

## RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

# The Changing Face of Britain & Ireland

13 September 2009



### Prayer cards

***“Who do you say I am?”***

Mark 8:29

Dear God, today we stand to pray not just for ourselves, but for the world and its communities.

- We pray for those caught up in wars and gang violence, especially the innocent, and hope that you would intervene and bring peace and safety.
- We pray for families separated by continents, who may spend yet another year without their beloved husband, son, nephew, daughter, mother.
- We pray for the leaders of the United Nations, that they would lead in ways uncorrupted by power and self interest so that peace would come more quickly to our world.
- As you lead us through the changing seasons, may we remember places facing desertification, droughts, floods. Help us to think seriously about our contribution in doing what we can to help reduce climate change.
- We pray that every child can be warm, safe and fed and help us to fight child poverty, both in our society and in the world. We pray for all kinds of injustice, that justice will be worked for.

Lord, let us be part of your body that reaches out to others. Glorify your name through us as you help us make a difference. The problems seem so big and we are so small. Lord, remind us that we are made stronger when we join with others so help us to do that.

Our God, father, mother, sister, brother, all our faces are seen across the world.

Across this land, help us to value and enjoy the diversity in your creation and in the human family. Help us to embrace one another and to allow your Spirit to transform and enrich us in these growing relationships. We pray for your grace to touch our lives in ways that bring us to life to work with you more effectively. Help each of us to know more clearly who we are and who you are, that all can be proud of being created in your image and trust your presence with us on our life journeys.

**Amen.**

### Statement of Affirmation

Let us affirm together

- WE pledge to examine our own biases and positions of privilege through self reflection and earnestly work to resolve them.
- WE pledge to live by compassion and be consciously inclusive of all people.
- WE pledge to affirm the value of diversity.
- WE pledge to promote understanding, inclusion and mutual respect, and thus build community within all ethnicities and cultures.
- WE pledge to transform our institutions into authentically anti-racist and anti oppressive communities of action.
- WE pledge to advocate for justice, demand equal opportunity for all and so help create a beloved community for everyone to share.

God of all people,

May the things we do, always include everyone

For in the example of Jesus no one was excluded from his circle of life.

Create in us renewed and reinvigorated hearts and minds

That, rooted in your love, our lives may continue to bear fruit

As we live these commitments

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

**Amen**

## 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

**H**ear the voices crying out for justice

**E**ngage in developing a better understanding

**A**ct to bring about change

**L**ead 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 (reproduced with permission from CARJ)*

## Prayers of Intercession

Father, we give you thanks for all those whose work proclaims your love.

We pray for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) as it celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working for Racial Justice in England and Wales.

We thank you for what has been achieved over those 25 years and entrust the challenges of the future into your care.

We pray for members, volunteers, trustees, staff and associates, and all those everywhere who work for Racial Justice.

Lord, in your mercy ...  
**Hear our prayer**

Father, sometimes we are indifferent to the needs of our brothers and sisters, in particular those who are unemployed.

We ask you to help us overcome any uncaring attitudes in situations that require concrete human response to the need for food, clothing or shelter.

Help us not to be indifferent to the question you ask of each one of us "Who do YOU say I am?".

Lord, in your mercy ...  
**Hear our prayer**

Father, we acknowledge that we are all part of the Changing Face of Britain and Ireland.

We thank you that many of our churches, schools and places of work have become communities of every language, nation, colour and culture.

Help us to serve these communities in whose life we share and to make them truly welcoming to all.

Lord, in your mercy ...  
**Hear our prayer**

## A Prayer of Intercession based on the Scottish Mace

*The Scottish Mace is present in the debating hall of the Scottish Parliament when it sits in session. A new mace was commissioned for the re-established Parliament and was presented to the Parliament by the Queen at its official opening on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1999. Engraved in the mace are the words 'Wisdom, Integrity, Justice, Compassion', the values which the Scottish people desire their Parliament to uphold.*

### Wisdom

*'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.....'*

*Psalm 111.10*

God of wisdom, we bring before you the peoples of faith within our nation.

We pray for faith communities who seek to establish harmony within Scotland through the daily living of their faith.

We pray for the traditional churches, that in the challenging contexts they face, they may remain faithful to your Gospel. We pray for the growing ethnic minority Christian presence in Scotland, that we may find ways of working together in our outreach to the nation.

**Response:** In our witness to Christ we reveal God's wisdom through our faithfulness.

### Integrity

*'The integrity of the upright guides them.....'*

*Proverbs. 11.3*

God who is righteous, we bring before you all who strive to uphold the values of integrity and righteousness.

We pray for all in positions of political leadership, that they may act in ways which brings about a healthy, vibrant and caring nation.

We pray for all who work with children and young people, that by their example our young people may become responsible citizens of our communities.

We pray for those in leadership in our faith communities, that they may be recognised for their discipleship and witness to faith.

**Response:** In our witness to Christ may we act in ways which demonstrate God's integrity.

### Justice

*'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice .....*

*Micah 6:8*

God, who is just, we bring before you all who in our nation are denied justice, peace and security. We pray for those seeking asylum and for those exploited through human trafficking. We pray for migrant workers taken advantage of because of their lack of language skills and unfamiliarity with our systems. We pray for all who are judged by colour of their skin and not for the people they are.

**Response:** In our witness to Christ may we reveal God's justice to the world.

### Compassion

*'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion...*

*Colossians 3.12'*

Loving God, we bring before you all who in our nation long to feel the compassion of another human being.

We pray for children, women and men trapped in abusive relationships, often fuelled by alcohol and drugs.

We pray for those who, wearied of caring for loved ones, neglect to care for themselves. We pray for all who feel cast out by society and beyond human care.

**Response:** In our witness to Christ may we reveal God's compassion for the world.

**ALL:** God in whom we discover wisdom, integrity, justice and compassion, hear our prayer and enable us to play our part in shaping the life of our nation.  
In Jesus name we pray.     Amen

*Litany of the Scottish Mace, as used by Rev Lindsey Sanderson for Opening Worship of planning meeting for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity September 2008.*