

Prayer of the Month • Edward Norman

May the God who gives life to all creatures
give to us a vision of a sanctified world
beyond the conflicts of this present time.
Help us to remember
that the divine purposes are not served by human wrath,
and that wickedness expresses itself, as does virtue,
in the intentions and acts of all people.
To the end of our days, O Lord, preserve us in the hope of a world
filled with your goodness and illuminated by your mercy.

Edward Norman, born 1938

In this prayer there is vision and hope. Hope for the future is informed by remembering, and believing in the power of good over evil. The prayer counsels an awareness of what people express, good and evil, but concludes with hope in the mercy of God. We can ask ourselves what are our intentions when we act, but rather than trusting in ourselves we would do better to look to God and pray for a better world, one that is blessed by God. It is one of many prayers written by Edward Norman, who was Canon Chancellor of York Minster from 1999 to 2004. He went to school in Ramsgate and Walthamstow, and then won an open scholarship to study at Selwyn College, Cambridge. He lectured in history at the University of Cambridge for many years, and was also Professor of History at York University. In 1978 he was the BBC Reith Lecturer, lecturing on 'Christianity and the world'. He has written over twenty books, including *An Anglican catechism* (2001), and *Anglican difficulties* (2004). In 2012 he was received into the Catholic Church by way of the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Colin Lunt