

“Thy Kingdom Come 2020”



Pentecost 'Novena'

for the healing of the world and all her peoples

A 'Novena' is a 9-day commitment to pray for a particular purpose, cause or for particular people. We are asking everyone in our Benefice to commit to pray a 'Novena' for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic in the 9 days following the great Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord (21st May) to the 'Birthday' of the Church, the great Feast of Pentecost (31st May). We also want to encourage everyone to join with people in prayer across the world, that God's Kingdom may come and may reign in our hearts bringing an end to all sickness and disease.

In the 19th Century Blessed Elena Guerra, the founder of the Oblates of the Holy Spirit, felt it was important that the Church be renewed to the passion of the first Christians at Pentecost and petitioned Pope Leo XIII in the following manner:

'Pentecost is not over. In fact, it is continuously going on in every time and in every place because the Holy Spirit desired to give Himself to all [people] and all who want Him can always receive Him, so we do not envy the apostles and the first believers; we only have to dispose ourselves like them to receive Him well, and He will come to us as He did to them'.

As a Benefice we are praying for an outpouring for the Holy Spirit upon our world once again, that all people may receive healing, wholeness and peace in the current pandemic. Please join us!

Before you start:

- Be ready to start the novena nine days before Pentecost (22nd May).
- Set a time each day to take a moment for prayer. You only need about 10 minutes.
- Put a reminder on your phone, a note on your fridge or something to prompt you to pray each day.

'We can say that God's heart is touched by our intercession, yet in reality he is always there first. What our intercession achieves is that his power, his love and his faithfulness are shown ever more clearly in the midst of the people.'
(Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 283)

This Novena can be prayer on your own, or with members of your household, or why not pray with friends over the phone? You may wish to light a candle in preparation and have a cross or crucifix on which to focus.

Each day

Begin with the 'invocation of the Holy Spirit' prayer by Pope St John XXIII:

"Come, Holy Spirit, come, and from your celestial home Shed a ray of light divine. Come, Father of the poor, Come, source of all our store. Come, within our bosoms shine. You, of all comforters best; You the soul's most welcome guest. Sweet refreshment here below. In our labour, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe. O most Blessed Light Divine, Shine within these hearts of thine, and our inmost being fill. Where you are not, we have naught. Nothing good in deed or thought Nothing free from taint of ill. Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour your dew; Wash the stains of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will. Melt the frozen, warm the chill. Guide the steps that go astray. On the faithful, who adore. And confess you, evermore. In your sevenfold gift descend. Give us virtue's sure reward. Give us your salvation, Lord. Give us joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia."

Day 1:

Today we remember those who are sick and dying, whether in hospital or at home.

Trusting in God's care for his children,
we pray in the name of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We pray for those who are unwell due to the coronavirus:
in your compassion, grant them strength and healing.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet hold before God all who are currently ill, and pray for the healing of the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Holy Spirit, awaken the whole human race to trust You and open our hearts to the Good News of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Amen.

Day 2:

Today we pray for our NHS. We pray for our Health Care workers remembering especially Health Care staff on Covid19 Wards and Intensive Care Units.

In the day of trouble you answer us, O Lord, and you protect us; you send us help and give us support.

We pray for all who minister to the sick throughout our health service, that they may renew their strength in you and be channels of restoration and renewal for those who suffer. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet hold before God our local hospitals, care homes and all who work there.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Come Holy Spirit, rekindle your fire and renew your Church. Amen.

Day 3:

We pray for all who are anxious at this time. For all without work and struggling to make ends meets. For all who suffer with depression and mental health issues.

You are near to the broken-hearted, O Lord, and you save the crushed in spirit.

We pray for all who are anxious about loved ones, friends and neighbours: enable them to trust in you and be steadfast in hope. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet hold before God all who are feeling depressed or anxious. For everyone who has lost their jobs and for all who are fearful.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth. Come Holy Spirit, unite your church – 'Father, make them one that the world may believe.' Amen.

Day 4:

Today we pray for all who feel lonely and isolated.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me.

We pray for all those who feel isolated or alone,
that they may experience your loving presence.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

*In a moment of quiet, hold before God all who may feel trapped and lonely,
isolated and those longing for human love and affection.*

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the earth – transform society by
the power of your Spirit. Amen.

Day 5:

*Today we pray for those engaged in research working to find a vaccine
against Covid19.*

O Lord, you are great and abundant in power;
your understanding is beyond measure.

We pray for all engaged in research,
who are seeking to develop a vaccine and remedies for coronavirus:
grant them wisdom, understanding and effectiveness in their endeavours.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

*In a moment of quiet pray that a vaccine may be found for the relief of
humanity.*

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Come Holy Spirit, let faith and hope arise in the hearts of people and let your
glory be manifested in your Church. Amen.

Day 6:

Today we pray for those in authority and for all who have to make difficult decisions.

We cast our burden upon you, O Lord,
and you sustain us.

We pray for all in authority who face difficult decisions
that affect the lives of many;
grant them wisdom and courage.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet, pray for our Government and for all who have to make the decisions which affect the future of this and every nation.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Come Holy Spirit; help us live together in unity, humility and love. Amen.

Day 7:

Today we pray for traders, employees and the self-employed, for all who are fearful for the loss of their livelihoods.

Lord, you are our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?
You are the stronghold of our life; of whom shall we be afraid?

We pray for traders and employees who are fearful of the future,
that businesses may be secured, jobs protected and families supported.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet hold before God who need to work, but because of the circumstances are not able to. Pray for all who have the weight of having to care for their families financially and for all who have lost their jobs.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, empower us to fulfil your call to be witnesses to the ends
of the earth and to be bearers of the Good News. Amen.

Day 8:

Today we pray for all have departed this life during the pandemic. We pray for all who mourn and are not able to attend Funeral liturgies of loved ones.

Lord, you show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

With sadness, we remember those who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus. Give us thankful hearts for the privilege of knowing them and strengthen our faith in your Son who died for us and rose again in glory that we might share in his victorious life.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet we hold before God all who have died, all families and friends in mourning and for all who work in crematoria and funeral homes.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Come, Holy Spirit, let your victory be proclaimed and your glory be revealed upon the face of the earth. Amen.

Day 9:

Today we pray for the Church, for her leaders and for all who are starved of the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood at this time.

How can we sing your song, O Lord, in these strange times?

We pray for your Church who longs to praise you
throughout this strange and confusing time;
through your creative Spirit
fire our imaginations to proclaim your unchanging love in new ways.
Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

In a moment of quiet we pray for our Anglican Province of Wales, for John our Archbishop and for all faithful Christians throughout the world.

Come Holy Spirit, in your power and might to renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

Closing Prayer at the end of the Novena

Lord of life,
in this time of crisis for our families and communities,
our nation and our world,
we turn to you in faith,
to seek your guidance
and receive your blessing,
knowing that nothing in all creation can separate us from your love
made known to us in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
We ask this in the name of him
who took our infirmities and bore our diseases,
who suffered the cross and rose again triumphant,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

Further online resources for prayer

Could you use a prayer journal?

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/prayer-journal-2019>

What about prayers for the whole family, for the young and young at heart?

https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2019-03/TKC_Home_Pack_V4.pdf

Why not journey with Mary, the Mother of God, from Ascension to Pentecost?

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2020-01/Journey%20with%20Mary.pdf>

*Quotations from the Psalms are taken from NRSVA.
Other material is taken from 'Thy Kingdom Come' resources
available at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>*