

O God,
*who led Saint Josephine Bakhita
 from abject slavery
 to dignity of being your daughter
 and a bride of Christ,
 grant, we pray, that by her example
 we may show constant love
 for the Lord Jesus crucified,
 remaining steadfast in charity
 and prompt to show compassion.*
 RM 860

THE UNEMPLOYED

There is a growing awareness of the exalted dignity of the human person, whose rights and duties are universal and inviolable. There must be made available to men and women all that they have need of to live a truly human life... The social order must develop the good of persons...
 Gaudium et Spes 26

O God,
*the giver of every good thing,
 through our labour you give us a
 share in your creative work.
 Support all who suffer anxiety
 and deprivation
 through lack of work.
 Guide the people of this land
 so to use its wealth and resources,
 that those who seek employment
 may find it
 and receive just payment
 for their work.*

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The leaflet is one a series of resources produced to support the Cycle of Prayer. They can be downloaded from www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Cycle.

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**Liturgy
 Office**
 ENGLAND
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BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF
 ENGLAND AND WALES

Ordinary Time Winter

Because the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of the people of this age and especially of the poor and those suffering in any way are the joy and hope, the struggle and anguish of Christ's disciples, the Church prays not just for its own needs but for the salvation of the world.



*The Bishops of England and Wales invite you to join in the **Cycle of Prayer**.*

Please pray for the current intentions, both with your parish community and in your own personal prayers. On some days these intentions will be included in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. Also it is hoped that vigils and other prayer services will be held.

This leaflet is one of a series which offers a selection of prayers and texts on the intentions of the Cycle of Prayer which may be used in private or public worship.

Throughout Ordinary Time: Winter we are asked to pray for these intentions:

ORDINARY TIME: WINTER

Peace on Earth

especially on the Day of Prayer for Peace (2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) and especially on Racial Justice Day (3 Sundays before Lent)

Christian Unity

especially during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January)

Victims of Human Trafficking

especially on St Josephine Bakhita (8 February)

The Sick and

Those Who Care for Them

especially on the World Day for the Sick (11 February)

The Unemployed

especially on the Sunday before the First Sunday of Lent

PEACE ON EARTH

*Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called
sons of God.*

Matthew 5:9

Respect for and development of human life require peace. Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among men, respect for the dignity of persons and peoples, and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is 'the tranquillity of order.' Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity.

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2305

*O God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord
cannot grasp,
nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart
may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict
may forget evil and so be healed.*

Roman Missal (RM) 1361

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call — one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (

Ephesians 4:3-6

May the divisions among Christians be overcome so that we may hasten to your eternal Kingdom in the perfect communion of the Church.

cf. RM 1339

*May your people grow constantly
in love of the truth
and devote themselves with zeal
to perfect unity among Christians.*

cf RM 813

THE SICK & THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Accept the prayers we offer for our brothers and sisters who are ill, that, having been anxious for them in their danger, we may rejoice at their recovery of health.

cf RM 1379

Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body. Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift and sustain them in your service, that their hands may bring to others the comfort of your healing touch.