

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
29th Sunday of the Year
17th October, 2021

'We place all our hope in you.'

It hardly needs saying that the world has been through a tough time for the past 18 months or so. Some people have been very much more affected by the pandemic than we have here in our own community in Sonning Common. For the most part, we have been blessed not to have suffered far more in the way of illness and bereavement from Covid. But it is often at times like these that people – especially non-believers – will turn to us and ask, “Where is your God in all of this? How can He be a good and loving God if He allows such suffering and devastation?”

And we still don't have the perfect answer. All we can say is that 'it is a Mystery' and something we cannot explain; suffering of the vulnerable and the innocent is something we will understand once we reach our final destination and then that which we now see in the glass darkly will become clear.

In the meantime, we have prayer and we have trust and we have hope. There is also consolation to be drawn from the fact that Our Blessed Lord has been there before us. As St Paul says, in Jesus “*we have someone who has been tempted in every way we are.*”

He suffered the most humiliating agonies, absolutely undeservedly and did so out of the purest and most perfect love for all – for those who believe and try to get it right and for those who don't. Who in this world can claim to be possessed of that depth of love? As we battle on through this life perhaps we would do well not to seek answers to mysteries we cannot hope to solve this side of the grave, but instead to keep seeking better ways to serve God in helping one another; to continue to '*place all our hope*' in the Lord and be '*confident [...] that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.*'



Prayers Please

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Jack Edwards who died on Friday

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;
Teresa Carter, Jessie McGinn, Jill Frildo, Alan Waller,
Marnie Cotter, Bill Rodgers, Raymond Enright,
Michael and Francis Coffey, Leonard Godfrey,
Peter Gerard Smyth,**