



THY KINGDOM COME  
**St Mary's Shalford: Novena of Prayer**

*Joining together in 9 days of prayer  
between Ascension and Pentecost  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020*

Novenas originate from the nine days between the Ascension of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The apostles, Mary, the brothers of Jesus, and many other disciples spent this time constantly in prayer, waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Acts 1:12-14

During these 9 days of prayer in our Parish of Shalford, as we pray daily together yet apart through our St Mary's *Novena of Prayer*, we join with other disciples across the world and across denominations in a great global wave of prayer led by our Archbishops, praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' and 'Come Holy Spirit'.  
(reflections on our cards are modified from the archbishops' TKC resources)

As we begin to emerge again into the world outside, this feels such an important time to pause to pray as we begin to discern paths ahead.

At this time of global and very personal suffering, fear and loss in death and sickness and exhaustion, at this time of struggle and confusion and hardship, at this time of uncertainty, change and heavy burdens, at this time when kindness, neighbourliness and self-sacrifice abound, at this time when creation and the natural world heals and flourishes, this is a time to pause, to breathe deeply, to listen to God, to pray - for ourselves, others, our world, for the church

Morning Prayer at 9am each day live on St Mary's Facebook (& later as it's recorded) will offer an opportunity to pray these prayer cards simply together. Hopefully each prayer card might accompany you through your days.

You might like to put a lit candle at 9pm each night in your window as we pray together

[www.stmarysshalford.com](http://www.stmarysshalford.com)

You might like to follow a slower pattern, to rest and wait on God through this novena; to respond creatively through drawing/painting, music, composing poems or prayer collects, or any other way. One side of each of your daily prayer cards has space (sadly small!) for your daily response, but go larger too! If you would email copies of any of your responses (don't be anxious to be a great artist!) we can share these online encouraging and bringing support and joy to each other (vicar.shalford@icloud.com)

5 particular prayer points to share through our St Mary's Novena:

- ❖ 1. pray for the Holy Spirit to come, to ignite us with the fire of God's love, as individuals, disciples, and as the church,
- ❖ 2. pray for those lost, bereaved, suffering, homeless, hungry, abused, lonely, hurting, in families, friends, communities, world
- ❖ 3. pray for discernment and reflect on what we might let go of or build on from life before and during lockdown - in your own life, and for the church transforming here in Shalford & Peasmarsh
  - ❖ 4. pray that God's love, made known to us in Jesus, may be known everywhere; perhaps pray daily for 5 people
  - ❖ 5. pray for where God might be calling you, and the church's path ahead to serve all in our community in a changed landscape.

*'Prayer – the act of meeting with God in conversation, silence, longing - is not just another thing we do. It's the breath that sustains us, the place where change begins. As the apostles waited and prayed together following Jesus' ascension, so we pray. May our waiting and our praying make us more open to receiving the Holy Spirit, and more capable of showing the grace of God in all that we are and do'. Archbishop Justin*

***Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts and  
kindle in us the fire of your Love***



## Prayer Day 1 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Into the Silence

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

### Silence

**Reading:** 1 Kings 19.11-13

*He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.*

*Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

**Reflection:** Silence has always been a big part of spiritual practice. Silence can help us hear from God, because we can easily lose sensitivity to that still, small voice in all the noise & activity of our minds. In silence, you can realise how little you hear that voice at other times. Silence can be hard. Finding space and time for silence even in lockdown is difficult. You have a thousand thoughts. One beauty of silence is that it's not God speaking through someone else, not a sermon or book, but God speaking directly to you.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or after any silent time you find today, note down anything God seemed to say to you, through thoughts or feelings that came into your mind. In *Lectio divina* tradition, slowly read 1 Kings passage above or another; contemplate any word or short phrase which catches your attention; reflect what God might be saying to you.

### Time of silent prayer

#### Prayer

O Holy Wisdom, direct us on your path.  
Make us worthy of your teachings  
and open our hearts to accept your embrace,  
that we may serve you in peace and grace. Amen



#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Blessing

Be thou a bright flame before me  
Be thou a guiding star above me  
Be thou a smooth path below me  
Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me  
Today, tonight, and forever. Amen



**Prayer Day 2**  
**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Patience, Kindness, Goodness**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 13.4-7

*Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

**Reflection:** Love is lived out. Love is not just a declaration. It is commitment in action. God is always seeking to shape our lives by his love and he's patient and kind with us. One thing that God can really challenge us on is whether our Christian lives show something different which is worth living for. If there's nothing that looks particularly necessary or attractive about being a Christian, then what's the point? There's something special about you, which is your relationship with God. The fruit of that relationship is a loving nature full of God's goodness, joy and grace... and a longing to witness God to others, not just in our prayers but in our actions and in our praise.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

How could you better share with others the joy and love that you find in your relationship with Jesus?

