



“In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

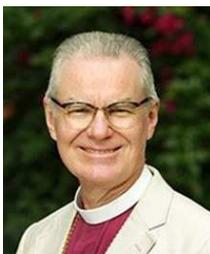
Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost (10th—20th May 2018) for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops’ of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

The hope is that:

- people will commit to pray with God’s world-wide family - as a church, individually or as a family;
- churches will hold prayer events across the UK and in other parts of the world;
- people will be empowered through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to



It’s not complicated – With THY KINGDOM COME we’re simply asking people to pray from 10th—20th May 2018 in whatever way they want and with whoever they want for others to come to know Jesus Christ and therefore for God’s kingdom to come.



I encourage churches across our Diocese to share in praying for people to know and love Jesus Christ. ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ provides simple, creative resources that each of us can share in – at home, in our parishes, schools and agencies. Join us in praying – in your places of ministry, and be refreshed by the Holy Spirit.

THY KINGDOM COME

To pray Thy Kingdom Come is to pray for a shift in the world around us. It is to yearn for things to be different. To imagine transparency in a culture of fake news. To find compassion in a society that resorts so readily to shame and blame. To long for grace, mercy and peace in an anxious and fearful world (2 John 1.3)

But to pray Thy Kingdom Come is first to pray for a shift within ourselves. For this is where the change we seek must begin.

To pray this prayer is to yearn to live increasingly in the light of the Christ. It is to commit ourselves again each day to taking the path that is love for God, love for neighbour, and love for the earth and her creatures.

It is to assent to the life of God within us. Such a shift will be demanding. Our priorities will need to be examined and re-calibrated. In so many ways we can find ourselves compromised.

As much part of the problem as part of the solution, accepting of the ways things are, lacking the imagination or the courage to live in the way of Jesus.

To pray Thy Kingdom Come is a costly thing. But this shift will also be freeing. To pray Thy Kingdom Come is to step into the freedom to follow God's call into life and mission in the way of Jesus.

There's nothing quite like being who you are called to be, and doing what you are called to do.



1. Praying at mid-day for renewal of the Church

From the earliest days of the Church, people have gathered together to praise God and to pray for salvation through his Son.

At mid-day (12 noon) for the period between Ascension and Pentecost (Thursday 10th—Sunday 20th May 2018 Fr John will be lighting candles and saying mid-day prayer and praying for the renewal of the Church.

You are invited to join Fr John for half an hour to sit quietly and pray in the spiritual rhythm of mid-day prayer which will nourish your heart and keep prayer on your lips, enabling you to become part of a global wave of prayer. Come and pray for renewal of our Church.

Mid-day Prayers
12 noon for 30 minutes
Thursday 10th May to
Sunday 20th May
Christ Church Essendon
Pray for renewal of our Church

Or get a copy of the prayers from Fr John and pray at home at mid-day



2. Praying for Five Friends

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do; persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives.

Consistently praying for others takes discipline, and there are many ways that we can build up habits that will help us to pray for our friends and family.

Choose five people you would regularly like to pray for and write their names down onto a list. If you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose. Once you have settled on 5 names, commit to praying for them regularly.

Below are some suggestions to help you pray for five people regularly. Choose the one that suits you best:

A. PIECE OF STRING

Take a piece of string or cord, and tie five knots in it to represent each of the five people you have committed to pray for. You could carry the knotted string in your pocket, tie it round your wrist or place it somewhere that you'll see it regularly. Use the knots to remind you to pray for each person on your list of five.

B. SMALL STONES

Find five small stones (light coloured ones are best) and write each of the people on your list onto each of the stones. Place them on your desk, bedside table or fireplace as a reminder to pray. Alternatively, you could place each stone in a different room of your home and pray for each person as you enter or leave the room.

C. POST-IT NOTES

Use five post-it notes and write one name onto each. Stick them onto your mirror, above your bed or somewhere that you'll see them regularly and will be reminded to pray.

D. OUR FATHER (Lord's Prayer)

Say the Lord's Prayer five times a day and think of one of your five friends each time you say the prayer.

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO USE THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS AS YOU PRAY FOR OTHERS:

Loving Lord Jesus, please work in me so I can share your love, life and message with... Reveal your love to them, that they might know, follow and witness to you, for your Glory. Amen.

Loving Father, Send your Holy Spirit so I can share your love, life and message with... Reveal Jesus to them, that they might know, follow and love him, for your Glory. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, I pray that you will lead ... to you. Thank you that you love them and I pray that you would break into their life and show them your love, grace and peace, for your Glory. Amen.

Please talk to your five friends about the fact that you are praying for them. Invite them to Church or one of our social activities.



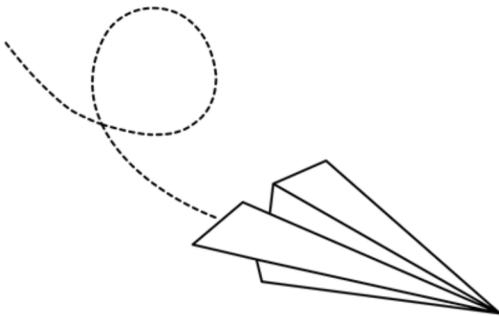
3. Prayer Space for Children

From Ascension Day to Pentecost, the open space at the back of the church will be set up so that paper planes can be made.

When we throw the paper plane we can see the theme of Jesus going 'up' at his Ascension and the Holy Spirit coming 'down' on the disciples at Pentecost.

We can write prayers on the planes and send them to God by flying them in the church (please avoid the security area in the Church)

With your friends you might like to see whose paper plane flies the longest or the furthest.



Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

For more information on
Thy Kingdom Come
—please talk to Fr John

4. THY KINGDOM COME BEACON EVENT at St Paul's Cathedral SUNDAY 20th MAY 2018 @ 6pm

There is a Beacon Event at St Paul's Cathedral to gather as God's people, to ignite and inspire worship and intercession for a generation to rise up with a fresh passion and confidence for the proclamation of the gospel.

Fr John is going into the event and all are welcome to join him. He will be leaving the Church at 5pm and having a meal in the city afterwards.



PRAYER FOR RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH

Glory to you,
O Lord our God,
Your love calls us to be your people.
By sharing our many and diverse gifts
we share in your mission.
We ask you, Lord,
to shape us into a community of faith.
Nourish us by your word and sacraments
that we may grow into the image of Jesus.
Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
heal us that we, in turn,
may heal the wounded.
Form us to be instruments of love,
justice, and peace in our land,
and send us to proclaim your saving work.
RENEW us, Lord,
that we may renew the face of the earth.
Amen.