

## 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  
16th Sunday of the Year  
18th July, 2021

### *“Show the light of your truth to those who go astray”*

The quote from the entrance antiphon talks about forgiving others by helping them past the mistakes they have made, but what if we discuss forgiveness in a different sense?

Typically, forgiveness appears as moving past someone’s wrongdoing where the issue is relatively easily reconciled, but seldom is there mention of more complicated problems that can’t be fixed with an apology. This could range from political views or ways of living in which you may not agree with someone else; it is these scenarios which most often destroy relationships. Forgiveness here is a lot harder as they haven’t done anything “wrong”, they just have a varying opinion.

As much as we like to preach the importance of respecting other people’s opinions, the reality is not that simple - as in most cases it is more than just an opinion, it gives greater insight into the person you thought you knew. Within the first seven seconds of meeting someone, we already create an impression of who they are. As you can imagine it is infinitely easier to assume you know someone inside and out after being around them for a long time, however this leaves us predisposed to make assumptions which conflict with reality.

I interpret the above quote to be asking us to be open. Not everything is about converting people to your beliefs, and what may look like “astray” or the wrong path to us might be the right path for someone else. The best way to see something from another person’s perspective is to see them first; to love them for who they are, not what you want them to be.



### Prayers Please

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;**

Ian Reid, Johanna Brouwer, Peggy and Arthur Evans, Jenny Keogh, Dudley George James, Gladys Tomlinson, Patrick Deeney, Cyril Thomas Smith, Susan O'Sullivan, George Gallagher, Michael McDonnell, Kevin de Silva, Norman Hutchinson, Jacqueline Margaret Clyne.