righteousness
and to please you in all that we do;
in the name of Jesus our Saviour. *Amen*

God of all times and places,
in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross,
you opened for us the path to eternal life:
grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit,
may joyfully serve you in newness of life
and faithfully walk in your holy ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. *Amen*

BENEDICTIONS AND CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Now the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit; through him who died for us and rose again, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God of peace, who didst bring again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant: Make us perfect in every good thing to do thy will, working in us that which is well pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen*

Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honour and power, for thou didst create all things, and by thy will they existed and were created. To him who sits upon

the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever.
Amen

The power of the Father, The wisdom of the Son, The love of the Holy Spirit, Keep' teach and guide us for ever. *Amen*

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us, the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us his peace.

Amen

Into thy hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves this day. Let thy presence be with us to its end. Teach us to see that in doing our work we are doing thy will, and that by serving others we are serving thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord, set a watch over our lips and a guard over our hearts, that we always do what is pleasing in your sight. *Amen*

May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine upon you and warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire, so that the stranger may come and warm himself at it, as well as the friend.

And may the light shine out of the eyes of you' like a candle set in the windows of a house, bidding the wanderer to come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you-the soft sweet rain. May it fall upon your spirit so that all the little flowers may spring up, and shed their sweetness on the air.

And may the blessing of the great rains be on you, may they beat upon your spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there many a shining pool where the blue of heaven shines, and sometimes a star. And may the blessing of the earth be on you - the great round earth; may you ever have a kindly greeting for people you pass as you're going along the roads. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. *Amen*

An Old Irish blessing

Lord, each morning and each evening may we remember this advice: Lord, we do not pray for easy lives, we pray to be stronger people; we do not pray for tasks equal to our powers, but for powers equal to our tasks. *Amen*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen*

2 Corinthians

13

BEREAVEMENT

O merciful Father, who taught us in your holy Word that you would not willingly afflict us, look with pity upon the sorrows of (name) for whom our prayers are offered. Remember her/him, O Lord, in mercy, nourish her/his soul with patience, comfort her/him with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon her/him, and give her/him peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Untimely death

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst weep at the grave of Lazarus thy friend: Have compassion upon thy servants who mourn this untimely death; and hasten the time when sin and sorrow shall be no more, and all shall rejoice in thee, the Resurrection and the Life; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest one God, world without end. *Amen*

BIBLE

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for your most gracious gift of Scripture through which you have revealed to us so much of your goodness mercy and love. In our reading of Scripture send your Spirit; Open our minds to fresh understanding of you, the only true God; and grant that in the written Word we may encounter the living Word, Your Son' our Saviour' Jesus Christ. *Amen*

BIRTHDAY

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favour, we pray, on (name) as she/he begins another year. Grant that she/he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen her/his trust in your goodness all the days of her/his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

BISHOPS

Heavenly Father,
give to our bishops,
a daily renewal in your presence,
uphold them with your peace,
a peace that passes all understanding,
enlighten them with your word,
and strengthen them with your grace. *Amen*
See also Clergy and Ordination

C

CARE - THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUING

Look with mercy, O God our Father? on all persons who have become ill, weak? distressed, or isolated. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

CHILDREN

For the care of

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

To be shared responsively ...

Adults: Thank you Lord, for children: those we have borne, adopted, befriended, or promised to guide through their growing up years.

Children: God, we pray for children who have no parents: those who are poor and cannot buy food, those who are sick and unable to get well. Lord please help kids and parents with their living needs.

Adults: Guide us as we grow and learn together. Keep our hearts close to our children, even though shadows fall and distance separates us.

Children: Please watch over children in the world, those who are starving and at war. And please watch over us. You feed, shelter and guide us as we grow. Please do the same in other places, for those children who have more needs than we.

Adults: Challenge us Lord, to keep peace in our hearts, homes, nation and world so that all may know the bounty of your love. *Amen*.

