

Prayer Matters

Please keep in your prayers this week:

Prayer for the Nations

Come, Holy Spirit, breathe upon the nations of the world. Where there is division, bring unity; where there is hatred, sow love; where there is conflict, plant seeds of peace. Guide leaders with wisdom and humility, that they may serve with justice and compassion.

Prayer for Peace and Healing

Holy Spirit, fire of divine love, fall afresh on our world today. Heal the wounds of war, comfort those who suffer, and restore hope to the broken-hearted. Let Your peace flow across borders and cultures, uniting us as one human family. Teach us to be instruments of Your peace, bringing kindness, mercy, and reconciliation.

Prayer for Unity in Diversity

Holy Spirit, giver of many gifts, you unite people of every language and nation. Help us celebrate our differences while remaining one in faith and love. Remove prejudice and fear from our hearts and teach us to listen deeply to one another.

Prayer for Renewal of the Earth

Spirit of Creation, renew the face of the earth. Awaken in us a deep care for all creation—the land, the seas, and every living thing. Empower us to protect and nurture our world, so future generations may live in peace and abundance. May Your life-giving breath sustain all creation.

Prayer for Justice and Compassion

Come, Spirit of Truth and Justice, open our eyes to the needs of the poor and oppressed. Stir our hearts to act with courage for those whose voices are unheard. Break down systems of injustice and inspire us to build a world where dignity, fairness, and love prevail. May we reflect Your light in all we do.

L'Arche London: Care about Care campaign

At the end of last year, L'Arche surveyed people with learning disabilities to find out what gives them joy in life. Here are some responses; "My local colouring club in the library", "Learning new computer skills", "going out on karaoke nights with friends", "learning to

play hymns on the organ" and "travelling to Bulgaria". Many of these adult social care services are on the brink of collapse. L'Arche struggles to imagine a world where people in L'Arche are deprived of joy in life because of lack of care. The *Care about Care* campaign is their response to this. We give thanks for all the people of L'Arche, and we hold them all in our prayers at this time of struggle.

Those who are sick or in need

Janet Anker, Ella Woodcock, Anthony Allen, Jeremy Baker, Denise Campbell-Palmer, Jean Castledine, Julie Hare, Ann Holley, Gwyneth Pedler and any others known to us.

Those with longer-term needs

Dawn Woodcock, Olive Heylings, Judith Billingham, Rosemary Cave, Ernest Owusu, Mavis Adenekan, Mary Allen, Anthony Backs, Isabelle Backs, Brenda Beamond, Simon Berlyn, Sue Beynon, Judy Clark, Harriet Greene, Kelly Greene, Donald Hope, Steve Ivory, Wisdom Kari Kari, Edward Kirby, Keith Mayers, Norma Prior, Hannah Sharma and all who support and care for them.

Those who have lately died

Any known to us and all who mourn.

Those whose year's mind falls at this time

Katie McGill, May Morrow, George Stead, Mavin Giscombe and Clara Beckwith

Commemorated on 26 May:

Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians

Born in 1515 in Florence, Philip Neri went to Rome when he was eighteen, resolved to give his life to God. He studied hard and led a noticeably austere life and, after a time living a life of a virtual hermit in the Roman catacombs, founded a fraternity to assist pilgrims and the sick. He was ordained in 1551, and he joined a company of priests working in San Girolamo church, where he soon became a popular confessor and spiritual guide. As many regularly came to the oratory in that church, where he held spiritual conferences, other priests were attracted to his teachings, and the Congregation of the Oratory was founded. It finally received papal approval in 1575.

Philip was such a popular and revered person in the city that he was treated almost like a living saint, even instructing the Pope to grant absolution to the French monarch, Henry IV, to prevent a political catastrophe. This kind and gentle priest gave his life for the service of others and died on this day in the year 1595.

Thought for the Week

“Cast yourself into the arms of God and be very sure that if He wants anything of you, He will fit you for the work and give you strength.”
Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians

If you would like prayer for yourself or another, please contact Sophie Milner:
milner34@btinternet.com.