

Prayers for those in need

Lord God, please bless all those who at this time are in need of your comfort and strength. Give them your peace to face whatever problem they have and may your generous blessings be on them. **Amen**

Lord, as we seek to reach out to others,
help us to remember that we are made in your image and equally loved by you.

For those we find easy to love and who appreciate our efforts,
we ask your blessing;

For those we struggle to connect with; for those who seem to take us for granted,
we ask your blessing.

For ourselves we ask for forbearance and a large dose of the gift of humour,
that we can serve all, with lightness and a good heart.

And in your mercy, may we catch a glimpse of yourself
in the most unexpected places.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

When times are hard

Loving Father we pray for those who are feeling overwhelmed by the work in which they are involved, whether by external circumstances or hardship, or by their own concerns and troubles. Give them renewed strength and sense of purpose, where this is needed; give them wise counsel and practical help, where this is appropriate. In all they do may they be completely assured that your love for them is constant; it depends on your perfect goodness and not on their successes or failures. Thank you for your wonderful grace. **Amen**

Prayer for Poverty

God of compassion,

your eyes are turned to the poor and needy.

Turn our gaze to see the need around us.

Give us a vision of an equal world

where poverty has no place.

God of justice,

your face is set against poverty.

Shake us out of our comfort.

Challenge us to counter injustice

whatever the cost to ourselves.

God of hope,

your kingdom will come in its fullness.

Envision us to act and pray.

Inspire us to work for a future hope

of fullness of life for all.

Amen

A Prayer for Justice

Lord, we are so quick to insist on our rights, we are swift to demand justice for ourselves.

Yet we live in a world where many have no rights, where the concept of justice has no impact in their lives.

Forgive us when we are slow to speak up for the oppressed.

We cry to you on behalf of those who have no freedom to follow you openly, who are persecuted for proclaiming you as Lord.

Protect them in the present and bring about change in the future.

We cry to you on behalf of those who have no freedom of speech, who are gagged from declaring truth and questioning government.

Be their advocate in the present and bring about change in the future.

We cry to you on behalf of those whose lives are counted as nothing, who are granted no human or civil rights.

Give them dignity in the present and bring about change in the future.

We pray in the name of your Son, who gave up the freedom of heaven so that we may know freedom both here on earth and forever in eternity. **Amen**