



**Friendly Churches**

# ***Prayer Booklet***

*Prayers for Gypsy,  
Roma and Traveller  
communities*



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# Introduction

*Thank you for taking this booklet and being willing to pray for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples. We hope you will find prayers for personal use or to help in leading prayers with others.*



*Everyone who contributed has written a prayer of their own choice and from their experience or knowledge. This has given us a rich variety and we are very grateful.*

*In prayer, we open ourselves to others and to God through the Holy Spirit and when we come into the presence of God sometimes wonderful things begin to happen.*

*May God bless all of us and help us to see the image of God in each other, and so let us pray.*

*James chapter 4 verse  
8a*

*'Draw near to God and  
God will draw near to  
you.'*



# International Romani Day.

*Father God, Father of all Mankind, we join in prayer on this International Romani Day to celebrate the Romani people of the world, part of your kaleidoscope of beauty and creativity and richness that make up the family of humanity.*

*Bless these sisters and brothers with your nearness and fill them to new depths with your Holy Spirit. As we walk alongside one another, shoulder to shoulder, give us – Lord Jesus – your heart of joy in knowing we are all siblings, with you as the firstborn among many.*

*Give us your eyes to see one another as you see, ears to hear and hearts to love. And in all things, the grace to grow together as a witness of unity to the world  
Amen*

*Carol Miller  
Church Relations Manager  
United Society Partners in the Gospel*



# Saint Ceferino



*Holy God  
we thank you for the life of Ceferino;  
For his devotion to you,  
For his peacemaking in the Roma community,  
And for his courageous death.  
May his example inspire all who work for peace and  
justice  
For all Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

*Rev'd Jonathan Herbert*



# Romani Resistance Day

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*Thank you that in your time on earth you never shrank from delivering hard messages to people with power and wealth, and that you went with dignity to the cross, showing spiritual strength even while your physical weakness was tested to the uttermost, able to help others even as you hung there, and in suffering for our sake, able to help all of us to bear our own crosses , and transcend the harm that we have done to others.*

*Grant us, we pray, o Lord, never to acquiesce in the corruption and oppression that abound in this world, and to resist them according to the strength you give us, while always continuing to love our enemies, remembering that you wish their redemption, not their destruction. Let our resistance to wrongdoing be the tribute of love we owe to the wrongdoers, marked by our own refusal to be tempted into wrongdoing ourselves in revenge.*

*And on this Romani Resistance Day, we thank you for the example of all of those Roma, Jews and other Nazi concentration camp inmates who found the will to endure, resist and survive and bear witness to the unquenchability of the human spirit and the redeemability of the human condition. May they inspire all those unjustly imprisoned.*



*This we pray in Your name. Amen*



# History Month Prayer

*Almighty God, our Father,  
who sent Jesus Christ, your son to free us from all  
manner of inequalities and prejudices, by your  
Holy Spirit enlarge our hearts and create in us new  
vision to see the image of God in every person  
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.  
In this Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month of  
June,*

*we particularly remember and pray for our  
brothers and sisters  
in those communities.*

*May we be generous in our love for you and each  
other as we work towards ending prejudice and  
injustice; creating communities of mutuality and  
flourishing, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

*Amen.*

*Rev Canon Dr Godfrey Kesari*



# History Month Prayer

*Lord God,*

*We thank you for your faithfulness throughout every generation, to every people group, every family, and every community. You have always taken the first step toward us, showing your deep love and welcome, no matter who we are or where we come from.*

*We praise you that your love never wavers, not when we struggle, not when we wander. There is nothing we can do to make you love us less, and nothing we can do to earn your love more. You simply love us, fully, freely, and forever.*

*Thank you for the power of your love, which can bring us closer, not only to you, but to one another.*

*Help us to follow your example by welcoming those who seem different from us. Teach us to lay down fear, suspicion and judgment, and instead to build trust, friendship and peace.*

*This month, as we celebrate the history, culture and gifts of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, may we honour one another with open hearts. Draw us closer together, so we may reflect your love more clearly in our world.*

*We ask this through Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit and for your glory, God.*

*Amen.*

*Rev Sue Butler*

*Bishop's Adviser for Gypsy, Traveller, Roma in the Diocese of Ely.*



# History Month Prayer

*June is Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller History Month.  
We pray that this June will be a time of celebration—  
A time to honour rich cultures, ancient traditions, and  
resilient communities.*

