

Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

Spirit of God,
descend on me this day.
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,
so that I may grow in worship of your name
in love of you in my prayer
and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.
Strengthen and defend me,
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.
Help me this day and always
to be a channel of grace
in all I say and do
and invite others into relationship with you.

Amen

Thought for the week 26th Sunday of the Year 26th September, 2021

Mark 10: 9-11

“Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?”

Not sure that we are a position to write about divorce. We will have been married 51 years by the end of this month and in answer to the last verse of the psalm *“May you see your children’s children.”* Yes, we have seen (and heard) them!

Perhaps one could ask what has helped us have such blessings:

High on the list would be the ability to pray together and even before that, good marriage preparation. For us, this included getting to know each other whilst crossing the Sahara on camels **and** a marriage preparation course from our parish priest. 50+ years on we would particularly recommend “Marriage Encounter” which now has online courses, while their in person weekends in Oxford are hopefully to resume shortly. <https://engaged-encounter.org.uk/>

Ten years ago we went on a **Cana** weekend followed by a Cana week. Couples have the opportunity to spend time together to enrich, repair and deepen their love for each other. These are run by Chemin Neuf, a Catholic movement, but strongly ecumenical. They provide pride child care and activities for children. <https://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk/>

In our Parish we have a number of couples who meet together as “teams”. **Teams of Our Lady** is an International Christian lay movement that works to enrich married spirituality. Teams provide new opportunities to increase and improve prayer life, helping couples support each other and grow closer to each other and to God. A team meets once a month, usually having a simple meal and rotating from one home to another. A couple from one of our existing teams would be happy to help pilot a new team for the first sessions. Do contact one of us: Deacon Brian and Frances, Peter & Wendy Whitehead, or Maggie & Jim McGuigan: <https://teams.gb.org.uk/>



Prayers Please

Please pray June Black who is in hospital

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Jack Edwards

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has a tumour on her right eye.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children and the new school term.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Lyl Cattrell, Annie Deeney, Renee George, Joe Ashby, Helen Cunningham, George Hajdu, Annie Fallows, Deacon Patrick Selwood, Enid Wilton,