

Midday Prayers 2021: Rebuilding hope and confidence
November
Who is my neighbour?

Monday: Who is my neighbour?

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
That is, unselfishly seek the best
or higher good for others.
Matthew 22:39 (AMP)

Living God,
you have taught us through Jesus
that our neighbours are not just those
who live next door, or live nearby,
but everyone, everywhere.
And so, we pray for our world,
our neighbours near and far.
Lord of heaven and earth,
hear our prayer.

Help us to reach out to our troubled, divided world,
recognising the call of our neighbour
in the cry of the needy;
May the time come when as individuals and nations
we live together as neighbours –
members of the extended family of humankind,
for we ask it in the name of Christ.
Lord of heaven and earth,
hear our prayer.
Amen
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Tuesday: Love your neighbour

In humility value others above yourselves,
not looking to your own interests
but each of you to the interests of the others.
Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5

**Loving Lord,
who has created us in your image,
show us how to value the people
who are part of our lives.**

Let us embrace our differences
and not see them as a threat.
Let our attitude to each other
reflect the acceptance of Christ.

May all our relationships
be based on mutual respect
as we recognise the face of Christ
in the image of our neighbour.

**Loving Lord,
give us your grace
to accept each other
unconditionally
that we may truly love
our neighbours as ourselves.
Amen**

Wednesday: Love your vulnerable neighbour

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.

Speak up for the poor and helpless,
and see that they get justice.

Proverbs 31:8-9

**Lord,
you call us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Help us to be their advocates
in an often loveless world.**

Use us to speak against social injustice
with a clear and influential voice
in a world where the vulnerable strive to be heard.

Give us resolve to speak boldly
on behalf of those who suffer in silence.
Make us strong and effective advocates
for those whose voice is too weak to be heard.

Amen

**Lord,
you call us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Help us to act with the mercy of Christ.
Amen**

Thursday: Love your neighbour in adversity

Then the king will answer,
“The truth is, anything you did for any of my people here,
you also did for me.”
Matthew 25:40 (ERV)

**Lord,
help us to love our neighbour as ourselves:**

Turn our gaze to see the need around us.
Help us to give without reservation
whatever the cost to ourselves.

Touch our hearts with the pain of adversity.
Make us willing to sacrifice our comfort
to support our neighbours in need.

Use our hands in service to others.
Guide us in deeds of kindness; actions of grace
which show your love in action.

**May we see the image of God
in the face of our neighbour
and lovingly care for their needs
as though we were serving Christ.
Amen**

Friday: Neighbours near and far

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,
because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.
Romans 1:8 (NRSV)

**Lord, open our eyes, open our hearts
to our neighbours who live nearby.**

Show us how to relate together
to build friendship and mutual trust.
Encourage us to offer a helping hand
wherever we sense a need.

**Lord, open our eyes, open our hearts
to our neighbours across the world.**

Show us the significance of relationship
with people worldwide; those known to us or not.
Help us to gladly respond in faith
with love and practical support.

**In word, deed and prayer,
may we reach out as your hands
across the road and across the world
to love our neighbours as ourselves.
Amen**

Saturday: Who is my neighbour?

He asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"
"Who was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"
The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."
Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:29, 36-37

**Lord,
you call us to love our neighbour as ourselves.
Help us to offer the mercy of Christ.**

Forgive us, Lord,
who call ourselves your own
but daily cause you pain,
who see someone in need
and walk across the road,
hear about injustice
and fail to say a word.
Forgive us, Lord,
who call ourselves your own.

**Renew our hearts,
our souls and minds;
Strengthen our faith
and make us a people
who are your hands,
your feet and voice
within this world.**

Amen

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Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union

Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

1 Mothers' Union worldwide

2 – 4 Lebombo in Mozambique; Makueni in Kenya; Newala in Tanzania; Niger-Delta North in Nigeria; Riverina in Australia and North East India in India

5 – 7 Antananarivo in Madagascar; Taita Taveta in Kenya; Ikara & Ife in Nigeria and Argyll & The Isles in Scotland

8 Mothers' Union worldwide

9 – 11 Kadugli & Nuba Mountains in Sudan; Kinkiizi in Uganda; Amichi & Igbomina West in Nigeria and Ottawa in Canada

12 – 14 Ukhahlamba in South Africa; Maseno West in Kenya; Oji River in Nigeria; Dunkwa-on-Offin in Ghana; Guildford in England and Coimbatore in India

15 Mothers' Union worldwide

16 – 18 Iraq; Katakwa in Kenya; Kafanchan & Asaba in Nigeria; Lincoln in England and Trinidad & Tobago

19 – 21 Muyinga in Burundi; Lake Rukwa in Tanzania; Okrika in Nigeria; St Asaph in Wales; Bendigo in Australia and Gujarat in India

22 Mothers' Union worldwide

23 – 25 Southern Malawi in Malawi; Northern Uganda in Uganda; Lafia & Ilaje in Nigeria and Thoothukudi-Nazareth in India

26 – 28 Zululand in South Africa; Lodwar in Kenya; Isiala Ngwa South in Nigeria; Accra in Ghana; Bangor in Wales and Colombo in Sri Lanka

29 Mothers' Union worldwide

30 Mpumalanga in South Africa; Central Buganda in Uganda; Zonkwa in Nigeria; Bo in Sierra Leone; Newcastle in England and Barrackpore in India

Final Blessing

**As we go in peace
may God fill us with a flame of love
for our neighbours throughout the world.
Amen**