*May understanding grow where ignorance once stood,  
May the walls of prejudice crumble,  
And bridges of respect be built in their place.*

*Bless the roads they have travelled—  
The paths of hardship and triumph,  
The journeys of family, faith, and freedom.*

*May this month bring light to untold stories,  
Dignity to every voice,  
And unity in the love that binds us all.*

*May all roads lead to joy,  
May every heart find belonging,  
And may we walk forward together in peace.*

*Amen*

*Fr Fergal*



# The Porajmos

(The Devouring)



*In Genesis 16 God comforts Hagar when she feels abandoned and persecuted. She calls Him El Roi – the God who sees me. Porajmos is one of the words Romani people use to describe the incarceration, forced labour, deportation and mass murder in of Romani people in concentration and extermination camps during the years of Nazi control in Europe. As many as 500, 000 Roma were killed. Today we choose to align ourselves with God who does not ignore or forget suffering and injustice, the God who sees.*

*God of compassion and justice, who sees every one of us, we remember today those who have been victims of ethnic hatred and discrimination. We confess that there are times when we have failed to stand up for the downtrodden and oppressed, the maligned and mistrusted, and have turned blind eyes to their distress and suffering.*

*We ask for your forgiveness for the times when our own attitudes towards Romani people has been prejudiced by popular opinion and we pray for courage to champion justice for all people.*

*We pray for wisdom and strength for those who raise awareness of the past, however uncomfortable, so that the future may better embody the values of your Kingdom.*



# International Romani Language Day.

*Heavenly Father,*

*We thank You for the Roma people. You are the Creator of every nation and every language, and every people on earth exists within Your purpose and care.*

*Today, as we remember International Romani Language Day, we thank You for the heritage, history, and identity carried through the Romani language. We pray that it would continue to be preserved and passed on with dignity to future generations.*

*Lord, we ask that Your truth would reach the hearts of Roma people everywhere. May the message of Jesus Christ be heard clearly, bringing hope, healing, and new life. Raise up faithful believers who will share the gospel with courage, humility, and love.*

*We also pray for Your Church. Give us hearts that see people as You see them — created in Your image and precious in Your sight. Remove prejudice, open doors of friendship, and help Your people walk together in respect and unity.*

*Your Word tells us that one day people from every nation, tribe, and language will stand before Your throne and worship You. We pray that many from the Roma people will stand there with joy, giving glory to You.*

*In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.*

*Amen.*

*Dimitar Angelov, Roma Networks*



# Ambassador's Prayer



*Heavenly Father*

*I BEG you*

*Please please please  
Guide me on this journey.*

*NOT my journey on horse and cart, but my journey of  
patience and understanding.*

*The journey you sent me on to save the sick, tortured  
children.*

*The children of today who are still tortured because of  
who they are.*

*I BEG you, my beautiful father, make not my journey  
easier if this is your plan, but please, sovereign Father,  
make the journey of our children easier for them to  
bare.*

*Abiline McShane – Ambassador for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller  
Friendly Churches*



# Young Voices



*Dear God*

*Thank you for your love, kindness, support and forgiveness  
for the beautiful life you blessed us with in a school which  
ignites our love for learning  
for the love and care of our teachers who support us  
through our daily lives  
for the vision of 'Among us you are all equal' where  
everyone feels safe  
thank you for all your creations  
so we ask for your guiding presence in our daily lives  
we ask these things in Jesus' name  
Amen*

*Wolvey CofE Primary School  
Written with love by the Junior Leadership Team  
(8 children from Years 1 - 6)*



# Young Voices



*Dear Lord*

*Please keep Gypsy and  
Travellers safe in their  
Varda.*

*Here, there and back again.  
Watch over them, keep  
them from fear and bless  
their roads when you are  
near*



*Dear God*

*Thank you that you made  
us each different from each  
other,*

*Yet each the same in some  
ways.*

*Help us to love differences  
in other people*

*Help us to be kind to those  
around us.*

*Help us to think about the  
needs of other people.*

*Please help us to seek to  
live in peace AMEN*

*SEN youth, ambassador for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Friendly Churches  
Leyla Grace*



# Short Prayers

*Lord Jesus,  
when you walked the earth there was always a special  
place in your heart for those living on the edge of the  
community. Open our eyes to notice those who in our  
day are hidden under the radar, and enlarge our hearts  
to make space for them in our lives.*

