

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
20th Sunday of the Year
15th August, 2021

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Happy the womb that bore you

Our gospel readings for the last three weeks have been part of Our Lord's Teaching on the Eucharist from Chapter Six of St John's Gospel. However, this week, we miss out the section for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time as the 15th of August is the Solemnity of the Assumption.

This is a festival of real hope and promise, for Mary's being reunited with Christ is the same unity with him that we too are journeying towards. The Gospel of the Vigil Mass, not the one we will hear on Sunday morning, makes the promise of this so real. St Luke tells us that:

As Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said, 'Happy the womb that bore you and the breasts that you sucked!' But he replied, 'Still happier those who hear the word of God and keep it!'

So Jesus' followers, us included, are offered that ecstasy of life with God if only we can keep that "word of God". We certainly hear the word of God but keeping it is a much bigger challenge!!!

We are not alone though. We have the Spirit of God with us to help, guide and support us. We are also part of a parish (and wider) community of prayer and love centred on the Gospel that journey together with us.

We also have food for that journey. In the Gospel we miss this week we would have heard Jesus say:

I am the living bread which comes down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.

What better promise can we have: of life with Christ; and what better sustenance could we ask for than his real presence with us on our pilgrimage to him.



Prayers Please

Please pray for Carmel Barker (Nee Rooke) 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 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;

Lilly Dougan, Kathleen McGuire, Jeddy, Annie May, Arthur Burge, Dennis Page, Doris Rene, Eva Abraham, Keith Milton Davey, Ronald Jabez Herbert, Rita Conlon.