

## Prayer for the Diocesan Vision

Spirit of God,  
descend on me this day.  
Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,  
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,  
the Spirit of love to surround me and  
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path.

Holy Spirit,  
I pray for a new outpouring of your grace,  
so that I may grow in worship of your name  
in love of you in my prayer  
and in my actions towards others.

Come Holy Spirit into my life to guide me.  
Strengthen and defend me,  
so that I may be drawn ever closer to you.  
Help me this day and always  
to be a channel of grace  
in all I say and do  
and invite others into relationship with you.

Amen

## Thought for the week 24th Sunday of the Year 12th September, 2021

I wonder why Jesus wanted to know who the people thought he was. This is the question he asks his disciples in the gospel reading this week. Did this matter to him who they thought he was? Was this a way of him checking on how he and his teachings had been received up until that point?

And then why, after the disciples identified him correctly, did he then tell them not to tell anyone?

I do not know the answers to any of these questions.

Could it be that Jesus was confirming what he already knew, that those failing to acknowledge and accept who he was would eventually have him put to death?

Then there is the rather harsh rebuke to Peter followed by a statement that suggests several requirements for who want to follow Jesus: that they renounce themselves, and that they take up their cross.

This has to be the hardest thing in this modern age where everything is about finding out who one is and about being the best one can be- whatever you do. We are to a great extent defined by what we do - are we to renounce this? I would like to think not. I would like to think that we should be the best that we can be, not for ourselves, but for the role we have in building God's kingdom while here on earth. I would like to think that once we discern this, renouncing what we would like for our own satisfaction, could be easier.

The next requirement is to take up our cross. To accept that the road will not be easy while we follow Him- we will face rejection and pain but, as the psalmist puts it, our feet will be kept from stumbling, our eyes from tears and our souls from death, for as long as we walk in the presence of the Lord.

Yvonne Mubanga



### Prayers Please

Thank you for your prayers for Carmel Barker (Nee Rooke) who is now out of hospital

Please pray for Mary Haggar

Please pray for Jack Edwards

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has a tumour on her right eye.

Please pray for Rita Lonsdale.

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid and has entered a rehabilitation centre where he is being helped to learn to walk and feed himself again.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter - in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



**Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;**

Joyce Rebeiro, Joan Bredon, Donald Andrews, Johnny Gaudencio, Ester Roman Zambrano, Helenor Kitzer, Minnie Tillotson, Winnie Hickey, John Warman, Florence Ada Gibbons.