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*Modern Day Slavery Awareness  
week 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Worcester Cathedral*

*Midday Prayers for Worcester Mothers'  
Union in collaboration with Worcester  
Cathedral 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021*



Examples:



*Forced Marriage*

*Bonded Labour*

*Child Labour*

*Human Trafficking*

## INTRODUCTION

Restoration, renewal and reconciliation are offered to everyone through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection (Ephesians 2:14-18). This powerfully demonstrates God's love for us and the value placed on humanity. In Jesus, God was prepared to make this self-offering in order to recreate, renew and restore all of creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When we respond to God's love, we begin to live with different values—God's values. We live the prayer "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). We learn that the overflow of truly loving God is to love our neighbour as well (Mark 12:30-31). As people who have been reconciled to God through Christ, we join in God's reconciling work in creation (2 Corinthians 5:19). Like Jesus, we learn to care for people who are called the least and the lowest (Matthew 25:40). In such ways, we strive to make God's kingdom here on earth a visible reality. This is a struggle, a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12).

When it comes to human trafficking and modern slavery there is much we don't know.

*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. — Genesis 1:27*

We care about the issue of human trafficking and modern slavery because we believe that every single person, whether child or adult, female or male, is made in God's image and is, therefore, valuable and worthy of dignity. Human trafficking dehumanizes people, turning them into objects and commodities. Our hope is to see people restored into the fullness of who God created them to be.

LET US PRAY

For victims of trafficking

Lord of the lost, we pray today for all those who are victims of human trafficking:

People lured from their homes and families; people deceived while trying to find a better life.

people who are desperate to trust anyone. Help us to be more vigilant and watchful, to be aware of those who may need our help, and those who do not know where help may lie. Amen

## For TRAFFICKERS

Lord of changed hearts, we pray today for those involved in trafficking and human slavery.

We pray that in their heart of hearts they know that what they do is evil.

We pray that they will give up the lures of money, greed, control and repent

the harm they have done and the suffering they have caused. Amen

## For all who work against MODERN SLAVERY

Lord of creation, we thank you for all who are working to combat modern slavery:

for governments and agencies, for Church and other faith leaders, for charities and individuals.

Help us to be part of love's movement, to work for a world where human beings are valued, free to come and go,

where no one is enslaved, no one used against their will for another's pleasure or need.

Amen

## WAVE OF PRAYER

O God, our heavenly father, we ask you to bless the work of the Mothers' Union throughout the world. And especially in each diocese for which we pray today

Uppershire in Malawi; Maraii Missionary Area in Kenya; Makurdi & Ifo in Nigeria; Tuam, Killaia & Achonry in Ireland and Mumbai in India.

Bless our members in their lives and in their homes, that they, being strengthened in love to you and to each other may serve you faithfully to your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

## Prayer for today

We pray for all who work in service industries, for energy and for wisdom. We pray especially for those who feel their work is taken for granted, or not appreciated. We ask for encouragement and blessings today for all who serve other people. Amen

Blessed Saviour, who at this hour hung upon the cross, stretching forth your loving arms, grant that all people may look to you and be saved; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.  
Amen

Finally  
We pray for each other

Gentle God  
Breathe life within us  
Breathe love between us.  
From one moment to the next,  
You hold us in the palm of your hand.  
Amen