For homes and education

O Lord Jesus Christ, who was thyself a child at Nazareth: We bring again to thee the children of this parish, that they may love thee above all things. Grant wisdom and faithfulness to all parents, that our Christian homes may be bulwarks of our common life, and that children may grow up to the praise of thy holy name. *Amen*

O Lord, who didst found thy Church to proclaim the Faith by preaching and teaching: Give to our leaders in religious education undaunted courage and wisdom, and to us a new spirit of faith and adventure, so that thy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, to the glory of thy name. *Amen*

We bring before God the parent of us all our concerns for the children of our community. We ask for God's blessing on all engaged in education in teaching, administration and policy formation. We pray that they and us will be guided by God to work for the welfare of all our people and for this place and this world which is God's creation. *Amen*

For children who need justice

O God, as a people of faith, young and old together, we are your body. We have the arms that can offer comfort and build playgrounds; we have the minds and hearts that can teach loving ways of relating; we have the voices that can speak for justice. Let us never forget the children, youth and families of the world who need comfort, who need safe and peaceful places to live, work and to play. Forgive us when we despair. Give us the courage to say "NO!" to fists and guns and bombs. And grant us the energy and vision to make your love and peace known to all the children of the world. In the name of your son, Jesus, whose life shows us how to welcome all children, we pray. *Amen*

CHRISTMAS

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. *Amen*

Almighty and everlasting God, who orderest all things in heaven and on earth: We give thee thanks and praise that thou didst make all ages a preparation for the coming of thy Son, our blessed Redeemer. Prepare us for the coming of him whom thou dost send' and grant that of his fullness we may all receive; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord God Almighty, King of glory and love eternal, worthy art thou at all times to receive adoration, praise, and blessing; but especially at this time do we praise thee for the sending of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, for whom our hearts do wait, and to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honour and dominion, now and for ever. *Amen*

O God, who as on this night, by a glorious company of the heavenly host, didst proclaim the birth of thy Son our Saviour upon earth: With heart and voice we join in their holy song, praising thee and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

PSP - PRAYERS A - Z Part 1 A - G

Father, we pray that the joy of Christmas may fill our hearts with a new and deeper sense of your love for us and for your world, and that we may reflect your love by serving those in need; for his sake who came to be the Saviour of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast given us this season of holy joy: We bow before thee with adoring reverence and lift up our hearts with thankful praise. Fill us, we beseech thee, with the gladness of thy great redemption, and enable us to join in the angels song, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

May God Almighty, who by the incarnation of his only-begotten Son drove away the darkness of the world, and by his glorious birth enlightened this most holy night, drive away from us the darkness of sin, and enlighten our hearts with the light of Christian grace. *Amen*

Merciful and most loving God, by whose will and bountiful gift thine eternal Son humbled himself that he might exalt mankind, and became flesh that he might renew in us the divine image:

Perfect us in thy likeness, and bring us at last to rejoice in beholding thy beauty, and, with all thy saints, to glory thy grace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Most merciful God, for whose chosen handmaid and her Holy Babe there was no room in the inn at Bethlehem: Help us all by thy Spirit to make room for the Christ in our common days, that his peace and joy may fill our hearts, and his love flow through our lives to the blessing of others; for his name s sake. *Amen*

O Lord, we thank you for all the joy and happiness of Christmas Amid all the laughter and fun may we remember the baby who was born in a stable, and who became poor that we might be made rich. Help us to follow his example, and so become worthy followers of Jesus Christ.
Amen

Help us, Father, like shepherds and wise men of old to lay our gifts of hand and heart at the feet of your Son, and to put our lives at his disposal in the service of the kingdom of heaven upon earth. *Amen*

We thank you, Father, that once again it is Christmas.

We thank you for presents and cards, for Christmas dinner and parties, for visits to other people and other people to stay with us.

It's a great time of the year, and we are very glad.

