

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT PRAYER MEETING 20 MAY 2020

Anyone who is not yet on the Prayer Group WhatsApp group, please send me a WhatsApp message to 07715 905103 and I will include you in the group, where people are sharing uplifting prayers, videos etc.

We gave thanks:

- For improvement to a sore eye
- For an improvement in a family relationship
- For a Covid patient coming off the ventilator and improving after 2 months in hospital
- For a powerful healing experience of the Holy Spirit
- For the lovely weather and the beauty of God's creation in nature
- For a greater awareness of the sights and sounds of nature

Reflections on Ascension day first reading Acts 1:1-11

- "Wait for the gift" – the Lord is saying don't do anything without my Holy Spirit. We need the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit especially at the moment, and especially when evangelising and talking about Jesus.
- "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be witnesses." The Holy Spirit will inspire us how we should be witnessing. Good advice on discerning whether or not an idea is from the Holy Spirit: don't sit on it but take some steps towards putting it into practice (e.g. ask permission from the Priest if it is some activity in the parish). Then, if you go ahead and people respond, it will be because it was a "God idea" not just a good idea. But if you do nothing, you'll never know.
- Before doing anything, even simple things, ask for the Lord's guidance. We shouldn't think we can do anything without the Holy Spirit's help – that's why he has been given to us.
- "Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom?" Even after 3 years with Jesus, his disciples still hadn't understood that his kingdom is a spiritual one, not earthly. They needed the Holy Spirit to understand the spiritual dimension. When we are open to the Holy Spirit, we see things through God's eyes

Intercessions. We prayed:

- For the Holy Spirit to guide us how we should be bearers of the Good News. Either in simple ways like being cheerful and positive, and when people ask us why, we can talk about the fact that we have faith. Or in more specifically evangelistic ways, teaching or witnessing to your faith.
- For Carol's online Children's Liturgy venture
- For Antony and Domitille's online worship for their French Community
- For the Alton Day of Renewal online on Saturday, that the technology will work and people will be touched, respond and be inspired to be witnesses themselves.
- For all the parents home schooling, especially those who are finding it exhausting.
- For the family of a lady who died after suffering cancer 10 years. The consolation of the Holy Spirit for her husband and teenage children.
- For those in families with no faith. The Lord holds the key to all our intentions and we pray that he will open the lock in families where the door is closed to him.
- For Jesus to make his presence felt in families where there is lack of harmony.
- For courage to talk to people about prayer. A recent survey has found that the present crisis has prompted people to pray who don't usually, and to watch online services when they don't usually go to church.
- For the recovery of a teenager who took an overdose, and comfort for his family
- For healing of many individuals we know who are currently suffering from illness, including stomach upset, brain inflammation,

- For those experiencing coronavirus in hospitals and care homes, and for all suffering from other conditions who should be treated in hospitals, but are fearful of going.
- For the man missing in Bentley, that his family will have the peace of resolution.
- For all regular or occasional member so our prayer group. As we celebrate 40 years of existence, we thank God for all the blessings he has poured on us and through us to the parish
- For our churches to reopen; for the people who are missing the sacraments and the community.
- For the Holy Spirit to inspire scientists developing vaccines against the virus
- That the government will make the right decisions about easing up lockdown and restarting the economy
- That people will be freed from excessive fear of returning to work or going out.
- For improvement of mental health among people in lockdown and those worrying about finances and work.
- That the whole pandemic will cease and everything return to normal.

And we thank God that 15 people were able to participate in our meeting this week