

Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

Thought for the week
17th Sunday of the Year
25th July, 2021

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

“Now you must repent [...] so that your sins may be wiped out.”

The season of Easter continues with its message of reconciliation and hope, and that’s underscored in today’s Readings. But first, Peter is driving home his point very forcefully. In case his Israelite audience had tried to forget, he reminded them that THEY were the ones who handed Jesus over to be crucified, THEY were the ones who demanded the release of a convicted murderer, THEY were the ones who approved the death of the ‘Prince of Life’. Peter did not pull his punches. Although he did relent and, echoing the words of his dying Master, he conceded that Christ’s persecutors did not really know what they were doing. If we were being picky, we might remember that

Peter hadn’t exactly shone with loyalty when he denied three times that he even knew Christ. The crux of the matter was that – on hearing the wake-up crowing of the cockerel, Peter repented immediately: ‘*He went outside and wept bitterly.*’ (Lk 22:62). What Peter is doing in the first reading today is urging his listeners to repent likewise.

A wise confessor, when confronted with a penitent who was struggling to accept that his sins could be forgiven, said to the penitent, “*Remember what Our Lord said to Peter, ‘Do you love me?’*” (Jn 21:15) If the answer we give to that same question is, truthfully, “*Yes, Lord, I love you,*” then we are on the sure road to forgiveness.

Truly loving the Lord is striving to keep His Commandments. He knows of our frailty, just as He knew of the frailty of Peter and the apostles: “*The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak*” (Mt 26:41). It is our honest repentance, our firm purpose of amendment and, above all, our love of God which will be our saving grace when we stand before our Creator with Christ, triumphant over sin and death, as our Advocate.

“And he who loves me will be loved by my Father...” (Jn 14:21)



Prayers Please

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;

Judith Gomes, Margaret Lousdale, Bill Riordan, Michael Collins, Kity Minter, Rosita Smith, David Andrews, Kathleen Butler, Edward Cottrell, Jimmy Minter, Brian Stratmore Cleary, Patrick O'Flaherty-Hilder, Brian Mudge, Shirley Anderson-Williams, Joseph Brown, Jeanette Fernandes, James Fornara, Euralia Antao, Edward (Teddy) Jenkins, Carol Tegg.