

# THE COVENTRY LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

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.” Amen. (Ephesians 4:32)**

## About the Litany

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 in 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.

Please click [here](#) to view the available translations of the Litany in other languages.

## Other notes about the Coventry Cathedral

The international Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) is headquartered at St. Michael’s House located next door to the new Coventry Cathedral, consecrated by Queen Elizabeth in 1962. CCN at Coventry Cathedral has become a world center for gatherings implementing the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Reconciliation and Peace Ministry.

The only part of the St. Michaels and All Angels (Coventry Cathedral) that remained standing after the WWII bombing was the foyer, which served as a central point from which parishioners reorganized into smaller groups and met for prayer and fellowship in parishioners’ homes during the cathedral’s post-war construction years. Today’s “Foyer’s Ministry,” a practice of sharing meals together in each other’s homes for the purpose of staying connected and getting to know each other, draws itself from the old foyer still standing at Coventry Cathedral.