

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people & leaders of Russia.

Sunday 21st May: *(Very Revd Bob Key, who leads in Thy Kingdom Come across the Anglican Communion, has written this year's Novena, running from Ascension Day to Pentecost - Copyright © 2023 by Thy Kingdom Come)*
John 1:3 is a wonderful reminder that love is not just a feeling, but a decision of the will. It shows itself in positive action as we Live the Kingdom. We love the hungry with food, the lonely with companionship. We love those who don't yet know Christ by living and speaking for Jesus with humility and integrity.

As we pray for our five today, we pray that they may catch a glimpse of what theologians call the transcendence and immanence of God, His glory, and His closeness. Pray that they may find Him a friend who understands them, and a Lord who loves them.

Monday 22nd: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

As we Live out the Kingdom, there can be nothing of imagining we are better than anyone else. Instead, our lives and our words are, as the great theologian Paul Tillich put it, 'One beggar telling another beggar where to find food.'

Pray that your five will allow Christ to rescue them and find that peace that comes from knowing you're safe in someone else's arms.

Tuesday 23rd: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

Living the kingdom, living as sons and daughters of the king, means sharing His generosity. As we live out the generous overflowing love of the kingdom then the hungry will be fed, the lonely befriended, prisoners visited, and the poor understand the good news.

Pray today that the five you are holding in your heart will receive and rest in the love of the Father, which constantly calls them home to become His children. Pray that they will find in Him the peace and place in His family for which we were created and redeemed.

Wednesday 24th: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

Living the kingdom must mean building churches and communities where 'Love one another' doesn't mean merely liking people who are like us. We are called to something much more radical, much more attractive. We are designed to be a community of servants: serving and being served by each other across all the manmade barriers that so often divide and discriminate.

Pray that your five may find their identity in who they are in Christ.

Thursday 25th: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

St Augustine said, 'Repentant tears wash out the stain of guilt.' We claim the peace, forgiveness and atonement of the Cross and the restoration and resurrection of Easter morning when we confess our sins and believe into Christ.

That's what we are praying for as we think of our five people today. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open their eyes not to negative guilt that leads to despair but to the hope and joy of forgiveness in Jesus.

Friday 26th: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

Living the Kingdom means that we can't be cardboard cut-outs: looking superficially Christian but with little inner depth and reality. God has given the world the right to look at us and see the character of Christ.

As we pray for our five folk today, pray that the lives of the Christians they meet will be Christlike and attractive in the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit.

Saturday 27th: *(The Novena for 'Thy Kingdom Come' continues between Ascension Day and Pentecost)*

The Spirit comes to the believer and the outcome is that we see and share that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. Christ in us and the Gospel in the world. That's what tomorrow's feast of Pentecost is all about. We can't 'Live the Kingdom' in our own strength. But, with the Niagara effect of the Holy Spirit, anything is possible. We pray that the Holy Spirit of God will open and fill the lives of our five folk today.

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