

Prayer around the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. **Eradicate** extreme poverty and hunger

Jesus you looked at hungry people and your heart was full of compassion. When your disciples wanted to send them away you said 'Give them something to eat.' You taught us to pray for daily bread.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who are hungry for food, desperate for clean water, needing the dignity and opportunity that work brings.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

2. **Achieve** universal primary education

Jesus you read the Scriptures on the Sabbath Day, you learned and you taught the people.

We pray for communities where there are no schools, or where only the rich can learn to read. We pray that we who have daily opportunities to learn may value our education and find ways to share what we have.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

3. **Promote** gender equality and empower women

Jesus, you counted women among your followers, you healed, taught and learned from women as from men.

We pray that communities everywhere will value women as you did, that baby girls will be treasured as your gift, that girl children will be loved as persons, not treated as property.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

4. **Reduce** child mortality

Jesus, you welcomed children, took them in your arms and blessed them. You warned us of the terrible consequences of failing the little ones.

We grieve for the children doomed because of famine and war, dying for lack of simple health care.

May we ever make it our highest priority to take action to protect children all over the world.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

5. **Improve** maternal health

Jesus you told us to enter the kingdom with the simplicity of a little child.

We pray for mothers who are vulnerable because they are malnourished, mothers infected by AIDS, mothers with no access to even the simplest professional help.

We pray for midwives and healthworkers and those who train them, that their compassion, skill and resources will be equal to the needs.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

6. Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases

Jesus you healed those who came to you with all sorts of diseases of body and mind. You touched the leper, you restored children to their parents, you enabled beggars to work again.

We pray for people afflicted with the physical and social consequences of HIV/AIDS, and other illnesses. We pray for children orphaned and those who care for them. We pray for researchers and drug companies to prioritise diseases that kill the poor over those that inconvenience the rich.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Jesus you promised living water to those who come to you.

We pray for those who have not enough water to drink or wash or water their gardens.

You delighted in birds and flowers, you helped to catch fish and you multiplied bread.

We pray that all of us may care for the land and the seas as we are fed by them, finding ways to replenish instead of wasting your gifts.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.

8. Build global partnerships for development

Jesus you chose to work with friends, sharing with them your passion for justice, your concern for those who suffer. May we seek to share our dreams, and work together to heal our world.

We remember the powerful organisations: governments, the United Nations, the Banks and the Multinational Corporations. May individuals in all these groups have the faith, hope and courage to create policies and make decisions that lead toward justice and peace.

God of justice, God of compassion, hear our prayer.