



The Archbishop of Canterbury's  
Call to the Global Wave of Prayer 2017

Days of Prayer between  
Ascension and Pentecost  
(25 May - 4 June)

During the days between Ascension and Pentecost, the intention is to pray for the evangelisation of our nation, our communities, and even our churches, at the initiation of Archbishop Justin Welby. He asks us to pray for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

It may seem strange to include 'our churches', but as we pray between two great Festivals of the church – Ascension and Pentecost – we are waiting, as the first disciples did – for the outpouring of the promised Holy Spirit which comes to transform nations, communities, people. It is the work of the Spirit that brings people to an intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ.

It is the work of the Spirit that helps us know Jesus Christ better.

In this booklet there is the opportunity to take some time each day to pray very simply, with a prayer, a scripture reading, some suggestions to consider from the reading, the Lord's Prayer, and a final prayer.

You may wish to also use the prayer below, written especially for this initiative of 'Thy Kingdom Come', at the beginning and/or end of each day.

**Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

May this dedicated time of united, common prayer, prepare us to be filled with the power of the Spirit at Pentecost.

*Fr Paul Smith, Team Vicar*

*St Nicolas' Church and St Michael's, Abingdon-on-Thames*

## Thursday 25 May: Ascension Day

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

**Read:** Acts 1.8-9

**Consider:** How will the promised Spirit enable you to be a faithful witness? Which five people will you pray for to come to know Christ?

Our Father.....

*Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to  
the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you  
at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.*

## Friday 26 May

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### Read: John 16.20-23

**Consider:** What does it mean to you for your pain to be turned to joy? Can you dare to ask the Father for anything in Christ's name – for the nation, the community, or yourself?

Our Father.....

*Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

## Saturday 27 May

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

**Read:** John 16.23-28

**Consider:** Joy is distinctly lacking in most parts of life. It is a gift which is more than happiness: it is something deeper, found only from knowing Christ. What might life look like – everywhere – when ‘our joy is made complete’?

Our Father....

*Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.  
Amen.*

## **Sunday 28 May – Easter 7**

### **Prayer:**

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### **Read:** Acts 1.12-14

**Consider:** After the Lord's Ascension, people were in the upper room, 'constantly devoting themselves to prayer'. Does this challenge our own life of prayer, and that of our Christian communities? How do we pray together, and what should we pray for? Does how we pray as communities need re-thinking?

Our Father...

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and  
compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may  
find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory  
of God the Father. Amen.*

## Monday 29 May

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### Read: John 16.29-end

**Consider:** We live in an increasingly unsafe and dangerous world. Christians are persecuted, but we are privileged. We know, however, that Christian values are seriously undermined. Yet, Jesus says: *'Take Courage, I have conquered the world'*. Imagine Jesus speaking those words to you. Do things feel different? How different?

Our Father....

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*



## Tuesday 30 May

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### Read: John 17.1-11

**Consider:** Jesus prays to the Father 'that we may be one'. What further steps need to be taken that we may indeed 'be one'? How might we pray for greater unity in our churches and community, and how can it be realized?

Our Father.....

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*

## Wednesday 31 May

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### Read: Romans 12.9-16

**Consider:** Here we are told how Christians ought to live. The words go to the very heart of our faith: they don't feel particularly easy or comfortable, do they? Pray for the Spirit to cleanse us of wrongdoing, that the world may see Christ's love within us.

Our Father.....

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*

## Thursday 1 June

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

**Read:** John 17.20-21

**Consider:** This part of Jesus' High Priestly Prayer to His Father, pleads for those who will believe in Him because of the words spoken on His behalf. What witness are we to the love of Christ in our community? What difference to our words have for those with whom we come into contact.

Our Father.....

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*

## Friday 2 June

### Prayer:

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### Read: John 21.15-19

**Consider:** After breakfast Jesus and Peter have an intense and poignant conversation. It ends both simply and abruptly as Jesus says to Peter: 'Follow me'. We may have followed Jesus for many years, albeit falteringly; or we may have just begun. We need to hear the words 'Follow me', again and again. Pray for the transforming Holy Spirit to strengthen us in following Christ.

Our Father...

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*

## **Saturday 3 June**

### **Prayer:**

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

**Read:** John 3:5-8

**Consider:** Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews, reveals a spiritual truth, which confounds this learned man. The Spirit cannot be contained, its power and work is not limited. Like the wind it blows where it chooses. May we open our hearts and lives to the Spirit coming among us.

Our Father....

*Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph,  
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,  
that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness  
and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen*

## Sunday 4 June - The Feast of Pentecost

### **Prayer:**

*Come Holy Spirit,  
Fill my life with power from on high,  
And make me a more faithful witness to Christ.  
Amen.*

### **Read:** Acts 2.1-13

**Consider:** The promised Spirit comes as they pray like the sound of a rushing wind, with divided tongues of fire. Confused people failed to grasp how the story of God's deeds could be heard in their own language. Pray that the nations may hear God's voice and peace may come. Pray for the church that it may be empowered to preach and live the good news. Pray for one another to live in the unity of the Spirit.

Our Father....

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*