

**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

**Thought for the week**  
**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**6th February 2022**

The dozens of quiz shows airing every week on our TVs and radios reflects our great love of knowledge. We gain this by making observations and collecting facts, and data. While useful, none of these rational methods get us a hairbreadth closer to God. We are unable to see or understand God in this way. The Prophet Isaiah, known for the eloquence of his speech, is unable to describe fully what he sees in his vision of God *'seated on a high throne.'* (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Instead we have description of seraphs above Him, each one with six wings.

St Thomas Aquinas refers to the seraphim as the group of angels closest to God.

Rather than striving to see with the mind's eye, we must seek something more intimate: to experience a loving relationship with God. This can sometimes feel a bit weak and hazy in the business of everyday life. Then in times of pain or crises, we are forced with all our hearts and minds into the present moment and it seems our vulnerability makes us receptive to the faith, hope and love that that we need to get through. At other times our experience of closeness to God comes at joyous moments, such as climbing to the top of a mountain, or being present at the birth of a child, when we may feel a close rapturous sense of the presence of God. These heartfelt spiritual feelings are impossible to convey fully in words or pictures.

In our Synodal process of 'walking together' we have begun meeting in groups to reflect and pray in what the Holy Father Pope Francis has referred to as 'discernment of spirits'.\* This means we have *'to think through our decisions and actions, not just by rational calculation but by listening for His Spirit, recognizing in prayer God's motives, invitation and will.'*

Lord help us to listen attentively for your voice, so we don't miss it calling quietly from surprising sources.

Jim

\*Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future. Pope Francis, in conversation with Austen Ivereigh, Simon & Schuster. 2020.



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

Please pray for Barbara Pike who died this week.

Please pray for Stephen Aldworth who needs our prayers.

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;**

Margaret Ely, Marie King, Dee Keogh,  
Jimmy Thompson, Lilian Tresham, Max Noothout,  
Derrick Palman, Richard Hoban, Jill Brown,  
Margaret Morey, Bill Hoban, Peter Smith,  
Eileen (Nevin) Leech, Dennis Goodehied,  
Joanna Sheehan, Patrick Sullivan, Marie King,  
Hugh Jerome Morland.