

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
May 31, 2020
Day of Pentecost - Whitsunday

Gracious Lord, we meet together to celebrate the gift of your Holy Spirit to the church. Bless us as we seek to serve you. Fill us with your Spirit, that we might be your voices, hands and presence in the world, and draw others into your kingdom, saying *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

We pray for our Church that at this time we may be renewed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and reach out to one another as true disciples with faith, love and hope. Help us to understand our weaknesses and our differences, so we can build a strong and loving parish. We pray for Christians everywhere, that they may be united in one Church through the action of the Holy Spirit... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Your Holy Spirit gave your apostles the gift and power of forgiveness. Grant us that gift, so we may use it to heal a broken world... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Most Holy Spirit, grant an extra measure of Your gifts to those who lead us in Your Church, as they strive to guide our spiritual journey through these trying and uncertain times... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

We pray for all those who fear for their lives, for the victims of violence and war, and for those weighed down by troubles and anxieties. We pray that we may reach out to others with hope and care... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Let us pray for all who are lonely, weak and vulnerable, that they may be aware that you are with them in their troubles. We pray for those who cannot cope on their own, and all who ask for our prayers whatever their need may be... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Almighty God, You carry the burdens of our lives in Your hands. Deliver from illness and suffering all who cry to You for release. Hear us on behalf of the sick, the dying and those who mourn. Answer Your people O Lord, and deliver them from their infirmities and their grief by Your grace... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Lord, we ask you to be with those who struggle to find adequate food and clean water, clothing and shelter and the other basic needs of life, and we pray that governments and agencies, including the church, will reach out to change the course of their history, sharing from the abundance held by others. Lord, grant us the courage and generosity to be part of the solution working with local charities and organizations reaching out around the globe... *"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"*

Give sharp eyes, wise hearts, and generous hands to our elected and appointed leaders, in government and in all walks of life where they are given authority and power. Help each of us to notice our neighbor's distress, and give us the grace and the willingness to show them mercy, especially during these difficult times...

"Lord in your mercy, Hear Our Prayer"

Lord, we ask for your prayers for all who are forgotten and neglected - those who are so easy to forget - comfort them. Children who lay abandoned and abused - protect them. Communities who suffer at the hands of prejudice - shield them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body and spirit, and turn their sorrow into joy...*"Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer"*

Lord, we ask that you give guidance to all who are seeking employment, those struggling with addictions, and troubled youth. Give them courage, lead them to new opportunities and fill them with hope...*"Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer"*

We pray for all who serve and protect us, for all medical personnel, police, firefighters and members of the military, that God will keep them safe, guide them in their service and renew their spirit, especially as they work through the trials of Covid-19 ...*"Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer"*

Good and gracious God, send forth your spirit into our hearts. Wipe away the fear between churches, nations and families. Tear down the walls that divide us, and make us one. Help us to use all your gifts wisely as true witnesses to your Love. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen