

Intercessions on Sunday 3 August 2025

by Andrew Goodman

First reading: Colossians 3.5-14

Gospel: Luke 12.13-21

Collect: Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, we have already acknowledged in the collect that our faith is small as a mustard seed, and asked that it may grow. Help us as we pray now for people around the world in seemingly impossible situations.

As the songwriter once said: "Dying trees will grow greener when you pray."

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

A prayer from CAFOD's country representative for Niger:

Lord, we're so thankful for the gift of life, the gift of creation and your tender care in every aspect of our lives, every day. You have lovingly organised the heavens, the earth and all they contain in order to generously fulfil our needs and provide safety to your creation.

May you fill us with humility, wisdom and strength to administer our needs and wants so that - as heirs of the gift of life together with the whole of your creation - the privilege you have granted us to enjoy the offerings of your work stands in agreement with the responsibility you

have given us to care for it, in accordance to your divine order.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we acknowledge this responsibility you have given us to care for your creation, and look for success at the 5th round of plastics treaty negotiations in Geneva starting on Tuesday 5th and running up to 15th August:

- May ambition and courage secure change on a global scale through a plastics treaty.
- Give energy and perseverance to all participants in the negotiations. May they carry hope over despair in their conversations with negotiators and stakeholders.
- May decision-makers and negotiators understand the scale of the problem and put aside politics, self-interest and corporate greed in favour of solutions that will benefit the whole world, particularly people living in poverty.
- May legally binding targets be set for countries to reduce plastic production, drastically improve waste management and scale up reuse solutions so that less waste is created.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for the work of the Arocha EcoChurch programme, designed to equip churches to care for creation, and the framework it provides for supporting churches and leadership to take practical action.

May their promotion of the Zero Hour campaign's Zoom meeting on Tuesday encourage us and many people around the UK to get involved with bringing about real change for climate and nature, and especially in applying pressure on

the Government to progress the Climate and Nature Bill that is at a standstill at the moment.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, it appears to us that we are witnessing in Gaza the brutal starvation of a population. Surely starvation - especially mass starvation - must transcend politics? We thank you, Lord, that this crisis is slowly but surely uniting people and nations in urgent common purpose to stop it and save lives - particularly because, as is the case in Gaza, the first to suffer and die are often children.

Lord, we recall Jesus' words:

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”
(Luke 18:15)

Lord, along with the starvation in Gaza goes a dire shortage of water. The Bible is full of references to water. We recall the prophet Amos' reminder that you thirst for justice, not empty sacrifice:

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24)

Lord, we recall Jesus' offer of “living water” to the Samaritan woman at the well:

“Whoever drinks the water I give them, will never thirst”
(John 4:14).

Lord, we long to see a tenable, fair and secure two-state or any alternative solution that recognises the dignity and

sovereignty of two peoples sharing the land, so that there is an end to starvation and an abundance of water to sustain life.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, bless the work and ministry of International Health Partners who we support through our mission giving. We thank you that they are able to supply free medicines and health supplies to clinics, hospitals and healthcare workers around the world caring especially for refugees and victims of conflict.

We thank you for the way they model what Paul wrote to the Colossians: their faithful action, without borders, with no distinction between "..... Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,..... slave and free,..... [because] Christ is all and in all!" (Colossians 3.11)

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, comfort all those who are suffering physically, mentally and emotionally. We commit to you those known to us who are unwell:

Restore to them the healing and joy of your salvation.

Lord, comfort all those mourning the loss of loved ones. We commit to you those known to us who have died recently:

Lord, we thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us and give us peace. Bring comfort and reassurance to those who mourn that you are with them in their pain and sorrow.

We remember the anniversaries of:

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, as the apostle Paul reminded us in our reading this morning, we thank you that we are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved. We thank you, too, for the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, and above all, clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Colossians 3.14)

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