



# Title: Holocaust

## Prayers

### Prayer to St Julie Billiard

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiard

### Reflection:

Since 2001, the Government has invited British society to observe 27 January each year as Holocaust Memorial Day. This is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops on 27 January 1945.

The idea of a national Holocaust commemoration was proposed with three broad and interrelated aims in mind:

1. To commemorate the Holocaust or Shoah, the murder by the Nazis and their agents of six million Jews and millions of Gypsies, Slavs, Russian POWs, the physically and mentally disabled, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and other people belonging to minority groups;
2. To acknowledge the repeated occurrences of genocide around the world since 1945 (In 2004 the national focus was on Rwanda);
3. To renew the commitment of British people to combat racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia, and to work for an inclusive, caring and open society.



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1

First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out because I was not a communist. Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out for me.

(Pastor Martin Niemoeller,  
victim of the Nazis.)

Lord, when we see you hungry,  
May we give you food.  
When we see you thirsty,  
May we give you drink.  
When you are a stranger,  
May we welcome you,  
When naked, may we clothe you,  
When sick, may we sit with you,  
When in prison, may we come to you.  
Amen

Judge eternal, bringer of justice, hear the cry of those who suffer under the lash of heartless political oppression; those who languish in prisons and labour camps, untried or falsely condemned; those whose bodies are shattered, or whose minds are unhinged by torture or deprivation. Meet them in their anguish and despair, and kindle in them the light of hope, that they may find rest in your love, healing I your compassion and faith in your mercy. In the name of him who suffered, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

### Noemi

You hid behind a borrowed name, bleached your raven crown, but there was no dye to cover the pigment of doom in your eyes.

Night after night I see you alone in that place guarded by a killer fence. Night after night I am dying all your deaths.

I didn't follow you, sister. Can I ever be forgiven the blueness of my iris, the paleness of hair hues of Slavic fields? I escaped to be your witness,

To testify: you were.

I live to carve your name in all the silent stones of the world.

God, you created us all in your own likeness.

We thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in your world.

Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellow feeling and understanding; show us your presence in those most different from us, so that in all our relationships, both by what we have in common and by things in which we differ, we may come to know you more fully in your creation; for you are Father, Son and Holy Spirit for ever.

Amen

### **Don't stand by is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2016.**

The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently - at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Bystanders enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides.

