

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Father we give you thanks for all those whose work proclaim your love, we pray for **CARJ's 25th** anniversary of working for Racial Justice in England and Wales. We thank you for what has been achieved over 25 years and entrust the challenges of the future into your care. We remember in prayer the founding members and all the members of CARJ, Volunteers, Trustees, Staff and associates past and present and for all those who work for Racial Justice. May the work of CARJ be a lasting legacy in the Church and the wider society.

Lord in your mercy

Lord hear our prayer

Father sometimes we are indifferent to the needs of our brothers and sisters in particular those who are unemployed. We ask you to help us overcome any uncaring attitudes in situations that require concrete human response to the need for food, clothing or shelter.

Help us not to be indifferent to the question you ask of each one of us 'Who do YOU say I am?'

Lord in your mercy

Lord hear our prayer

Father we acknowledge that we are all part of the Changing Face of Britain and Ireland we thank you that many of our Churches, schools and places of work have become communities of every language, nation, colour and culture. Help us to serve these communities in whose life we share and to make them truly welcoming to all.

Lord in your mercy

Lord hear our prayer

We present our needs through the intercession of Mary our mother as we say:

**Hail Mary
Full of grace
The Lord is with you
Blessed are you among women and blessed is
the fruit of your womb Jesus**

**Hail Mary
Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners now and the hour of our
death. Amen**

One Race the Human Race

CARJ Prayer

Heavenly God, we praise your name and thank you for your glorious goodness and mercy.

Lord Jesus, we pray a blessing for all those actively engaged in the struggle for racial justice.

Holy Spirit, we beseech you to enter into the minds and hearts of all those in authority in the Church.

Grant that they may

Hear the voices crying out for justice

Engage in developing a better understanding

Act to bring about change

Lead and inspire others by their good example.

We ask this through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The love of God is greater than all evil.

We pray for racial justice:

- in our lives
- in our parishes
- in our dioceses
- in our land.

Amen

Betty Luckham

Prayer of Affirmation of Diversity

We believe God created all people equal in worth and dignity, that differences of gender, culture, race, religion, abilities, sexual identities, are gifts of God for the people of God.

We believe that the nature of God is multi-dimensional and that we are made in God's image.

We believe that the miracle of God's creation is manifested through our many differences.

We believe that to embrace diversity we must empty a place within ourself so there is room for others.

We believe that our transformation rests in openness to the gifts and perspectives of others.

We believe that to embrace diversity requires an explicit commitment to become a new kind of community.

We believe God's love is perfected in our collective communal experiences as diverse people.

(Written by the Celebrating Diversity Committee at Trinity – St Paul's United Church, Toronto, 2002)

Statement of Affirmation

Let us affirm together

- WE pledge to examine our own biases and positions of privilege through self reflection and earnestly work to resolve them.
- WE pledge to live by compassion and be consciously inclusive of all people.
- WE pledge to affirm the value of diversity.
- WE pledge to promote understanding, inclusion and mutual respect, and thus build community within all ethnicities and cultures.
- WE pledge to transform our institutions into authentically anti-racist and anti oppressive communities of action.
- WE pledge to advocate for justice, demand equal opportunity for all and so help create a beloved community for everyone to share.

God of all people,

May the things we do, always include everyone

For in the example of Jesus no one was excluded from his circle of life.

Create in us renewed and reinvigorated hearts and minds

That rooted in your love, our lives may continue to bear fruit

As we live these commitments

In the name of Jesus, we prayer. **Amen**

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

13 SEPTEMBER 2009

THE CHANGING FACE OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND

'Who do you say I am?'

Mark 8:29



carj
Catholic Association of Racial Justice

ONE RACE THE HUMAN RACE
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church