

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 23rd Sunday of the Year 5th September, 2021

Here we are already a week into September. Hopefully we all have some fond memories of the Summer, catching up with family and friends again after the long period of restrictions and isolation. Whilst the joys and hopefulness of spring and summer have gone there is the excitement of autumn to look forward to – that time of year which sees the fulfilment of spring as the harvest is gathered and our gardens and the countryside take on glorious hues of red, yellow and orange. How fortunate we are to live in such a beautiful area as the Chilterns!

Today's first reading from Isaiah speaks of God's coming and the joy and awakening that will result as the world is seen to take on a renewed energy and freshness –

'Courage, take heart' God says 'I am coming to save you'.

In St. James' letter and the gospel reading we are challenged to consider how those less fortunate are treated. How relevant it is here today as we have been watching the traumatic scenes on the news from around the world of those less fortunate than us; Haiti, Afghanistan, Tigray, Sudan, fires, flooding, famine and war.

In the Gospel today Jesus finds a quiet place away from all the onlookers to heal the deaf man, yet he uses a dramatic way of curing him – with spittle: Perhaps he intended to catch the man's attention since he would have been unable to hear whatever Jesus might have said to him. Wherever Jesus goes we experience his humanity and compassion. As St Mark records *'He (Jesus) has done all things well'*.

As we enjoy the fruits that autumn has to offer perhaps we can also go to a quiet place and take time to think about our own humanity and compassion. We do live in an area blessed in so many ways, but we only have to glance at the news to know that for many even the most basic of human needs are denied. I shall be asking myself this weekend *'Am I doing enough to help those less fortunate than myself?'* There are so many ways to do something for others less fortunate—the food bank collection at the back of Church, the Cafod collection that can be donated to using the electronic device in Church or online, or contact Reading Refugee Support Centre.

This week, how will you do that little bit extra that is needed more than ever to reach out to those in need to bear witness and give them courage and hope?

A Parishioner



Prayers Please

Thank you for your prayers for Carmel Barker (Nee Rooke) who is now out of 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 and has entered a rehabilitation centre where he is being helped to learn to walk and feed himself again.

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 under stress.

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;

Deacon Francis Andrews, Marcus Luis Xavier Perreira, Ella Crabb, Michael Parsons, Victor Rahal, Margaret Lawless, Rita Walker, Josefa Cano, Pay Walton, Margaret Walker, Thomas Nevin, Peter Baylis, Freda Miller, Michael Rehberger, Ron Van Bree, Alf Wade, Christopher Wade, Victims of the Twin Tower Tragedy.