

Prayer Guide for the week 24 to 30 March

**To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.”
Nelson Mandela**

On Friday, we celebrated Human Rights Day, also known as Sharpville day. It originally commemorated the firing by police on a crowd of 7000 demonstrators, killing 69 people with some shot in the back as they fled. Now we “celebrate” human rights in our country on this day.



Sadly, these rights are abused here every day. These abuses include arbitrary detention by the government, widespread official corruption, trafficking in persons, crimes involving violence targeting foreign nationals, crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, and the worst forms of child labour. Although the government investigated and prosecuted many who committed abuses, there were numerous reports of impunity for the perpetrators.



There is so much human rights abuse worldwide as well; the drug cartels, slave labour and government oppression to name but a few. We think, too, of the abuses carried out by Russia on Ukraine and on her own people in Russia.



Lord, we pray

- † For the oppressed and downtrodden in our country, for the people who are denied justice, protection and access to accommodation and food
- † For those in positions of authority, whose role it is to provide for the needs of others, that they may fulfil their work with justice and compassion
- † For the foreigners in our country, that they may be free of xenophobic attacks. For those who would attack them, that they may exercise tolerance and acceptance
- † For the members of the LGBT community, as they suffer attacks and even death. We pray too for a change of heart and understanding in the perpetrators of the violence
- † For ourselves, that we may be aware of any inadvertent unjust acts we may have committed and need to set right
- † For the violence in the world, the child and sex slaves, the drug enslaved and gangland victims
- † For the war situation in Ukraine and Gaza, where so many abuses are taking place, the bombing of hospitals and civilian buildings, the destruction of places of worship.
- † We give You praise for the many who do “Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8)