And we thank you that for once we are not thinking of how important or clever or kind we are, but of how much we owe to you for giving us Jesus.

How wise he was! How brave he was! How important he has become!

He has taken us all on, to make us what you want us to be.

Although we have heard this so many times before, it is still staggering.

Make us more and more glad and more and more thankful as the years go by. *Amen*

Heavenly Father, as we sing our Christmas-time praise our own words condemn us.

We are thanking you for sending Jesus to show us how life ought to be lived: but we have not often really tried to live like him.

Forgive us, Father

We are thanking you for making it clear to us in Jesus that there is no limit to your love for us: but we are always setting limits on our love for you and for one another.

Forgive us, Father

We are thanking you for keeping your promises, made to Abraham and the people of long ago: but there are many times when we do not keep our promises. Sometimes we cannot, because we have promised too much. Sometimes we could, but do not because it is too much trouble.

Forgive us, Father

God our Father, we thank you for the joy and wonder of this day; for the long ages of preparation as your world unfolded its variety and you gave birth to mankind; and then the further preparing of man, through the experience of your covenant mercies, until the time had come for you to send your Son and so reveal your face. May the church of Jesus have the character of Jesus. May our words of homage today be borne out by our actions every day.

We pray for families united today; and for families sundered by illness or injury or estrangement.

We pray, Father, that in this world of yours and ours, justice may be done to the human rights of all, and that upon that foundation you will build true peace for us. Help each one of us to be a doer of justice and a maker of peace. May we love mercy and ever walk humbly with you and with one another: so that at the last your plan may be fulfilled indeed, and all men worship you in the brotherhood of eternity in the one Name of our salvation, Jesus Christ the Lord. *Amen*

See also **JERUSALEM**

CHURCH

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Saviour. *Amen*

Eternal Father, who wouldst make the Church of thy dear Son a city great and fair, the joy of the whole earth: We beseech thee, by the sending of thy Holy Spirit, to direct its counsels in all manner of wisdom, love, and might. Remove perplexity, establish concord, kindle flame; and gather a people single and strong of faith, to the praise of him who with thee and the same Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen*

O Eternal Lord God, who by the noble fortitude of missionaries and martyrs hast caused thy Word to grow mightily and to prevail: Pour thy Spirit upon thy Church in this land, that, by the service and sacrifice of our faith, thy saving health may be known among the nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God our Father, in whom is all quietness and concord: Teach us to overcome all dissensions within thy Church which divide us from one another and from thee; and by thy grace make us all one in thee by the uniting power of true faith and fervent charity, so that thy Church may patiently serve and glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

PSP - PRAYERS A - Z Part 1 A - G

O God, who in all ages hast called men to positions of leadership and responsibility in thy Church: Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all who have the duty of advancing the work of the Church in education, that they may serve before thee as faithful stewards in thy kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who hast called us to be members of the Anglican Communion and to a partnership of churches in all parts of the world: Grant, we beseech thee, that we may understand the mission which thou hast entrusted to us, and our duty to those who are separated from us; that penitently recognising our failings in the past, we may go forward in unity and love to the fulfilment of our common work; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Grant, O Lord, that as there is one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one hope of our calling; so thy Church, being one body, may draw all nations to the one baptism, as children of the one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all now and for evermore. *Amen*

Ye shall pray for Christ's holy catholic Church, that is, for the whole congregation of Christian people dispersed throughout the whole earth, and especially for the Church of Ireland;

For our sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and all the royal family; for the ministers of God's holy Word and sacraments; for the High Court of Parliament; and for all the Magistrates of this realm: that all and every one of them, in their several callings, may serve truly to the glory of God, and the edifying and well governing of his people. Also ye shall pray for all the people of this realm' that they may live in the true faith and fear of God, and in brotherly charity one to another.

And, that there may never be wanting a succession of persons duly qualified for the service of God in Church and State, ye shall implore his blessing on all schools, colleges and universities; that therein true religion and sound learning may for ever flourish.

