

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
32nd Sunday of the Year
7th November, 2021

Time we Don't Have

The widows in the Old Testament and Gospel this weekend are willing to give more than they can really afford. They prioritise God's calling over their human needs and, in the end, they are rewarded. The food shared with Elijah was the last the woman had; the coins the other put in the Temple collection were "*all that she had to live on*".

What do you and I "give to the Lord" or "share with others" that is truly more than we can afford?

For me this is a difficult question to answer and I see myself falling short day after day.

For many of us, being busy takes so much of our time that we complain that we have none of it to relax; yet how often do we prioritise the time we do have away from those good intentions on our to-do lists?

I am always meaning to phone an aged relative, who would appreciate my time; to visit a friend who I know is struggling or to look at the Gospel for the coming weekend. When I collapse in front of the TV in the evening these things come into my mind; I tell myself that "it is too late to call now"; that I was too busy today or that I'm not in the right frame of mind.

Was I really "too busy" and is it really "too late" or am I just underlining how low down my priority lists these little acts of charity, compassion and time for God are? Tidying the garden; sorting the dinner; catching up on emails are all genuine things that need to be done. I know that I do put them off if more entertaining options arise – so why can't I put them off to do more of the work of the Lord?

With Advent and the Church's New Year on the doorstep, could you and I try to be more giving of time that we (really) can afford; perhaps then we could move to sharing with the Lord the time we can't afford, but that He really deserve



We ask you to please pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Jack Edwards whose funeral is on Monday

Please pray for Carmel Barker who is back in hospital

Please pray for Mary Haggar

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 the children and teachers of the Parish

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;

Ester and Charlie, Alfreda Hubbard, Mary Hunt, William Bill Walton, Nora Smyth, James and Lena Dnova, Winifred Ferns, Peter, Brian and James Bird, Bill Buffery, Geza Tolth, Sylvia Warder, Eunice Dover,