

Suggested Prayers for Racial Justice Sunday 2010

Prayers of the Faithful

We pray today for those who have been forced to leave their homes and families because of persecution and discrimination and those affected by war or political violence. May we always be ready to welcome the stranger in our midst, to offer them compassionate support at what is a very difficult time of their lives.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We pray, with gratitude, for the many gifts refugees bring to this country and ask You to help us to be more tolerant and understanding of different cultures and customs so that all may feel able to use their gifts, achieve their potential and feel part of our family.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember very especially those who are persecuted for their religion, especially those held in prisons and we ask you to give strength and guidance to those organisations working to challenge governments who abuse human rights.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer

We remember, with compassion, victims of torture who have come to this country seeking sanctuary. May we always be understanding and generous in our hospitality, helping those who have suffered to feel the healing presence of Christ and the love and welcome of our parishes.

Lord in your mercy: Hear our prayer.

A Prayer of Solidarity: (Together)

God of mercy and compassion, we bring forth into your presence all the communities that are experiencing segregation, discrimination and oppression based on caste, class, creed, colour and gender both in the church in the society. It is your death on the cross that has put an end to all enmity by breaking down the walls that separate us. We ask you to empower us O Lord, to tear down the fences of hatred and indifference. Liberate us from the bonds of pride and self-seeking. Enable and strengthen us to overcome our prejudices and fears. Grant us your courage to open ourselves to others, so that we may continue to live in solidarity with the oppressed communities. Amen.

National Council of Churches in India, Dalit Liberation Sunday 2009

The CARJ Prayer

Heavenly God, we praise your name and thank you for your glorious goodness and mercy.

Lord Jesus, we pray a blessing for all those actively engaged in the struggle for racial justice.

Holy Spirit, we beseech you to enter into the minds and hearts of all those in authority in the Church.

Grant that they may

Hear the voices crying out for justice

Engage in developing a better understanding

Act to bring about change

Lead and inspire others by their good example.

We ask this through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The love of God is greater than all evil.

We pray for racial justice:

- in our lives
- in our parishes
- in our dioceses
- in our land. Amen.

Betty Luckham (Catholic Association for Racial Justice)