To these your prayers ye shall add unfeigned praises for mercies already received; for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for the inestimable love of God in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

Finally, let us praise God for all those who are departed this life in the faith of Christ, and pray unto God that we may have grace to direct our lives after their good example; that this life ended, we may be made partakers with them of the glorious resurrection in the life everlasting.

All these our prayers and praises let us humbly offer to our heavenly Father through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour, saying as he taught us: Our Father

CIMS - Church of Ireland Men's Society

Almighty God, who has called us to your service in the fellowship of your holy Church, bless the Church of Ireland Men's Society in all its branches. Make all our members sound in faith and holy in life. Bestow upon us the spirit of prayer. Grant us by love to serve one another and the world, and perfect in us that good work which you have begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

CLERGY

Thank you, Lord, for continuing to call men and women to the ordained ministry. For those who are being ordained at this time we ask for courage and patience, joy, and above all for compassion.

May they grow in love for you and their fellow men, and so make your infinite love a living reality in the world of our day.

As you gave all you had for us, so help them to give themselves wholly in love and prayer and service. *Amen*

O God, you have chosen men and women to serve you in the ministry of your Church and have given them a perfect example in the person of your Son Jesus Christ.

We ask your blessing on all bishops, priests and deacons (especially...).

Let them never forget the privilege of their calling, nor shirk its responsibilities.

Keep them in your love, that they may be good shepherds of your people and true servants of him who is our great High Priest Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

God, you have told us to pray for more labourers in your harvest-field.

We ask you then to call many of your sons and daughters to the work of the ministry, and to enable them by your grace to hear and act upon your call.

Make them at all times sensitive to your guidance, willing to learn and eager to serve.

We ask this in the name of him who came not to be ministered to but to minister, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen*

Lord Jesus Christ, Apostle, Priest and Servant, bless those whom you have called to the ministry as bishops, priests, and deacons. May they lead your people courageously, care for them lovingly, teach them faithfully, and send them forth to be your witnesses in the world; for your names sake. *Amen*

Lord God, we pray for your Church's ministers.

May they have strength for their work, and grow in holiness and love.

May they be mature in their faith and wise in their judgements.

May they be confident of your grace and zealous in fulfilling their duties.

May they boldly proclaim the truth of your Word and faithfully administer your sacraments.

And may they seek your glory in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

God, you have told us to pray for more labourers in your harvest-field. We ask you then to call many of your sons and daughters to that work and make them ready to hear and act upon your call. Make them at all times sensitive to your guidance, willing to learn and eager to obey. We ask this in the name of him who came not to be ministered to but to minister, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen*

For Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels; Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ.

Amen

COMMITMENT

God, our Father, you can make all things new.

We commit ourselves to you: help us

- to live for others since your love includes all men,

PSP - PRAYERS A - Z Part 1 A - G

- to seek those truths which we have not yet seen,
- to obey your commands which we have heard but not yet obeyed,
- to trust each other in the fellowship which you have given us;
and may we be renewed, by your spirit through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.

Amen

Uppsala prayer: World Council of Churches, 1968.

O Lord, remember not only men of goodwill but also men of ill-will. We bring to Thee not only our sufferings but the fruits that we have borne thanks to these sufferings; the loyalty, the friendship, the comradeship, the greatness of heart which has grown out of this. And when our tormentors come to judgement let the fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. *Amen*

Prayer written by a concentration camp victim during the Second World War, and discovered after his death.

