

Thought for the week
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time — 23rd January 2022
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
18th – 25th January

ADSUMUS, SANCTE SPIRITUS
(We stand before you, Holy Spirit)

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in your name.

With you alone to guide us,
make yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path

Nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in you our unity

So that we may journey together to eternal life

And not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of you,
who are at work in every place and time,

In the communion of the Father and the Son,
Forever and ever. Amen.

This prayer has been used at Councils, Synods and other Church gathering for
hundreds of years including every session of the 2nd Vatican Council.
It is attributed to St Isidore of Seville (560-636 AD).

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No 234216

In a 'normal' year, we would be gathering with our Christian sisters and brothers at All Saints, Peppard, to pray for the unity of Christians. Due to the high Covid infection rates all the local church leaders agreed it is better to postpone the service to later in the year. Hopefully we will be able to gather in larger numbers and enjoy each other's company socially. It will make a change to hold the service on a warm, light evening rather than in the middle of winter.

Why is the cause of Christian unity so important? We need look no further than the words of Jesus: "May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me." (John 17:21) It is by standing united in expressing our Christian faith and cooperating with one another to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society, that the world will come to know Jesus is the Son of God.

None of us knows what Christian unity is in God's eyes. All we can do is pray constantly that the Holy Spirit will lead us to the point when we are One and the world comes to believe Jesus is the Son of God. It might be an uncomfortable journey at times.

When praying for Christian unity we mustn't forget to give thanks for the progress that has been made over recent decades. Successive Pope's have initiated gatherings of different Christian leaders and other faiths. Locally, we are fortunate that all the ministers meet regularly throughout the year to share a simple lunch, pray together and support each other as best they can. Hopefully, by the cooperation of our different church communities God's presence amongst us will be made known to all.

As the seed grows silently in the earth,
As the yeast rises in the dough,
May your power, Spirit of God, be at work in us.
Like a city set on a hill,
Like a lamp shining in the darkness,
May we witness together,
Calling our brothers and sisters to the glory of your light
And the peace and justice of your kingdom.
Amen

Deacon Brian



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

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale and Ramsay Mikhail who died this week.

Please Pray for Delia Hoban who is in hospital

Please pray for Beth Selwood

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

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 9 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;

Philomena Smith, William Tillotson, Frederick Wareham, Alan Graves, Rev. Canon Frederick Smythe, John Cano, Kieran Cotter, Briget Gurney, Carlos Ramirez, Anne Marie Agnes Chancellor-Wheale, Judith Over, Denis and Nora Fogarty,