

## PRAYING

*Silence is kept for several minutes, to allow people to pray for the 5 people they have chosen to pray for throughout the Novena. It may be appropriate to invite people to speak those names aloud if they wish to.*

We meet your word with honesty, willing for it to challenge and reorientate us.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We give you thanks for the privilege of prayer: that continual communion which tunes us to you.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We pray for education establishments and for the teaching and learning that happen there.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

We bear before you all who work to further knowledge and deepen understanding.

*(Pause)*

Come Holy Spirit: **Thy Kingdom Come.**

Lord of all,

As we remember how you freely give the gifts of the Spirit to all who choose to receive them,

May we have the patience to listen,

The faith to believe

And the wisdom to understand.

Enable us thereafter to pray for, and proactively help, those in need.

Amen.

(Prayer written by Di Dawson - Churchwarden, Secretary and Authorised Lay Minister at the Stour Downs Benefice)

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with attentiveness in discerning your will.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with resolve to live according to your ways.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the melodies, harmonies and rhythms of your kingdom.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with yourself.**

CHANGING LIVES



CHANGED LIVES



NINE DAYS OF PRAYER 2025

## DAILY WAITING

*Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4).*

This service is for use by individuals or groups and can be adapted to suit your context. Hymns, worship songs and additional prayers may be added as you wish. Italic text is intended as an instruction, plain text is to be read by a leader, bold text is to be read together. Since the theme of Thy Kingdom Come 2025 is The Lord's Prayer, these liturgies invite us to pray that prayer immediately after the Scripture reading, rather than during the Intercessions, to allow us to bring it into focus before we meditate on it in the Reflection.

The Reflections are taken from the Thy Kingdom Come 2025 Novena booklet by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, and the Intercessions include prayers from our June Prayer Calendar, written by people from around the Canterbury Diocese.

## GATHERING

*As you begin your time of prayer, take a moment of silence to remember and delight in the promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus gives to all his disciples. Read the following from John 14 together:*

**I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth... On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.**

*Make a sign of being present to God and one another – light a candle, open a Bible, share the peace...*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

**And kindle in us the fire of your love.**

Come, Holy Spirit, be with us as we pray

**And leave us not as orphans.**

Come, Holy Spirit, renew us in body, mind and spirit

**And send us out to be your presence in your world.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

**And kindle in us the fire of your love.**

*Optional hymn or worship song.*

*Pause for a few minutes in silence to welcome the leading of the Holy Spirit, and bring to mind the names of 5 people you will commit to praying for over the coming days.*

**LISTENING** : 2 Corinthians 3:16-18, NRSV

But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

*We wait upon the work of your Spirit as we say the Lord's Prayer together:*

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**REFLECTING**

Prayer is not about trying to change God's mind – but the other way round!

'Your will be done...' Matthew 6:10 God's will is like the single unifying note played throughout the universe to which everything else and every one of us and all creation must be tuned in order to find the harmony we long for. It is mysterious and beautiful. But when we hear it, it is compelling. And like the greatest treasure or a pearl of great price we seek it (see Matthew 13:44-45). Just like an orchestra tuning up, the principal oboist ascends to the stage and plays a note which everyone else then tunes their instrument to, Jesus comes to embody and reveal the will of God, God's way of being human, and God's rescue mission to the world to reconcile us to God and to each other.

What we must do is tune in. We do this by listening to Jesus and learning from Him. Therefore, when we pray, although we ask things of God and bring everything to God (God is, after all, our loving Father) prayer is essentially about the alignment of our minds and hearts to the will of God.

We rarely know what's best for us, let alone what's best for the world. Left to our own devices, we follow our own way and build our own kingdoms. We believe we know best. Therefore our prayer often sounds like we're trying to get God onto our side, like we're trying to change God's mind!

But really it's the other way round. God wants to change us. And it is by prayer, by tuning in to the will of God, that by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, embodying the will of God as we find it in Jesus, we are changed.

We need our hearts and minds tuned to the will of God. This will not only be good news for our lives, it is the only way of finding lasting joy and peace.

It is also very good news for a confused and combative world where the powerful and the vengeful seek their own kingdoms and impose their own will. Only what we see and receive in Jesus can save us. This is why we pray, 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done'.

So we pray that the people we are praying for today may encounter and apprehend the will of God as it is revealed in Jesus. And then tune in. Or to be more accurate, to be so open to the grace of God that God tunes them into the waveband of the kingdom.

Psalm 119:25-33, NRSV

25 My soul clings to the dust;

**revive me according to your word.**

26 When I told of my ways, you answered me;

**teach me your statutes.**

27 Make me understand the way of your precepts,

**and I will meditate on your wondrous works.**

28 My soul melts away for sorrow;

**strengthen me according to your word.**

29 Put false ways far from me,

**and graciously teach me your law.**

30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

**I set your ordinances before me.**

31 I cling to your decrees, O Lord;

**let me not be put to shame.**

32 I run the way of your commandments,

**for you enlarge my understanding.**

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

**and I will observe it to the end.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
And shall be for ever. Amen.**