**Prayer**



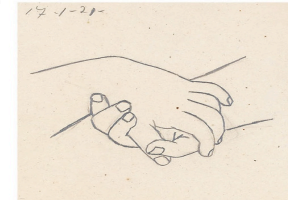
Hidden God, ever present to me,  
May I now be present to you,  
Attentive to your every word, Attuned to your inspirations,  
Alert to your touch.  
Empty me that I may be filled with you alone. Amen

**Time of silent prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

Bless to us, O God, the road that is before us,  
Bless to us, O God, the friends who are around us,  
Bless to us, O God, your love which is within us,  
Bless to us, O God, the light that leads us home.



**Prayer Day 3**  
**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> - First Loved**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** 1 John 4.9-10, 19

*God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We love because he first loved us.*

**Reflection:** God doesn't love us because we do things right or dislike us because we do things wrong. The revelation of his love for us is that it can't be earned. He just loves us. It is a pure gift. Grace. God's love acts for all, and with a longing to recognise his love and welcome it. The calling of Christians is to be those who point to how God is already at work in their lives and in the world; it is a calling to be channels, not creators, of his love.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

It is easy to take people for granted. Are there ways you can show more gratitude?

Ways you can show those you are praying for how grateful you are for them being in your life?



**Time of silent prayer**

**Prayer**

O God of Elizabeth and Mary,  
you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption  
in the coming of the Saviour:  
Make our hearts leap with joy,  
and fill our mouths with songs of praise,  
that we may announce glad tidings of peace  
and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you,  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you;  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
and give you peace,  
now and always. Amen



**Prayer Day 4**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Sorry**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** *Romans 5.6-8*

*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.*

**Reflection:** God loved us before we came to the realisation that we're not perfect or righteous in our own strength, and before we turned to accept His love.

The love of God we see shown in countless stories in scripture, comes from a broken heart. It is a love for someone which feels like an ache in the pit of the stomach. The kind of love which would do anything, however reckless it may seem to others, to find what is lost. It is the love which risks everything for the sake of one who is lost.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or are there things you should lay aside, so as to better serve another?

**Time of silent prayer**

**Prayer**

Insistent God,

by night and day you summon your slumbering people:

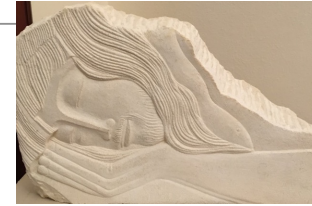
So stir us with your voice and  
enlighten our lives with your grace  
that we give ourselves fully

to Christ's call to mission and ministry. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

Bless to me, O Lord  
the earth beneath my feet;  
bless to me, O Lord,  
The path I tread:  
my walk this day with the Father,  
my walk this day with Christ,  
my walk this day with the Spirit.



**Prayer Day 5**  
**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> - The Lost Sheep**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** *Luke 15.1-6; see also Matthew 18.12-14*

*Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'*

**Reflection:** Our loving God pursues us. He leaves the ninety-nine to find the one. Every individual sheep is worth pursuing. Sometimes we can be exclusive about the people that we want to show love and care to. But the Jesus that we claim to follow had no requirement for those he ate with. The sinners and the tax collectors were people that he came to find. Jesus went to Matthew's house – Matthew the tax collector – to have dinner with him. Jesus went out of his way to spend time to eat with a group of people whom society rejected. In the same way, Jesus came into the world not only to dine with us but also to die for us. He has done everything to find us.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

In what ways can you leave your comfort zone and imitate Jesus by reaching out to others on the outside? Being *with* people? How might you invite others to explore being part of the church you are a member of?

**Time of silent prayer**

**Prayer**



Good Shepherd of the flock,  
you tend and feed and protect your chosen people  
and only ask us to put our trust in your loving care.

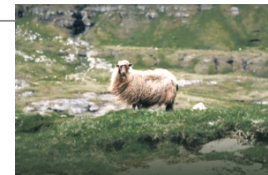
As host you entertain us at your welcome table  
and anoint us with your Holy Spirit.

