

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
22nd Sunday of the Year
29th August, 2021

In this Sunday's Gospel from St Mark, the Pharisees and scribes who had come from Jerusalem, (such was the threat they perceived in him) challenge Jesus. In their criticism of the disciples for not upholding their traditions, they were indirectly criticising Jesus.

We know that traditions can be good; they help secure a sense of identity and set us apart. However, Jesus responds with a challenge in return. Quoting from Isaiah, he says:

'The doctrines they teach are only human regulation'

He is warning against traditions becoming more important than the commandments set down by God.

What sets us apart as Christians should not simply be particular customs or habits that we adhere to, but more the way our hearts respond to those in need - how we love our neighbour.

There are calls on our prayers and our financial generosity for areas of crisis in the world. Fr Michael directed our prayers last Sunday, and drew our attention to a special collection for CAFOD, joining with the Disasters Emergency Committee, to support Afghanistan, Haiti and the Tigray Region in Ethiopia.

Closer to home we may buy a copy of The Big Issue on a regular basis or add items to our shopping trolley to donate to a food bank. Closest of all to home is the local food bank run out of Spring Water Church in Sonning Common, which needs more help with packing food parcels and deliveries in our area.

As we hear from St James in the second reading for today,

'Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.'

How will your heart respond to the challenges many face here in our locality?

Mary



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;

Pam Marsland, Anthony Patrick, Sandra Antao, Rachelle De Souza, Patrick Carroll, Jean Dwyer, Diana Spencer, Mother Teresa, Gwyn Stanton, Yvonne Aubrier, Anthony Fajer, Florence Ada Gibbons, Roger Selwood, Mina Findlay, Helen Newman, Nikki Wells, Margaret Aldworth, Claude Buike, Sean Smyth, Michelle Dobson.