

Intercessions: Sunday 17th October (Alison Cross)

Today is the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty so it seems appropriate to use our prayer time to focus on this theme.

Jesus said "The poor you will always have with you". But He also said 'Therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and the poor, in your land'. Let us pray for an unquenchable longing to fight for the welfare of all.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

Therefore, let us pray against indifference, apathy and defeatism, in both ourselves and our governments worldwide. Help us to be willing to examine our own attitudes within our culture of consumerism. Pray for the rooting out of self-interest and corruption which stands in the way of God's outpouring of generosity.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

Help us never to take poverty for-granted, but to be continually outraged by the growing divide between rich and poor in our own society and the world. May we be angry at homelessness and hunger wherever they exist, whatever the root causes, seeking to alleviate them without judgment.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

We pray for those many individuals and charities who give and work generously to eradicate poverty, thinking here of international aid agencies tirelessly responding to crisis after crisis, and, in our own country, Christians Against Poverty and food banks. We thank you for those like Marcus Rashford who work to raise awareness.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

We pray too for all those suffering from poverty beyond the material – poverty of education, of opportunity and ambition, poverty of relationships and the emotional deprivation that comes from being neglected and unloved, knowing that you, Lord, long for fulfilment for all.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

And we pray for your church on earth, thankful that so much charitable work of loving and caring has originated in the Christian faith but aware of how much more needs to be done. Lord, keep your people active, alert and passionate for your kingdom, remembering the recent words of the Archbishop of York "I don't think there has ever been a moment of fundamental renewal of the church without a bias to the poor".

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

We gather together all our requests and longings in the Tearfund prayer which, perhaps, you might like to join with me in saying:

Lord, the scale of global poverty is beyond our understanding. Give bread to those who are hungry and a hunger for justice for those who have bread. Grant us the faith and persistence to sow seeds of righteousness that might take years or even generations to bear fruit.

*Lord, you designed your world to provide enough for all, **enough and to overflowing***

We praise and thank you.

Amen