

#REDWEDNESDAY

Opening prayer:

God who is all good. Be present here with us today. Give us the grace and understanding to listen and inspire us to bring your love to all those around us.

Give us courage to protect and pray for all those who are persecuted for their faith.

Bidding prayers

God our Father, on this #RedWednesday we offer our heartfelt prayers for the persecuted Church throughout the world. Confident in the saving blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, whose death brought life to the world, we pray for all who profess the Name of Jesus the Nazarene and for all people of goodwill who suffer, even unto the blood of martyrdom, on account of violence, religious discrimination and intolerance on religious grounds.

We pray for all those young Christians throughout the world who suffer for their faith. We especially pray for young people who have been displaced from their homes. We pray for their safety and that they may return to their homes.

We pray for all those unjustly held or kidnapped because of their faith. May they be freed.

We pray for all those suffering with mental or physical illness, especially those facing constant discrimination and oppression. We pray that you may ease their pain.

We pray for leaders, religious and secular, that they may be inspired by the spirit of co-operation, dialogue and mutual respect for all peoples in society, so we may together build up a civilisation of love.

We pray for the faithful departed, remembering especially those martyred for their faith, now triumphant witnesses to Christ and his Church through the ultimate sacrifice of pouring out



“My name is Majed. We live in Lebanon now, but my Dad says we are originally from Syria and our home is also in Syria. Dad says that the bad people chased us away and we had to flee; like more than one million people from my country. Dad says that as a child I became a refugee, like baby Jesus, who also had to flee with his Mum and Dad. Mum looked after us but she is sick now. When there’s nothing to eat, we go to the place where we receive meals from the Church.”

ACN’s has key project partners globally. In Syria partner The St John the Merciful Table, provides one nutritious hot meal a day, every day of the year, serving 1,500 people.

their blood to sow seeds of renewal. We pray too for deceased friends and benefactors of Aid to the Church in Need. May they all rest in peace.

And may we, through the intercession of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, be strengthened in faith, hope and charity to follow Christ Our Lord along the road to the heavenly Jerusalem, with all the saints and martyrs, washed clean in the Blood of the Lamb, and brought to the glory of eternal joy. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

Children’s Prayer for Suffering Refugees

Heavenly Father, you created every part of the world we live in. Help us to love others as you love us.

We ask that you look after those families whose lives are sad because of where they live or what they believe.

Please remember all children who have had to leave their homes and friends behind. Help them to find new places to live and enough food to eat. Send them good friends and safe places to play.

We ask you to protect those children whose lives are so much harder than ours. Keep them safe from harm and help them grow in your love. Amen

Scripture reading

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. **Matthew 5:1-12 (RSV-CE)**

Let us take a moment to reflect on these words from Jesus. Let's thank God for all that we have. For faith, family, friends, and everything good in our lives.

Let us ask God for forgiveness, for the times we have not taken care of those around us. For the times we have judged others, and for the times we have not stood up for what is right.

And let us pray for those around the world who are suffering, especially our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray for those who are fighting for the right to practice their faith, and for those who have sadly lost that battle.

A prayer for #RedWednesday

Loving God, we pray for all people around the world who are taking part in Red Wednesday in any way. We pray for all the parishes, schools and individuals who are taking time to pray, fundraise and take action. We pray for all those around the world who suffer discrimination and persecution for their faith.

May we ask for the strength to build Your Kingdom here on earth. Let us make a place where all are welcome, and all are free to practice their faith in peace.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Closing prayer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer from 'Letters and papers from prison' (Taken from A prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - Tearfund Learn)

‘In me there is darkness, But with You there is light; I am lonely, but You do not leave me; I am feeble in heart, but with You there is help; I am restless, but with You there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with You there is patience; I do not understand Your ways, But You know the way for me. Lord Jesus Christ, You were poor And in distress, a captive and forsaken as I am. You know all man's troubles; You abide with me When all men fail me; It is Your will that I should know You And turn to You. Lord, I hear Your call and follow; Help me.

Find out more at: acnuk.org/redwednesday

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