COMMUNICATIONS

Stewardship of reading, viewing and listening

Lord we have discovered so much of your world through books, and films, television and radio. We thank you for these means of educating our minds and hearts. Yet we know, Lord, the dangers of misuse of the media in ways that can lead into darkness rather than light. Raise up in your Church, and in the world, those who will produce material that will be for the good, and not the harm, of your people and for the advancing of the values of your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name. *Amen*

COMMUNITY

O God,
Let us be united,
Let us speak in harmony,
Let our minds apprehend alike.
Common be our prayer;
Common be the end of our assembly;
Common be our resolution;
Common be our deliberations.
Alike be our feelings;
Unified be our hearts;
Common be our intentions;
Perfect be our unity. *Amen*

A Hindu prayer from the Rig Veda

O Lord, Ruler of all the world,
You know what problems kings and governments face today.
Help them in their work; give them strength, courage and patience, and when they have decisions to make, help them choose wisely.
We pray, too, for all prisoners, especially your followers who are being unjustly punished.
Help them to keep their courage and their faith.
Help them, like Jesus, to witness to those around them, so that those who see your power in action may come to know you, too. *Amen*

Katharine Dickson

God, our Father, you can make all things new.

We commit ourselves to you: help us

- to live for others since your love includes all men,
- to seek those truths which we have not yet seen,
- to obey your commands which we have heard but not yet obeyed,

to trust each other in the fellowship which you have given us; and may we be renewed, by your spirit through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. *Amen*

Uppsala prayer: World Council of Churches, 1968.

The community in which we live

For the people of the United Kingdom/Republic of Ireland, that we may be united in building a society in which everyone can live with dignity and hope, we pray to the Lord ...

For the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practising charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world, we pray to the Lord ...

For Christians throughout our nation, that the values of our faith may guide us as we exercise our responsibility as voters, we pray to the Lord ...

For the members of this community, that we may find ways to help build a world of greater respect for human life and human dignity, we pray to the Lord ...

For those who serve in elected office, that they may lead with courage and wisdom, reflecting the Church's teaching that the moral test of our society is how the poor, the weak, and the vulnerable are faring, we pray to the Lord ...

For all citizens of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom/Republic of Ireland, that our participation in the upcoming election may lead to a world of greater justice and peace, we pray to the Lord ...

For those who are suffering from poverty and injustice, that our decisions this election year may lead to policies and programmes that help them live in dignity, we pray to the Lord ...

For the earth, that our nation's leaders will be inspired by God's Spirit to protect all of His creation, we pray to the Lord...

For workers around the world, especially children who work long hours for little pay, that we might all seek ways to promote fairness, justice, and dignity in their lives, we pray to the Lord ...

For leaders around world, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and development for all nations, we pray to the Lord ...

Awareness of God and others

Father in Heaven, draw near to us now, guide our thoughts and speak to us so that we can understand. Help us always to recognise your presence) in the beauty of the countryside, in the beauty of music and colour, in the lives of brave men and women, in everything that is done to your glory.

Help us, too, to live our lives to your glory, grudging nothing, and realising that everything we have is from you. Give us kindly hearts, a love for our fellow men and a desire to make life happier for those whom we meet day by day. Save us from being so interested in ourselves that we are blind to the needs of others.

Save us from taking ourselves so seriously that we cannot laugh at ourselves. This we pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his whole life in the service of others. *Amen*

CONFESSION

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out our offences. Wash us through and through from our wickedness and cleanse us from our sins. For we know our transgressions only too well, and our sin is ever before us. Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us. *Amen*

CONSCIENCE

O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. *Amen*

CONFIDENCE

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we will be saved, in quietness and confidence will be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*
The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church

COUNTRY

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favour and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honourable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

CREATION

Eternal God, We thank you for the glory of your creation--a mystery that surpasses our knowledge. Eternal God, We thank you for the earth and water, sun and wind, creatures and peoples--cultures--nations: Guide us we gather to confess that we have violated the gift of life given to us. Strengthen us as we seek to affirm that the earth and all therein is yours. Enable us as we seek to recall your covenant and make it our own
World Council of Churches

Knowledge of God's Creation

Almighty and everlasting God, you made the universe with all its marvellous order, its atoms, worlds, and galaxies, and the infinite complexity of living creatures: Grant that, as

we probe the mysteries of your creation, we may come to know you more truly, and more surely fulfil our role in your eternal purpose; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*
The Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church

Come, Holy Spirit--Renew the Whole Creation

O God, the Holy Spirit, come to us, and among us; come as the wind, and cleanse us; come as the fire, and burn; come as the dew, and refresh; convict, convert, and consecrate many hearts and lives to our great good and thy greater glory, and this we ask for Jesus Christ's sake.