Make us ever thankful for all your blessings, O Saviour of the world. **Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

The blessing of the Holy Spirit  
who broods over us as a mother over her children  
be with us all. Amen



**Prayer Day 6**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Let us Love**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** 1 John 4.7

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God;  
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

**Reflection:** What would the world be like if everybody loved each other? Of course love is difficult because our human nature, although capable of great love, is imperfect.

Our selfishness keeps getting in the way. The Christian church is called to be a community of acceptance, forgiveness and love. This is not a cheap, easy, rose-tinted, naïve love. It is the stuff of revolution. As Mother Theresa said, 'I only love God as much as I love the person I love the least'. It is only possible with the Father's love, Christ's example and the Spirit's power. God teaches us to love as we pray. To pray is to love.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

Do you love as you pray? How might the church show more the reckless love of God? How generous are we as Christians? How caring are we as Christians? How hospitable are we as Christians, especially when it is not in our self-interest?

**Time of silent prayer**



**Prayer**

Holy One, whose coming we await,  
you invite us into the light of your presence:  
illumine the dim places of our hearts.

We are thirsty for your compassion. Draw near to us and fill us  
that we may pour out your goodness to all who hunger. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

Gracious Lord, the air sings with songs of glory,  
water flashes silver with creation, and the forests  
bloom with leaves for healing nations.  
May your light and love fill our hearts and souls and minds,  
That we may share your love with the world. Amen



**Prayer Day 7**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - Who shall separate us?**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** *Romans 8.37-39*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Reflection:** We expect there must be something that can separate us from the love of God. But God is saying, 'I don't care where you are, what you're doing, how far away you are: my love for you will not change.' Christianity is first a relationship with God through Jesus, not first a series of doctrines or activities. The love of God is ultimately expressed in the Cross of Christ, which stands for all time as the sign and assurance of God's unchanging love.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

Think about how you can show someone that they are loved and known by God.

**Time of silent prayer**



**Prayer**

May we offer to you Father in heaven  
the broken bread of undivided love.

May we offer to our brothers and sisters  
a life poured out in loving service of that kingdom  
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

The peace of God  
which passes all understanding,  
Keep our hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ our Lord  
Amen





**Prayer Day 8**  
**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - The Father's Love**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** Luke 15.20-24

*So he set out and went to his father. But while he was still far off his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'. And they began to celebrate.*

**Reflection:** How joyful God is when he welcomes us back. We can have such skewed ideas of God as if he is an angry dictator or fault-finding teacher. But, God is love and his attitude towards us is compassion and grace. Even when we are far off, he is willing to run and meet us. 'While he was still far off' – the father didn't wait for the son to come all the way to him; he went and made up the distance. God doesn't just wait – he comes out to us in his love and enfolds us in loving forgiveness and welcome.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or

Have you been hurt by someone, or disagreed with them?

How could you reach out and meet them where they are, just as Jesus does for us?

**Time of silent prayer**

**Prayer**

Holy One, come this day,

Open my heart to the brightness of your love.

Help me to forgive.

Release my fears and revive my hope,

That I may rest and rise to share your love. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you,  
may the wind be always at your back,  
may the sun shine upon your face,  
the rains fall soft upon your fields

and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen



**Prayer Day 9**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> - The Spirit in us**

*Come Holy Spirit, enlighten our hearts, and kindle in us the fire of your Love.*

**Silence**

**Reading:** Acts 2.1-8

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?"*

**Reflection:** On the Day of Pentecost, God sent his Holy Spirit, as helper and comforter, and enabled the disciples to proclaim in different languages the wonders of God so that people from all nations could understand. The Spirit of God is present for every situation. When we share our faith with our friends, we can ask the Spirit to help us 'translate' the good news of God's love so that all might hear for themselves. At Pentecost we remember that the Holy Spirit is living in us. What a privilege we have. The Spirit awakens us, enlightens our hearts and kindles in us the fire of God's love.

**Contemplation** - contemplate/pray through one of our 5 prayer points and/or How might the Holy Spirit be reawakened in you, and in the church? The next time you have an opportunity to share your faith, will you be reminded that.



**Time of silent prayer**

**Prayer**

Loving Father, we pour out our hearts before you,  
knowing that you are always on our side, comforting, consoling, strengthening.  
Be our refuge in time of trouble for you are our rock  
our stronghold and our fortress. Amen

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

May the Spirit who hovered over the waters when the world was created,  
breathe into us the life he gives.

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire upon the day of Pentecost,  
bring the world alive with the love of the risen Christ

**Amen**

