

## Some topics for prayer

Our politicians.

People who are worried or frightened because of covid-19.

People who have to make decisions about how to manage the pandemic.

Areas which have gone into a tighter lock-down, or might do soon.

Our students, especially students who are living away from home for the first time.

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 ...

Victims of unforgiving ...

## Two prayers ('Collects') set for today

Gracious God,  
you call us to fullness of life:  
deliver us from unbelief  
and banish our anxieties  
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:  
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,  
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city  
where we shall see you face to face;  
through 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, 4<sup>th</sup> October 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 21:33-41,43)

*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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> 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:*

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable.

"There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.

"When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

"Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'

"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

"Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to the, "Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom."

Matthew 21:33-41,43

### ***I wonder ...***

- ... what the wealthy and powerful people in Jerusalem felt when they heard this story?
- ... what the people who didn't have much power or money felt when they heard this story?
- ... what the most important part of this story is?
- ... how Jesus would re-word the story, if he told it us today?
- ... what word might he use instead of 'vineyard'?
- ... what it means in our own lives, 'to look after the vineyard'?

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

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