Intercessions on Sunday 18 October 2026
by Andrew Goodman

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4. 5-17
Gospel Reading: Luke 10. 1-9

Collect: God, our light and our salvation: illuminate our lives, that we may see your goodness in the land of the living, and looking on your beauty may be changed into the likeness of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, we remember your care and provision, and acknowledge our poor choices in the use of your abundance.

We are concerned about the current El Nino which is setting new sea-surface temperature highs in the Pacific, and the impact it is already having around the world through heat, wildfires, tropical storms, rising sea levels, floods, drought, food shortages.

Lord, we know that behind each number is a person - somebody's child, a child of God - affected by these impacts. We pray for wisdom and resources as people seek to adapt - and especially for those who, like theUnited Nations, work to guarantee human rights and justice in adaptation.

Bless the preparation for COP31, the 2026 UN Climate Conference next month in Turkiye. We pray that there may be a genuine turning in attitudes, a genuine agreement to reduce emissions and a willingness to co-operate for the common good that leads to an equally genuine turning around of trends in global heating.

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

Lord, we remember areas of conflict and recall the psalmist's words:

> [H]ow long shall the wicked exult? They pour out their arrogant words; all the evildoers boast. They crush your people, O Lord, and afflict your heritage. They kill the widow and the stranger, they murder the orphan, and they say, "The Lord does not see".[1]

We cannot imagine how Ukrainian people feel with the USA now seeming to be more allied with the aggressor that they have been struggling to resist for the past 5 years.

We cannot imagine the pain that Palestinians on the West Bank feel when they are attacked by settlers and their ancient olive trees which are their source of income are set alight.

This is a prayer for peace written by Cafod:

> God of peace, bearer of hope,
> we seek your help
> for the peoples of the Middle East.
>
> Quiet the clamour of war
> and guide us towards peace.
>
> Where there is hatred and division
> sow seeds of calm and openness.
>
> Where there is destruction
> help us to rebuild.

[1] Psalm 94.3b-7a

Where children are crying
bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them
Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear
and breathe whispers of hope.[2]

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

The recently published Theos poll on attitudes towards the relationship between Christianity and Britishness has highlighted a wide range of understanding about Christianity.

[2] https://cafod.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/middle-east-peace-prayer

The Church of England's attempt to address our historic links to African enslavement as an act of Christian repentance, responsible investment and credible witness through a £100 million pound reparation fund is being challenged through legal action.

Lord, we turn to the Apostle Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae for help to pray for ourselves and the wider Church, that we would be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as we bear fruit in every good work and as we grow in the knowledge of God. May we be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may we be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.[3]

Lord, in your mercy - hear our prayer

The recently published independent review on mental health, ADHD and autism in England warned of a high risk of system failure within NHS mental health and neurodiversity services because of rising demand.

Lord, we thank you for the services that are available in our area. May the staff providing these services be encouraged by the contribution they are able to make to service users.

[3] Based on Colossians 1.9-12

News feeds continue to warn of potential dangers from social media and Artificial Intelligence apps, especially their impact on young people.

Lord, give wisdom to teachers and support workers in their contact with young people in educational and other settings. Enable them wherever they can to support, counsel and reduce stress in young people's lives.

We thank you, Lord, for FutureHope who we support through our mission giving. Bless their outreach and support work with young people, and their time working in schools.

We thank you, Lord, that we can pray for ourselves or someone we care about who is suffering with ill-health. As we think of those known to us personally who are unwell, we especially commit to you: …….

Restore to them the joy of your salvation.

We commit to you those known to us here who have died recently: …….

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, may we be encouraged by and able to apply the Apostle Paul's exhortation to the church in Philippi, so that we do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our requests

be made known to you. And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.[4]

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

[4] Based on Philippians 4.6-7