**Prayers used by the Armed Forces**

**Sourced from: Armed Forces Operational Service and Prayer Book JSP 587**

**When in doubt**

Lord I have sometimes thought, what if you are not there at all? Could it be true what many say, that you do not exist at all? I suppose it could. And yet, at the risk of speaking into darkness, I ask you to give me a tiny grain of faith.

**For God's gifts**

O God grant to me those things, which help me to live this day with joy and generosity.

Give me a sense of proportion, that I may see what is important and what is not; that I may not be irritated by things which do not matter.

Give me a sense of humour, that I may learn to laugh, and especially to laugh at myself, and not take myself too seriously. Give me a sense of responsibility, that I may look on each task that comes along as something which I am doing for the good of nil and for you.

May I not rely on our own poor resources but on the unlimited power of your love which you freely give me in your Holy Spirit.

I make this prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

**When afraid**

Father in Heaven, I believe that you are close to me, You know me better than I know myself. 1 am afraid and anxious. I do not know what the rest of this day or tomorrow will bring. Help me to understand that nothing can happen to me that will take me away from you. Give me peacc of mind and heart. Keep me safe in your love. Amen.

**Prayer for friends**

Father I pray for my friends. Keep them safe in danger.

Watch over them in their work.

Let them know that you are close to them.

Give them your peace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**A Prayer for those who are injured**

Have mercy, Lord, on .. . Who has been injured. His/her family is far away, so be his/her strength and help us to be a comfort and help. Give peace and patience and be with the family to reassure them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Almighty God, protect all who serve in Her Majesty's Forces; strengthen us in danger and temptation; give us courage and loyalty, that we may may remain true to the highest traditions of our profession; and keep us steadfast when faced with the perils of action in war; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**For peace and peacemakers**

Almighty God, inspire in the hearts of all people the true love of peace, especially in those who direct the nations of the earth. May your Holy Spirit strengthen all who strive to maintain peace and resolve conflict. May your grace be given to those who seek to build bridges between people; this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For our enemies**

Lord Jesus Christ, before whose judgement seat we shall all stand, we pray, as you have taught us, for our enemies; so turn their hearts and ours that we all may truly repent; and grant that they and we, being cleansed from sin, may know and do your will. For you were lifted up upon the cross to draw all people to yourself, our Saviour, our Lord and our God. Amen.

**For our homes and families**

Heavenly Father whose blessed Son, Jesus Christ, did share with Joseph and Mary the life of an earthly home; bless, we pray you, our homes and all those whom we love; guard, guide and protect them and keep them safe from all evil this day and for evermore. Amen.

**For guidance**

Lord, you are the Light of the world, illuminate our understanding;

Lord, you are the Good Shepherd, enfold us in your love;

Lord, you are the Way, the Truth and the Life, guide us along our earthly path;

Lord, you are the Bread of Life, fill us with your power;

Lord, you are the Resurrection and the Life, give us eternal life, and receive us beyond the gate of death. Amen.

**A Prayer of St. Ignatius**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will. Amen.

**A Prayer of Sir Francis Drake**

O Lord God, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour in any great matter, grant us to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same unto the end, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through him who for the finishing of thy work, laid down his life; our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

**For faithfulness**

Grant O God, that we who have been signed with the sign of the cross in our baptism, may never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified; but may fight under his banner against sin, the world and the devil; and continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto our lives' end. Amen.

**For freedom and justice**

Almighty God, give us grace fearlessly to fight against evil, and to make no peace with oppression. Grant that we may use our freedom to maintain justice among all people and nations; to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For courage in battle**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the guardian, sustainer and guide of all who put their trust in you, grant us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may always live up to what we are called to be. Grant us the gifts of inward vision, determination, and strength that we may approach the varied duties, tasks and dangers ahead of us with faith, with confidence and with courage and thus in all things be more than conquerors through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For inner peace**

Set free, O God, our souls from all restlessness and anxiety; that amid the storms of life we may rest in you, knowing that we are in your care, are governed by your will and guarded by your love. Amen

**For the suffering**

Almighty Father, giver of life and hope, look mercifully upon all who are sick, and especially.......Give them strength and hope in their hour of need; and sustain with your grace, all who minister to them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who suffered and died for all men Amen

**The Kohima Epigram**

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."

**A Prayer for the Armed Forces:**

O Lord our God, we commend to thy gracious care and keeping the men and women of the Armed Forces, especially those now serving in .........................

We ask you to protect them from all danger to body and soul; to give them a loyal, courageous and disciplined spirit; to instill in them the love of justice and liberty, and to grant that they may be called to serve only for the establishment of peace throughout the world; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen