

## **Intercession Prayer**

**Sunday 8th January 2017, Epiphany.**

God and Father, Hear this prayer offered in the name of your son Jesus christ, for Your world, Your church and for ourselves.

As you guided the wise men to follow a star to Bethlehem, let us be guided by Your Morning Star. Let us be like the light of a star, shining for others to follow in a dark, turbulent world where it is hard to know which way to go unless we are guided by You, our Father.

The wise men followed a single star, out of the unknown number You created. We give thanks for the wonders you have placed in the universe that are beyond our understanding and that remind us that in Your majesty you also are beyond our understanding.

Today is 1000 days since the schoolgirls from the Nigerian village of Chibok were abducted by the Boko Haram group. We pray for the girls still held captive by Boko Haram, and for those few freed but still under heavy restriction by their own country's intelligence agency. We pray too for all who are unjustly abducted and held against their will.

We pray to you God for all those affected by flooding in southern Thailand. Comfort and strengthen the friends, family and loved ones of those who have died. Support those who have lost homes and livelihoods and everyone bringing aid and assistance.

As our children and young men and women return to school and education after the Christmas holiday, bless the people who teach, train and educate them. Borrowing a few words from Michele Obama, help them Father to "use that education to build a better" world "worthy of your boundless promise". May they "lead by example with hope, never fear.

Healer God, send your spirit to the sick and the injured in mind, body or spirit. Comfort, support and strengthen them. We give thanks for the carers, whether professional or friends and family. Medicine may cure ills but true healing comes only from You. We ask for your healing touch on the unwell whoever and wherever they may be, known or unknown to us.

Whether we are well or unwell, we all still carry our cares, concerns and worries. We bring these thoughts and feelings we hold in our hearts to you, our Father.

The decorations have been taken down and the Nativity sets put away in their boxes. Remind us Father not to put away Jesus in a box until next Christmas, like the nativity sets.

Merciful Father, accept this prayer for the sake of your son, our saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

