

PRAYERS

Take a few moments and in your imagination place yourself in church and as you look around at familiar faces, ask for God's blessing on each one as you name them in your heart.

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray
Our Father, who art in heaven....

BLESSING

Christ our ascended King
Pour upon you the abundance of his gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
And the blessing of God, Father Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Canon Ken, Bishop-elect George, Joyce, Eddie, Johnny,
Adam & Hayley, Norman, Audra, Sylvia, Adam

Senior members resident in care homes

Nan, Isabel, Leslie, Lillian, Tom, Sally, Kay

*Remember all who have been bereaved especially during
when restrictions prevent the usual funeral services.*



PARISH PRAYER LINE – TEL: 07553404711 (New)

*Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:4,5*

*Canon Ken and I are doing our best to keep in touch and provide
resources during this time of separation. Please contact us for a chat
and/or a prayer. We would love to hear from you.*

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St Aidan's Parish Church

Enabling people to find a Living Faith in a Loving God by "Serving Christ in the Community"

24 MAY 2020 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE ASCENSION GREETING

Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Christ has ascended on high. **He reigns forever. Alleluia**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord. Alleluia.**

SENTENCE OF THE DAY:

You are awesome O God in your Sanctuary; the God of Israel gives
power and strength to his people. *Psalm 68:35*

PENITENCE (We say sorry to God)

**O God our loving Father, we are very sorry for all the things we
have done which make you sad. We have sometimes been selfish
or bad-tempered or disobedient. We are sorry for the things we
have failed to do, for the work we did not finish, the thank-you we
forgot to say, the friends we did not help, the quarrel we never
made up. For these and all our failings, forgive us through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**

WE RECEIVE GOD'S FORGIVENESS

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our
Saviour, forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the
world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAISE : Blessed is the Lord for he has heard the voice of our
prayer; Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
And in our song we will praise our God.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

O God the King of Glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Mercifully give us faith to
know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of
time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Psalm 66

Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

1 Peter 4:12-14 & 5:6-11

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 17:1-11



Jesus Prays
for his disciples.

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYER FOR TODAY (AND EVERY DAY) FROM BISHOP KEN CLARKE

Unshakeable God, at this time of national crisis and personal pain, we look to you for help and hope. We don't understand what's happening. We are fearful and apprehensive. We grieve to see people dying. We are anxious about the future. We are fearful about surviving financially.

**We are really just about hanging in.
We can't get a grip on what is going on.**

**It hurts to see people suffer. It hurts to see doctors, nurses and care workers stretched to their limits. It is so painful to think of those in isolation who are deeply worried. It is heartbreaking to see the bereaved. It is distressing to know that some people are utterly alone. We cry out to you for help and hope. We ask your forgiveness for our pride and folly. We repent of our selfishness and sin. Show us your mercy Lord.
Heal our land.**

**God of compassion, stretch out your hands of healing.
God of grace, show us your mercy. God of truth, may your word bring hope. Lord Jesus, walk with us in our pain fear and confusion. Once again calm the storm. Once again heal the hurting. Once again bring hope and help. Bless all who are serving selflessly to care for others. Give our leaders wisdom and vision.
Help them to make the right decisions at this unprecedented time.
Strengthen and protect all who are still working.**

**Thank you for the thoughtful actions of many people.
Thank you for all whose lives are marked by acts of kindness.
Thank you for churches seeking first your Kingdom, a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. Thank you that in you, the unshakeable God, there is rock solid hope for the present and future. Thank you that you are the God of the Cross and the God of resurrection.**

Breathe afresh your Holy Spirit upon us, upon our nation, and across the world at this time. In the powerful Name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Important announcement
From next Sunday – Pentecost**

You will be able to listen to

Sunday worship

by telephoning

02890 123 289



Dear Church family

Although there is some easing of restrictions with churches being allowed to open for private prayer, Church services will probably not be able to recommence for some time. I don't think it will be feasible for us to open St Aidan's for individuals due to the extensive cleaning required.

I have not wanted to publish any on-line services unless everyone is able to access them, but I am pleased to inform you that will now be possible! From Sunday 31 May, (Pentecost), everyone can see or listen to a service. Each Sunday I will post a recorded video service on Facebook and those without the necessary technology will be able to listen on their house or mobile phone. You simply dial the local number 02890 123289 any time from 11am on Sunday to hear the audio version of that service. The service will be available until Wednesday evening when I hope to record a mid-week service. It might be helpful to put your phone on speaker mode if you have it

As I have said, I hope to provide both a Sunday and mid-week service. This is a new venture for all of us so please pray that I will be able to manage the technology and that the worship will unite us until we can meet in church once more. Let me know if you have any questions and of course your feedback will be most welcome.

I am writing on Ascension Day which marks the end of the forty days of Easter and provides a space before the great celebration of Pentecost. That means nine days between the end of the physical presence of Jesus on earth until his continuing presence in the person of the Holy Spirit. I'm not sure that I had noticed that gap before! I wonder how the disciples felt as Jesus was taken from them. Luke records the question of two white-robed men: "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has gone away to heaven, and some day, just as he went, he will return!" (Acts 1:11). Their response was to hold a prayer meeting which lasted several days!

Now it's not possible for us to hold prayer meetings in the usual sense, and definitely not lasting several days – but we can use this time to pray. If nothing else, these days when the normal pattern of life has been interrupted provide us with the gift of more time than usual. Lengthy, wordy prayers are not necessary. Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer– simply to pray Our Father, who art in Heaven, phrase by phrase provides a structure when often we can't find words. The psalms are full of passionate prayers of praise, complaint, anger even.

The Church of England has for the past several years encouraged us to pray during these nine days from Ascension to Pentecost that God will build his Kingdom and invites us to pray specifically for family, friends and neighbours to find the life and hope that Christ alone can give. Something all of us can do. You can get more information from the website www.thykingdomcome.com

I was reminded of a hymn written four years ago by a Church of England minister during troubled times, which is particularly relevant just now. It is sung to the tune: The Church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. You could use it as a prayer.

O God of all salvation in every darkest hour,
Look down at your creation with pity and with power.
In all the pain we're seeing, for stranger as for friend,
We'll cling with all our being to love that cannot end.

O God, your loving passion is deeper than our pain,
Look down, and in compassion bring us to life again.
When we are found despairing, when all seems lost to sin,
We'll hear your voice declaring that love alone will win.

O God, when hate grows stronger, with fear to pave its way,
The cry, 'Lord, how much longer?' with broken hearts we pray.
In all that is dismaying in humankind's freewill,
We'll join our voices, praying that love will triumph still.

O God, whose love will never be silenced, stalled or stilled,
Set us to work wherever there're bridges to rebuild.
We'll take our life's vocation to make, like heav'n above,
In this and every nation a kingdom built on love.

PRAYER FOR ASCENSION DAY.

Lord Jesus, human and divine, we dare to live as those who are close to heaven, touch our lives with your glorious life, speak and think and act through us. And may the loving kindness of the father, the eternal friendship of the son and the joyous life of the Holy Spirit be with us today and always. Amen.

Revd. Bobbie, Ascension Day 2020



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