



THE COVENTRY LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

english / german

Provost Richard Howard put the words "FATHER FORGIVE" on the wall behind the charred cross in the ruins of the destroyed cathedral in 1948, not "Father forgive Them", because we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom 3,23)

These words moved generations of people and are prayed in the Litany of Reconciliation every Friday at noon outside in the ruins and on many other places around the world.

The Litany of Reconciliation, based on the seven cardinal sins, was written in 1958 by Canon Joseph Poole, the first Precentor of the new Cathedral. It is a universal and timeless confession of humanity's failings, but it evokes us to approach these sins and weaknesses in the forgiveness of God's love.

Alle haben gesündigt und ermangeln des Ruhmes, den sie bei Gott haben sollten.

Den Hass, der Rasse von Rasse trennt,
Volk von Volk, Klasse von Klasse,

Vater, vergib.

Das Streben der Menschen und Völker
zu besitzen, was nicht ihr Eigen ist,

Vater, vergib.

Die Besitzgier, die die Arbeit der Menschen
ausnutzt und die Erde verwüstet,

Vater, vergib.

Unseren Neid auf das Wohlergehen und
Glück der Anderen,

Vater, vergib.

Unsere mangelnde Teilnahme an der Not
der Gefangenen, Heimatlosen und Flüchtlinge,

Vater, vergib.

Die Entwürdigung von Frauen, Männern
und Kindern durch sexuellen Missbrauch,

Vater, vergib.

Den Hochmut, der uns verleitet, auf uns
selbst zu vertrauen und nicht auf Gott,

Vater, vergib.

*Seid untereinander freundlich, herzlich und
vergebet einer dem anderen, wie Gott euch
vergeben hat in Jesus Christus.*

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory
of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from
nation, race from race, class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and
nations to possess what is not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of
human hands and lays waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness
of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the
imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of
men, women and children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in
ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ
forgave you.*