

Some topics for prayer

Young people returning to school or college; their teachers and support staff; their families.

Businesses discovering they are having to lay people off or even to close; the people affected.

The street you live in and individuals in it.

Members of your family. Friends. Not-so-friends.

St Andrew's and our parish.

Our town. Our NHS. Our schools and care homes. People who work in our public services.

People living anywhere in the world where there is famine, war, poverty, pandemic ...

Victims of hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender, religion, class ...

Two prayers ('Collects') set for today

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Please take this leaflet home with you and may God bless you and everyone you love and pray for.

Welcome

to private prayer at St Andrew's

Sunday, 30th August 2020



This sheet offers you one of the readings set for today, together with a structured way of reading it prayerfully. It also offers you prayers set for today, some other prayers, and ideas for topics for prayer.

But first and foremost, let us 'Be still and know that I am God'
(Psalm 46:10)

The Lord's prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.

A reading set for today (Matthew 16:21-26)

Here is a suggestion for a structured way of reading prayerfully. It is based on an ancient practice called Lectio Divina.

First, breathe slowly and deeply.

Ask God to speak to you through the passage that you are about to read.

1st reading of the passage: listen.

Read through the passage once, silently, but 'saying each word out loud in your mind', and listening.

Allow a word or phrase to attract your attention. Let it arise naturally from the passage as if it were God's word for you today, however unexpected.

Say it to yourself a few times, or underline it with a pen.

2nd reading of the passage: ponder.

Read the passage a second time. As you read and listen, ask how and why this word or phrase is speaking to you.

Summarise what it means for you.

3rd reading of the passage: pray.

Read the passage a third time, prayerfully asking Christ what he is saying to you in this word or phrase, and listen.

What is it that you need to do - or consider - or relinquish - or take on - as a result of what God is saying to you?

Talk to God about it in prayer.

Here is space to jot things down, to take away and to return to later:

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you."

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

"For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

"For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

Matthew 16:21-26

I wonder ...

... what your favourite part of that story was?

... what the most important part of that story was?

... what Jesus meant when he said 'Take up your cross and follow me'?

... which part of this story is for you or about you?

... what the disciples felt like when they heard Jesus talk about how he was going to die and rise again?

***You can hear our weekly audio service -
around 20 minutes - on our website***

<https://standrewswatford.org.uk/>