*Amen*



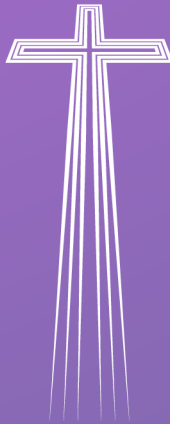
*Dear Father in Heaven,  
I ask you to bless, protect and guide our Roma, Gypsy  
and Irish Traveller brothers and sisters. Protect their  
way of life and their unique culture. Give them wisdom  
and knowledge to promote their love of the open road,  
their unique music and the wisdom that has been  
passed down to them through the centuries.*

*Amen*



# Short Prayers

*Father God, We ask your blessing on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities - on their journeys, families and ways of life. Guard them on every road they travel, be a shelter when the world is unkind, and a steady light when the way ahead is uncertain. May their families be strong, their traditions honoured and their voices heard with respect. May their cultures be celebrated, not pulled down, their dignity upheld, not questioned, and their presence welcomed, not turned away. May peace travel with them and may they find welcome wherever they go.  
Amen*



# Short Prayers

*Loving God,  
You created every person in your image,  
each with their own story, culture, and journey.  
Teach us to see beauty in our differences  
and not to fear what is unfamiliar.*

*Help your Church to be a place  
where every community is welcomed,  
where Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples  
are honoured, respected, and heard.*

*May our diversity reflect the richness of your  
kingdom,  
where all belong and all are loved.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



# Short Prayers

*Gracious God,  
you call us to live together as neighbours and  
friends.*

*Forgive us when differences create distance  
or when misunderstanding builds walls between us.*

*Give us listening hearts,  
open minds,  
and the humility to learn from one another.*

*Bless Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities,  
their traditions, their families, and their faith.  
May your Church grow in unity and compassion,  
so that together we reflect your love to the world.  
Amen.*



# Short Prayers

*Lord of all nations and peoples,  
your kingdom is made of many cultures,  
many languages,  
and many ways of life.*

*Teach us that difference is not division  
but a gift of your creation.*

*Bless Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families today.  
Strengthen relationships between communities,  
and help your Church become a place  
where every person feels at home.*

*May we grow together in faith,  
hope, and love.  
Amen.*

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*Faithful God,  
when we meet those whose lives are different from  
ours,  
give us curiosity instead of judgement,  
kindness instead of fear,  
and friendship instead of distance.*

*Help us to value the wisdom, resilience,  
and heritage of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller  
communities.*

*May your Spirit guide us  
to build bridges of trust and understanding.  
Make us one in your love,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord .  
Amen*



# Short Prayers

*God of welcome and grace,  
you invite all people into your family.  
Where differences have led to prejudice or exclusion,  
bring healing and reconciliation.*

*Help us to recognise Christ  
in the lives and experiences  
of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller peoples.*

*Give your Church courage  
to challenge injustice,  
to stand for dignity,  
and to celebrate the gifts  
each community brings.*

*May we walk together in peace and respect.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*



# General Prayers

*Dear Jesus,*

*During your time on earth you were a traveller, preaching the Gospel in the places your Father directed you. You said to the Apostles: "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."*

*You instructed your followers to welcome the stranger and to bind up the broken-hearted and that when we do an act of kindness to one another we are doing it to you.*

*We pray for the many individuals and families who make up our Travelling Communities and for the Chaplains who minister alongside them.*

*May they find an earthly home in our church communities before one day finding a place in the Heavenly Mansion that you have prepared for us.*

*We make this prayer in the name of Jesus our Lord.*

*Amen.*

*Fr Dan Mason*



# General Prayers

Dear Lord,  
Thank You for creating us all in Your image, with  
beauty, purpose and value.  
Thank You for the rich cultures, music, family and  
faith of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.  
We remember with sorrow the pain of  
discrimination, rejection and injustice many have  
faced through history, and still today.  
Please bring healing where there are wounds, and  
justice where there is oppression.

We pray for a future where dignity, respect and  
peace are shared among all people.  
Give wisdom to leaders, courage to the Church, and  
strength to our communities.  
Let love be stronger than fear, and unity greater  
than division.

