

## February Prayers

### 1. Economic Crisis:

Lord, in a time of economic crisis, there are questions we want to ask you:

We want to ask why you said we would always have poverty.

We want to ask you why the powerful few, even today, gain wealth at the expense of a powerless majority.

We want to ask you why governments chase tax from individuals who cannot afford it, and leave tax-dodging companies unchallenged.

We want to ask why money can't be raised by taxing companies fairly, instead of taking benefits away from those who cannot afford it.

We want to ask you why huge bonuses are still awarded to those who wreck economies, while even their own employees lose their jobs.

We want to ask you these things, but our questions rebound upon us.

What do we value? How do we live justly? How can we change? What will we do?

Lord. Flood our economy with grace. Do it through us. Do it now.

### 2. Valentine's Day:

God of love, teach us how to love one another as you have loved us.

We pray for those who feel themselves unloved and forgotten. Bless them through our prayers and our actions.

We pray for those for whom a simple act of grace would make a big difference to their lives.

Bless them through our prayers and our actions.

We pray for the people we like the least, or who dislike us the most.

Bless them through our prayers and our actions.

We pray for those we love and who love us. Keep our relationships alive with your love. Bless them through our prayers and our actions.

We pray for those in our world who hunger and thirst and fear. Make your love known to them through government policy and political will.

Bless them through our prayers and our actions.

Teach us how to love one another, as you have loved us.

### 3. Lent:

At this dark time, as we await the hope of resurrection, we stand before you our God. We wait, and we hope, and we long for you to act.

We stand before you with fear and doubt, with concern, with hope, with disbelief, with despair. But in this time, and in this place, we nevertheless stand before you.

We pray for our leaders, for all entrusted with decisions that affect millions. For those with the power to change the world for better or worse, we pray that the hope of new life will reach into the corridors of power.

We pray for nations whose inhabitants are trapped in cycles of poverty, hunger and suffering. For people whose future promises no life, and whose past gives little reason for hope. We pray that the hope of new life will reach into the forgotten agonies of those without hope.

We pray for those concerned about their health, about their mortality, consumed with the pressures of body and mind. May the promise of new life reach deep into the lives of those who live in fear.

As your people, we stand before you, a sum of all the hopes and all the fears of all the descendants of Adam, and we wait, and we hope, and we long for you to act. Bring this dark night to an end, and bless our world with the glorious dawn of your resurrection light.

#### 4. Education Sunday: 20th Feb 2011

God of freedom and life,

We praise you for the gifts of education, and for those who labour to teach others.

For school teachers and university lecturers, for those who work in toddler groups and nurseries, for parents and grandparents, for Sunday school teachers, and for those who radiate wisdom without realizing, we thank you. And we ask you that they might be encouraged in their work, and valued for the role they play.

Wherever children are brought up by those with a lust for terror, or by the impersonal face of the television or computer screen, we pray that you would bring true freedom.

Wherever market forces or nationalism or greed produce adults who have never grown up, we pray that you would bring true freedom.

Wherever people are programmed instead of taught, brainwashed instead of enlightened, manipulated instead of educated, we pray that you would bring freedom.

Teach us to recognize our own role in education, help us to encourage those who have committed their lives to this task, and make us all to heralds of the truth that sets people free.