In Spirit and In Truth: A Worship Book," World Council of Churches' Seventh Assembly, Canberra, Australia

Responsory

O Supreme Lord of the Universe, You fill and sustain everything around us; With the touch of your hand you turned chaos into order, darkness into light.

We adore you, we love you, we praise you.

From you burst forth the splendor of the sun, and the mild radiance of the moon. Stars and planets without number you set in ordered movement. You are the source of the fire's heat and the wind's might, of the water's coolness and the earth's stability.

We adore you, we love you, we praise you.

Deep and wonderful are the mysteries of your creation. We adore you, we love you, we praise you.

You are beyond all form, you give life and hope to all, You are the Lord of all creation.

World Council of Churches.

Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Giver of Life--Sustain Your Creation

We praise you, Holy Spirit, our Advocate and Comforter. Help us to affirm life in the midst of death, supporting us as we confront the power of destruction, urging us to hammer swords into plowshares and spears into pruning knives; So that wolves and sheep live together in peace, life is celebrated, creation is restored as the Sphere of the living. Holy Spirit, we praise you; help us to affirm life in the midst of death. Amen.

World Council of Churches

Stewardship of air and space

Eternal God, in your infinite goodness and wisdom you have created the air we breathe, that complex, yet subtle mixture of gases on which all life depends. As human beings, who alone can pollute, destroy and contaminate your pure gift, make us alert to our great responsibility, and give governments wisdom and courage to intervene and direct, for the good of all your creation. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Stewardship of rivers and oceans

Creator God, your majesty and glory are displayed in the vastness and power of the oceans and seas, and your refreshing love is a spring of Living water. Thank you for the

gift of rain and rivers and oceans. We acknowledge that so often we have abused this gift by our carelessness and greed, Forgive us, and recreate within us a right spirit towards this part of your creation, that it might be nightly used as a life sustaining and refreshing gift for all your creatures. In Jesus' Name. *Amen*

Stewardship of land and produce

O God, the Creator, thank you for your gracious and generous provision for our material needs, and for those who in partnership with you make available the fruits of the harvest, May we be compassionate to those who are hungry and in need. Teach us to be responsible stewards of the land and our environment, so that all may continue to share in the fruits of your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Stewardship of the local environment

Father, you created mankind in your own image and called them to share with you in the work of creation. Be with us as we seek to care responsibly for our world, our homes, our gardens and farms, the street where we live, the community we share with others. Help us to see the hand of the creator wherever we may live; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

D

DAILY NEEDS

O Father, who dost supply the need of every living thing, we bless thee for our food and clothing, for our homes and parents, and for all the many people who help us every day of our lives. Help us to be grateful, not only to thee, but to those who toil, often in great danger, to bring us the things we need. *Amen*

DEDICATION

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen*

DEPARTED

Father of all, we pray for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. *Amen*

DISASTER

For the people of let us pray to the Lord

God of all the world,
we lift to you the people of(Name)
at this time of great distress.
Comfort those who have lost much;

confound those who take advantage of the suffering of others;
prosper the work of those who bring help;
and keep alive the hope
of a new start and a thriving future. *Amen*

DYING

Bring us, Lord our God, at our last awakening, into the house and gate of heaven, to enter into that gate, and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling but one equal light, no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession: no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity; in the habitation of your glory and dominion, world without end. *Amen*

E

ELECTIONS

Personal prayer at the time of an election

Gracious and loving God, let your Spirit be with me today. Hear my prayers, and increase in me the will to follow your Son Jesus. Help me to draw on the resources of my faith as I use the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, especially the poor and vulnerable. I ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. *Amen*

