

Prayers

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

St Peter was appointed missionary to the Jews of the dispersion and we pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who brought forth from the root of Jesse a Messiah for all tribes of the earth; grant us in faith and humility so to stand in awe of your presence, that in the last all the branches of the tree of life may be grafted in, and all those whom you have chosen may rejoice together in your love. Amen

Heavenly Father, You gave your Son, Jesus Christ to show us the Way of justice, truth and peace. Help us hold his example before our eyes, in the way that leads to a better world on earth and eternal life in the Heaven. Amen

O Lord, whose way is perfect, help us always to trust in your goodness, to walk in the way of faith, and to follow in the path of simplicity. Teach us to cast our cares on your providence, that we may possess a quiet mind and a contented spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God, our Shepherd, give to the church, a new vision and a new charity, new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of her brightness and the renewal of her unity; that the eternal message of thy Son, undefiled by the traditions of men, may be hailed as the good news of the age; through him who maketh all things new. Amen. Percy Dearmer

Christ the good shepherd, grant to all whom you have called to positions of leadership in this and every land, strength, wisdom and integrity, that they may feed the people committed to their charge, and lead them beside the waters of peace. Amen Adapted from Michael Councill

Almighty and ever-living God, give us new strength from the courage of Christ our shepherd, and lead us to join the saints in heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, with the blood of the eternal covenant: make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

I'm calling to you, Lord (Nick Fawcett)

I'm calling to you, Lord,
crying to you,
pleading for help in this time of need.
That's not something I'd usually do –
you're well aware of that.

I don't typically give you a second thought;
not being sure, in fact, if I even believe in you.
The chances of me being caught praying,
even thinking of you,
until this crisis struck,
were, let's face it, more or less zero.
But things have changed,
and yes, if I'm honest, I'm getting desperate,
no one and nothing quite being able to offer the reassurance I seek.
So I'm here now,
with all my doubts,
all my questions,
all my lack of faith,
conscious that, up to now, I've had no time for you,
yet asking, despite that,
if you're there,
and if you're listening,
be there for me.
Amen.

For the current situation

For all whose day starts with anxiety,
as they leave the security of home
worrying about the risk of infection;
particularly those whose health
or age classifies them as vulnerable.
Loving God, be close, keep them safe,
along with all whose tasks today
includes the care of frail and elderly.
And for all of us, grant wisdom
to make sensible choices, not just
for ourselves, but for everybody.

Help us to put aside
preconceptions
about other people,
because that alters
our behaviour,
and simply accept
that they, like us,
are precious in your eyes.

Loving God, we give thanks
for the extended family
of local communities
assisting with the needs

of both frail and elderly
confined to their homes.
May every gift of love,
every encouraging word,
bring hope into lonely lives
and a blessing to the giver.