Bless the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people with  
hope, protection and joy.  
May we walk together in Your light, sharing the  
good news of Jesus with boldness and compassion.  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

Nina Jankucic



# General Prayers



*Thank you Lord Jesus for our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller brothers and sisters! We are so blessed to know them and work side by side with them in and for your Kingdom Lord. Thank you for the beautiful ways that they teach us about you and your heart. Help us to keep our doors and hearts open to them always. Forgive us for the ways in which we haven't opened our doors and hearts to them and instead put road blocks in their way, demanding that they leave their culture and their ways to conform to our ways. This is not your heart and we want to repent for this. Help us to celebrate and honour the ways that you are present in their midst. Strengthen our love for one another and help us as we continue to walk on this journey together to be more like you Jesus and share your love in this world.*

*Amen*

*Leah Daly  
The Lauda Project, Liverpool*



# General Prayers

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:28*

*Lord God Almighty, Creator of all nations and peoples,*

*We honour the Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities alongside all settled people, celebrating the diversity of Your creation. May Your justice reign, bringing peace and unity among all peoples. Gather us under Your wings, Lord, as one family in You, dissolving divisions and building understanding.*

*Strengthen us to stand against prejudice and fear, celebrating the unique beauty of every tradition. May this month be a time of joy, remembrance, and renewal for all as we walk together in harmony, reflecting Your love. In Jesus' name, we pray  
Amen.*

*Rev. Sean Page*



# General Prayers

*O Loving God,*

*We thank You for the strength You have placed within the hearts of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller people. Through every road walked, every challenge faced, and every generation that has carried our traditions forward, Your guiding hand has never left us.*

*Thank You for the gift of our culture, for our stories, our music, our families, and the wisdom passed from elders to children. Thank You for the spirit of freedom, resilience, and pride that lives within our people.*

*In times when the road has been hard and the world has not always understood us, You have kept us strong. You have given us courage to stand together, to honour who we are, and to protect the traditions that make our communities beautiful and unique.*

*Bless our families, our elders, and our young people. Keep our culture alive in our songs, our language, our gatherings, and our journeys. Help us walk with dignity, kindness, and unity, always remembering the strength that comes from You and from one another.*

*May our people continue to rise with pride, carrying our heritage forward with hope and faith.*

*Amen!*

*Josie O'Driscoll*



# General Prayers

*Heavenly Father,*

*We give you thanks for the Irish Travellers, Gypsies and Roma people living in London,*

*We thank you for the gift of our culture, our language, our music, our stories and the traditions passed from generations,*

*Bless our elders who keep the wisdom of our people in strength and pride,*

*Our families' resilience carry our values, and our young people who will carry our future,*

*Mark June, our Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month,*

*Mark the 25<sup>th</sup> July as we honour our International Irish Travellers Day, flying our Flag to thank God for being here,*

*Lord, we have so much to thank you for, let our community walk forward in unity, courage and faith.  
Amen.*

*Mena Mongan*



# General Prayers

*As we celebrate our brothers and sisters  
across the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities,  
Lord Jesus, draw us onward day by day  
in the power of your love.*

*Keep us ever true to your way,  
and focused always on your call,  
as we follow your guiding light  
on our journey through life.*

*By our hitching ourselves to your yoke,  
and travelling with you by our side,  
may we rejoice in making our pilgrimage together.*

*Whether we travel together  
and arrive in new or familiar places,  
or welcome fellow disciples  
who have journeyed to be with us,  
spending time where we are settled,  
remind us that we are one people in your sight,  
one family bound by your grace,  
heirs and signs of the hope  
of your kingdom.*

*Amen.*

*Ven Bill Braviner*



# General Prayers

*Gracious God,*

*We pray for our dear Roma peoples all over the world. May they freely live their lives as people on the move, as those whose lives overlap with so many different cultures and languages that enrich the world we live in.*

*May we learn the ways of humility, grace, kindness and welcome from their communities. May we see the blurry spaces of belonging with their eyes and choose welcome, kindness and compassion.*

*May we always approach each other with dignity, kindness and generosity of heart and mind.*

*Lord God forgive our language of control to 'allow' freedom to our Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities and individuals, but instead we of 'repent' of our judgement, abuse, cruelty, exclusion, and prejudice.*

*Lord, you lived the life of a traveller. You sought to live amongst humanity as an outsider who pulled others close to you and showed them the dignity and respect that we all crave, but selfishly we withhold from others.*

*Lord, lead us to the way of the cross alongside our Gypsy, Roma and Traveller family.*