ENEMIES

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth; deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

EMPLOYMENT

A blessing on our work

Bless us, O Lord our God, in all the work of our hands, and bless our years, and satisfy the world and its fullness with Thy goodness, through the richness of the gifts of Thy hands, and preserve and prosper, O Lord our God! this year with every kind of produce, keeping from it every kind of destruction and want; and grant to it issue, and hope, and plenty, and peace, and blessing, as in other good years. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, that blessest the years. *Amen*

Stewardship of employment possibilities

Gracious Father, creator of heaven and earth, you endow people with personalities, abilities and potential, to be used for wholesome self-development and the welfare of others. May we have genuine concern for those who cannot obtain employment opportunities. Help us to be supportive of all responsible endeavours to overcome joblessness and its attendant injuries and injustices. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

EVANGELISM

Almighty God, you called your church to be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. By your grace you have given us new life in Jesus Christ, and by your Spirit you have called us to

proclaim his name through out the nations: Awaken in us such a love for you and your world that we may so boldly proclaim Jesus Christ by word and deed that all people may come to know him as Saviour and follow him as Lord; to the glory of your Name. *Amen*

*Jesus Christ, Son of God,
make yourself known through me.
Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
speak through me to others.*

F

FAITHFULNESS/LOYALTY

Lord, help us to be loyal, to stand by those who love us, never to let anyone down, whether it be our parents, friends, school or country. Above all, to be loyal to God and to the purpose for which he sent us into the world. Make us humble, brave and loving; make us ready to adventure for your cause. We do not ask that you will keep us safe, but that you will keep us loyal, brave and true. *Amen*

FAMILIES

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who places solitary persons in families: We commend to your continual care the homes in which your people dwell. Put far from them, we beseech you, every root of bitterness, the desire of vain glory, and the pride of life. Fill them with faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, and godliness. Knit together in constant affection those who, in marriage, have been made one flesh. Turn the hearts of the parents to the children, and the hearts of the children to the parents; and so enkindle fervent charity among us all, that we may evermore be kindly one to another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

We pray for God's blessing on our world, our families, our friends and ourselves; for all children, young people and parents.

Father in heaven, pattern of all parenthood and lover of children, we pray for homes and families across the world.

Sustain and comfort them in need and sorrow.

In times of bitterness, tension and division, draw near to heal.

May parents and children together be learners in the school of Christ, daily increasing in mutual respect and understanding, in tolerance and patience, and in all-prevailing love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Stewardship of parenthood

Loving Father, thank you for your enduring faithfulness to all your children. You have shown us patience, perseverance, and loving kindness through the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Help all parents to exercise their responsibilities following your example, so that all in their care may grow in the knowledge and love of your Son Jesus Christ. When parents are disappointed help them to go on forgiving and caring, through the power of your Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Stewardship of family life

PSP - PRAYERS A - Z Part 1 A - G

Eternal God, you have put us in families to learn how to love and how to live. Thank you, for parents who taught and comforted us and first showed us your loving kindness: for children who enrich our lives with joy and hope: for husbands and wives, and all who care for us. In gratitude may we share with those around us what we have received from you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Young families

Loving Lord Jesus, friend of all, you knew the demands made on family life. We pray that you will help us to reach out, in your name, to all the new parents we meet in our everyday life.

When they tell us they don't believe in you and have no time for the Church, give us courage just to offer a helping hand, a friendly word, a smile. We pray that these small but sincere signs of love and friendship will show them the way to your love and friendship.

Amen

Kate Smith

Young mothers

Lord Jesus, you know what it is like to be exhausted, stretched to the limits and alone.

We pray for all new mothers: they can get so tired: too tired to bake, to iron, to Hoover, to shop, too tired even to think of you, to pray or to go to church; everything can be all too much: help us to show that we care, that our society (the Mothers Union) cares, and that the Church cares.

