

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 fresh resolve, willing to add action to our prayers.

(Pause)

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

We give you thanks for the gift of your Spirit which renews and empowers us.

(Pause)

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

We pray for Fuse, the youth worship event taking place at the Cathedral this evening.

(Pause)

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

We bear before you all who will gather for worship in our churches tomorrow for a taste of Pentecost fire.

(Pause)

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

Wonder-working Spirit -

Comfort all who have travelled to our shores in search of refuge, and give wisdom to those making decisions about their future.

Rest on all those who will be ordained or priested in the coming months. Gladden our hearts with signs of your presence and your work in our world.

Stir us to deeper faith as we pray for miracles of hope and healing in our local communities. Amen.

(Prayer written by Lyndall Bywater - Diocesan Changing Lives Prayer Network Co-ordinator)

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with deeper appreciation of this prayer which Jesus taught us.**

Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with the refreshing that brings our faith to life again.**

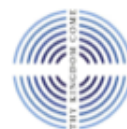
Come Holy Spirit: **gift us with glimpses of your glory.**

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: Matthew 7:24-29, NRSV

“Everyone, then, who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these words, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

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

God invites us to join in

'For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory for ever! Amen.' Romans 11:36

When we say the Lord's Prayer we nearly always finish with the formula, 'For thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.' These words don't actually appear in the version of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus teaches His disciples, but as you can see from the quotation from Paul's letter to the Romans above, it is based upon a whole number of biblical texts which ascribe to God power and glory, and always end with the word 'Amen'. Amen means 'I agree'. It is, therefore, probably the most challenging word in the whole prayer.

We are, as it were, signing our name at the bottom of this prayer, and, by pledging our agreement, committing ourselves to doing something about it. But do we? Are we actually letting this prayer shape our lives? Do we really agree, or are we just going along for the ride, saying 'Amen', but not actually intending to change the way we live in the ways this prayer directs?

It is for this reason that I've said elsewhere that perhaps the Lord's Prayer should come with a health warning: Be careful about saying this prayer unless you are prepared to change.

When I say 'Amen' I am saying, I agree that I have responsibilities to my neighbour. I agree that I need to seek God's Kingdom and God's will and not my own. I agree that I need to stop wanting more all the time. I agree that I am a sinner in need of God's grace, and that I must be ready to offer that grace and forgiveness to others. I agree to let go of my desire for power and my chasing after glory, and humbly follow in the way of Jesus instead. He teaches me these words so that I may know how to pray and know how to live.

Loving God, teach me to pray. Help me to live in peace with you and with my neighbour and to know your will for my life. Open my lips that I may declare your praise. Be with those I love, especially the people I am praying for today that they may know you too. Help me to say 'Amen' and mean it.

Luke 6:27-36 (NRSV)

27 “But to you who are listening I say:

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

28 bless those who curse you,

pray for those who mistreat you.

29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also.

If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

30 Give to everyone who asks you,

and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners love those who love them.

33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners do that.

34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.

35 But love your enemies, do good to them,

and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.

Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High,

because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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.