

Intercessions on Sunday 7 June 2026

by Andrew Goodman

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-9 (God's call to Abram)

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11 (Jesus calls his first disciples)

Collect: God of truth, help us to keep your law of love and to walk in ways of wisdom, that we may find true life in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Lord, we have been witness this week to how Henry Nowak's life tragically ended, and to the dignified and powerful words of his grieving family who do not want his murder to be used to create further division, hatred or tension.

Yet, in spite of this, we have been subject to a wave of hateful messaging that proliferates online, amplified by algorithms.

Lord, give wisdom to the Government as they consider how to protect us from lies, disinformation and misinformation, some of which originates from politicians and wealthy owners of social media platforms.

And give us wisdom, too, as we deliberate on the potential benefits and harms from the rapid developments in artificial intelligence, and the impact this has on our lives.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for all the volunteers who work with Herts Welcomes Refugees, a charity we support through our mission giving, and the recognition given to this work by the recent receipt of the King's Award for Voluntary Service.

May they have plenty of opportunities during Refugee Week which is taking place between 15 and 21 June to share some of the courageous stories refugees and asylum seekers have shared with them.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Sunday worship on Zoom marks its fifth anniversary on 20 June, five years since it began to offer the service online in its current format.

Lord, we thank you for Nick and Kath who continue to lead this service, making it available to anyone, anywhere. Bless them and everyone who joins in regularly or occasionally or just on a 'one-off' basis from any part of the world.

Thank you for their prayers for us worshipping at St Andrew's and St Mary's every week. Today, we join with them as each week they pray for Ukraine using the Archbishop's prayer:

*God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and
in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

In recognition of World Environment Day last week on 5 June, we thank you Lord for your glorious creation which you sustain. We thank you, Lord, for everyone who is working to protect it from the consequences of our life choices, including support and care for people living in poverty whose food systems are dependent on temperatures and rainfall that are less predictable each year.

May these communities and their needs be at the heart of the Bonn Climate Conference next week, where vital decisions will be made for COP31, the UN Climate Summit taking place later this year in November.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we thank you for health and aid workers and all organisations, including churches, working to care for people affected by the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo and sharing vital information about staying safe from the disease.

Keep them physically, emotionally and spiritually strong, and may they have encouragement and rest.

Give success to those developing potential vaccines and treatments.

We thank you, Lord, that we can pray for ourselves or someone we are caring for who is suffering with ill-health: 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.

Comfort those who have lost loved ones to the Ebola virus in
DRC.

We commit to you those known to us here 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 we move on now towards the eucharist, we remember
how Jesus showed true leadership through an act of love,
enduring all things all the way to the cross.

He was the one who did not insist on his own way nor seek
himself, the one who did not allow himself to become bitter, and
who did not keep a record of the evil deeds perpetrated on him
and thus was overwhelmed by evil.

The one who even prayed on the cross for his enemies and in
this act of love utterly overcame evil. ¹

Lord, as this week we undertake things we expect to be doing
and face things which we did not anticipate, may we know that
we are on a path with you surrounded by and inspired by this
love.

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

¹ Inspired by a passage in A Testament to Freedom; Dietrich Bonhoeffer