

# LENT 2019

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

*Pray with us for suffering Christians around the world this Lent*

### WEEK 5 -PAKISTAN PRAYER INTENTIONS:

For Asia Bibi and her family  
For all Christians in Pakistan  
For families

*“The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me... He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison...” (Isaiah 61:1-2)*



Asia Bibi, a Christian suffering for her faith in Pakistan  
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This Sunday's responsorial psalm is **“What marvels the Lord worked for us!” (Psalm 125)** it continues, **“when the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.”** Thankfully, Asia Bibi, a Christian in Pakistan has been freed from prison after spending eight years on death row for blasphemy. But in November 2018, her husband Ashiq Masih told Aid to the Church in Need that the family was still in hiding and were worried for their lives.

We hope for the peaceful release for all those denied their freedom because of their faith as well as the well-being of their families in Pakistan. We pray for the Good News as stated in the Book of Isaiah (61:1-2): **“The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me... He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison...”**

The Gospel acclamation states, **“I am all tenderness and compassion” (Joel 2:13)**. Asia's faith in God's compassion overcame her daily distress of being separated from her young family during her imprisonment in Pakistan. She treasured God's presence in her heart for eight years of solitary confinement. Asia shared the perseverance that St Paul also embodied when he was imprisoned for the Faith. St Paul wrote: **“We are subjected to every kind of hardship, but never distressed; we see no way out but we never despair; we are pursued but never cut off; knocked down, but still have some life in us; always we carry with us in our body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus, too, may be visible in our body” (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)**.

I'm going to adoration for  
Asia Bibi

Unfairly accused of blasphemy in 2010, Asia Bibi was sentenced to death by Pakistan's courts and, while she awaits her appeal trial, her fate is still uncertain. Her family, including her 5 children have been in hiding since.

[acnuk.org/adoration](http://acnuk.org/adoration)

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PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS | **NEED YOU**



GO TO MASS  
FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T  
GO TO ADORATION  
FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN'T

**AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

This Lent pledge to go to an extra Mass or Adoration for **Asia Bibi**

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