

Lord, we give thanks for the birth this week of George, Prince of Cambridge, heir to the throne and potential King in years to come. May he grow over the coming years in wisdom, judgement and grace to be able to serve, if called, as graciously as his great grandmother, our present Queen?

May we also remember that, as well as George, two million other children have been born this week? We are grateful that many of them will enjoy good parenting, good teachers and good guidance but we are conscious that many will enter a world that is not so benign. We ask for your comfort for those who today lack food or love or security.

Lord we know that these are your children as much as we are your children. Help those who are unable to help themselves and give us the patience and commitment to help them too.

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

The rail crash in Spain reminds us Lord of the narrow path we walk between life and death, how death may come when we least expect it and how important it is that we are ready to meet our end on this earth whenever and however it may occur. Our thoughts and these prayers go to the injured and bereaved.

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

We ask for your blessing Lord on this parish, this diocese, this bishopric and our whole church. Our Archbishop has stood firm this week against those that seek to exploit the poor whilst acknowledging the difficult balance we all have to juggle in our daily lives between our needs and the needs of others. This church will shortly embark on a campaign to raise more funds. Help us Lord to do so wisely. To be fair, proportionate and ethical in all we do and to find the funds we need, not one penny more or one penny less.

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

Finally Lord we thank you for our good fortune in living in relative comfort and security and we remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves. We think in particular of those in physical pain, those in mental torment, those in danger, those in war zones helping to protect us, those in distress, those in despair and those in destitution. Bless those that have no shelter or food, those that are living in fear and especially those that can see no end to their torment. We know Lord that there is always hope when we turn to you.

***Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.***

*Written by Intercessor Phil King*