We pray that whenever an opportunity arises we can show our care by our practical help. We ask you to help us share and care in your name and for your sake. *Amen*

Kate Smith

Home and loved ones

Loving Father, bless our homes and our loved ones. Help us to be grateful for all the good things we enjoy. Keep us from grumbling and ill-temper. Help us, with cheerful hearts, to be kind to one another and to do our share in making our home the abode of happiness and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

FINANCE

Stewardship of personal and family finances

God, our Father, your Son Jesus Christ taught his disciples to ask from you their daily bread, and called them to responsible service: Grant us all grace and wisdom to manage responsibly, that with which you bless us, be it large or small, for ourselves and our families, not for today only but looking to the future so that we may be able faithfully to serve you and one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

G

GOD - OF MANY NAMES

O God, Creator

Maker of humankind in Your own image,
Who creates the earth, our eden,

PSP - PRAYERS A - Z Part 1 A - G

Our dwelling place, pure and undefiled
Who places divinity within each of Your children,
God, Creator, help us keep our bodies and minds
Temples of Your spirit and images of Your Divine being.

O God, Liberator

You whose concern begins with liberation,
Who commands oppressors: "Let my people go!"
Who desires the loosening of shackles of slavery,
Destroying chains which hold down Your people;
God, Liberator, free Your people!

O God, one God, whole,

Who sees us as whole
Even when those about us would make us less,
Whole, even with the ravages of aging showing
In wrinkled cheek and forgetful mind,
Disabled in sight or hearing or limb,
Who reminds us that a rose is still a rose
Even with a petal missing,
God, whole, help us to claim the wholeness You grant.

O God, Peacemaker, who desires that all humankind

Live as one family of nations and peoples,
In harmony with one another,
Beyond divisions of gender, of class,
Of ethnic origin, of ability/disability,
God, Peacemaker, enable us to live in harmony with each other
And at peace within ourselves.

O God, Healer'

Who wills that hurt be healed,
Violence be ended, healing take place,
Destructive powers be shorn of strength
Even before their evil impact is felt:
And that, hereafter, none shall be hurt or
Destroyed in all Your holy mountain.

To You, O God, we pray in all Your many names

With joyous confidence and trust,
Knowing You have called us into being
As Your children, Your royal priesthood.
The whole world in Your hands
From the very beginning of time;
And that underneath, upholding, sustaining
And supporting Your whole creation
Are thine own everlasting arms.

Grant, O God our Father, that we may ever walk in your presence with your love in our hearts, your truths in our minds, your strength in our wills that finally when we stand before you, it may be with the assurance of your welcome and the joy of our home coming.

Amen

GOVERNMENT- LOCAL

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State (*or, Commonwealth, City, County, Town, Area*) the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Stewardship of local community facilities

Lord of all creation, you call us to belong to local communities: Give us all a pride in our town/city/district* We thank you for the service of the elected representatives on our local Council and for its officers. We pray for them. In our local community may people be able to find work, leisure facilities and those services on which our common life today depends. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

GOVERNMENT - LOCAL AND NATIONAL

Stewardship of political responsibilities

Almighty God, We pray for all who serve in public affairs. All who represent us in local and national government. (We remember especially at Westminster, and the members of our Local Council.) May they make decisions that are good, Laws that are just, and policies that make for good government. Help us all to acknowledge our political responsibilities by acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with you, our God. *Amen*

GRIEF

Meditation - Walking with grief

Do not hurry
as you walk with grief;
it does not help the journey.
Walk slowly,
pausing often;
do not hurry
as you walk with grief.
Be not disturbed
by memories that come unbidden.
Swiftly forgive;
and let Christ speak to you
unspoken words.
Unfinished conversation
will be resolved in him.
Be not disturbed
Be gentle with the one
who walks with grief.
If it is you,
be gentle with yourself.
Swiftly forgive;
walk slowly,
pausing often.
Take time, be gentle
as you walk with grief.
From the Northumbria Community