*In Jesus Name,*

*AMEN.*

*Usha Reifsnider*



# General Prayers

*Prayer to Celebrate our Differences*

*Created in God's image, we are alike in Him yet different in many ways.*

*We may look different, think differently, have different customs, or speak different languages.*

*We are reminded of our diversity in our places of work, in schools and in the community.*

*As Children of God all, let us pray for His grace to see His divine presence in each other and accept them as they are.*

*Almighty God, through your Holy Spirit you empower us to be unified in all our diversity.*

*We acknowledge that our diversity is an expression of your love for all creation.*

*We confess that in the brokenness of our humanity, we often turn diversity into a source of division, oppression, and injustice.*

*We lament the maltreatment of our sisters and brother who may differ from us, particularly in the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.*

*We seek your grace to recognise and celebrate difference as your gift to us.*

*Enable us by your grace to be symbols of understanding, welcome, and love.*

*This we ask through you, O Lord, the giver of all good things.*

*The Revd Canon Guy Hewitt  
Director for Racial Justice  
Church of England*



# General Prayers



*Ever-loving God,  
Whose Son reached out to all people of different cultures  
and traditions,  
And sent his disciples to preach the good news of the  
Kingdom in every community,  
Bless, we pray, our sisters and brothers of the Gypsy, Roma  
and Travelling communities,  
May they know your infinite care and love for them,  
And bring us closer together in our shared pilgrimage  
Until we are all one in your eternal presence.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

*Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



# General Prayers

## *The Traveler's Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father, Creator of all,  
Source of all life, on Your name we call.*

*With bindles on our backs and our feet stripped to bare,  
We trust in Your guidance, Your love, and Your care.*

*The sweet sound of laughter, of children at play,  
The rhythm of hooves at the close of the day,  
The sounds of guitars—these gifts from above,  
We cherish as gifts of Your precious love.*

*We honour our ancestors, the ones who have gone,  
Whom You walked beside from the dusk till the dawn.*

*Blessing their journey with rich culture and grace,  
With patience and faith in each difficult place.*

*But Lord, we confess that we all fall so short,  
In words and in deeds, and in every thought.*

*We ask for Your mercy for us and for those  
Who brought us the pain and the heavy of blows.*

*Forgive us our failings, as we forgive theirs,  
In humble surrender, Lord, hear all our prayers.*

*May we learn to love as You loved us from birth,  
And walk in Your footsteps while here on this earth.*

*May they dance with us now, share the food and the wine,  
And worship together for Your glory is divine.*

*No Jew and no Gentile, no slave and no free,  
But one in Christ Jesus, for all eternity  
in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen*



Vilem Kona



# General Prayers

*Heavenly Father, as we come to prayer, we remember how, in ancient days, you called Abram to travel, and the way in which you placed your rich blessing upon his nomadic lifestyle as he moved from place to place. How greatly might Abram have missed out on such blessings, had he stayed put! In like manner, Lord, we seek your grace and mercy to daily accompany those whose lifestyle and heritage nowadays is similarly nomadic: Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller peoples. That lifestyle, Lord, often sets them apart from other sectors of society, and sometimes even the Church, yet by no means is anyone excluded from your love, goodwill, and concern. Help us, loving God, to make churches places of welcome and inclusion. Help us, too, to learn from one another, so that we may all, in our various ways, travel through life in generous harmony, loving as we ourselves have been loved. Freely have we received: help us, then, to freely give, without discrimination or bias.*

Amen.

Stephen Poxon



# Acknowledgements

*A big thank you to everyone who contributed a prayer. We thank you not only for these powerful prayers but also for your ongoing work and love for the different communities you serve. Thank you to our short prayer contributors, Rev Martin Burrell, Sister Philomena, Mussarat Iqbal, and Paul Sayers and to Major David Blowers for his thoughtful prayer on the Porajmos.*

*Thank you to the steering group for your support and continued dedication, to Prof Thomas Acton for all of your input and support over the years, and to our funders, the Church of England's Racial Justice Unit and Moving for Change.*

*A big thank you to Ivy and Pashy Manning for creating this booklet.*

*Thank you for taking the time to pray for the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.*

*Rev Nicky Chater*





## Friendly Churches

*This collection of prayers is written by people from different church traditions, denominations and backgrounds, including Romani Gypsies, Roma and Irish Travellers. Our hope is that these prayers can be used in corporate intercessions or adapted as a basis for personal prayer, enabling churches and individuals to pray more effectively with and for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.*



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