

FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

O Lord, look upon our farming communities with love, and support them in this time of drought. Send them your refreshing rain that replenishes and renews the earth, that they may grow food for your people, and provide employment for those who live on the land. Lord send us a good growing season and subsequent harvest, that we may have enough to feed the poor and the hungry in our land and in this region. And help us to remember always that all such blessings as rain are a gift from you for us to use in your service, through Christ our Lord. Amen

FOR ANIMALS

ALMIGHTY and merciful FATHER, whose care and loving kindness are over all Thy creation, breathe forth into us Thy spirit of compassion and tenderness towards all creatures Thou hast made and in whom Thou art the indwelling life. Teach us, O Lord, to look upon our younger brethren as a trust from Thee, that the day may be hastened when men shall neither hurt nor destroy in all Thy holy mountain; through CHRIST our LORD. R/. Amen.

FOR AGEING

LORD, THOU KNOWEST BETTER than I know myself that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

KEEP MY MIND free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I DARE NOT ASK for improved memory but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

KEEP ME reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so.

AMEN

DESIRES

May I speak each day according to Thy justice,
Each day may I show Thy chastening, O God;
May I speak each day according to Thy wisdom,
Each day and night may I be at peace with Thee

Each day may I count the causes of Thy mercy,
May I each day give heed to Thy laws;
Each day may I compose to Thee a song,
May I harp each day Thy praise, O God.

May I each day give love to Thee Jesu,
Each night may I do the same;
Each day and night, dark and light,
May I laud Thy goodness to me, O God.

FOR THE OPPRESSED

O LORD we love, we pledge unto Thee our faithfulness, knowing that only love can redeem the world. We invoke Thy blessing on all who strive to serve Thee. We invoke Thy blessing on all who in these days of unrest have to endure suffering, that they may joyfully discover their enfoldment in Thy love even in the midst of their afflictions. We invoke Thy blessing on all who wilfully inflict suffering that they may be moved to return to Thee and serve Thee; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF THERESE VANIER

That oppressed people and those who oppress them, may free each other:
That those who are handicapped and those who think they are not, may help each other:
That those who need someone to listen may touch the hearts of those who are too busy:
That the homeless may bring joy to those who open their doors reluctantly:
That the lonely may heal those who think they are self-sufficient:
That the poor may melt the hearts of the rich:
That the seekers for truth give life to those who are satisfied they have found it:
That the dying who do not want to die may be comforted by those who find it hard to live:
That the unloved be allowed to unlock the hearts of those who cannot love:
That prisoners may find true freedom and liberate others from fear:
That those who sleep in the streets share their gentleness with those who cannot understand them:
That the hungry tear the veil from the eyes of those who do not hunger after justice:
That those who live without hope cleanse the hearts of their brothers and sisters who are afraid to live:
That the weak confound the strong and save them:
That violence be overtaken by compassion:
That violence be absorbed by men and women of peace:
That we may be healed:
These things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us grace to labour for.



Our Lady of Divine Grace