

PRAYER FOR OTHERS 16 SEPTEMBER 2018

On the Swag R A K Mason

His body doubled
under the pack
that sprawls untidily
on his old back
the cold wet dead-beat
plods up the track.

The cook peers out:
oh, curse that old lag—
here again
with his clumsy swag
made of a dirty old
turnip-bag.

Bring him in, cook,
from the cold level sleet:
put silk on his body
slippers on his feet;
give him fire
and bread and meat

Let the fruit be plucked
and the cake be iced,
the bed be snug
and the wine be spiced
for the old cove's night-cap
for this is Christ.

Our God, we pray that you will give us the grace to see Jesus in others, or rather that you will help us to see any need we are able to meet, in people we encounter day by day, in the way that Jesus saw and addressed the needs of those he encountered.

As we pray now for others, our hearts go out to all those people in the Philippines and the eastern seaboard states of Virginia and North and South Carolina, who are experiencing really horrific storms. We thank you for the forecasters and public leaders who gave them warning, and for those in army and emergency services who will be helping those less able to help themselves.

We think and pray also for the group from Mairangi Bay Church who will be going to Vanuatu to provide better school toilet facilities for some of the children there. They have seen a need and are doing their best to meet it.

Our prayers are also for the families of the little boy who drowned on the West Coast, of the Filipino woman in Christchurch and the man in South Auckland both killed as pedestrians, and of the woman dead and and two men injured by stabbing in Christchurch this weekend. Their families will be distraught and asking themselves "Why" as they grieve. Comfort them, we pray and surround them with others who can give them strength to cope.

We pray now for ourselves and for people we meet and know who are unwell, or have terminal illnesses, or are homeless for whatever reason, or are just plain lonely. May we do what we can with those we know, to ease their pain and help them know that they are loved. We thank you for your love for us and ask for your continued help to love others as Jesus loved. We pray all these things in his name, and say together the prayer he taught his disciples:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our [daily](#) bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.