

Ascension to Pentecost - Suggested daily readings

Thursday 5th May Ascension *'You are the light of the World'* (Matthew 5.v14-15 Psalm 78.v4)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism in and through the 10 days of Prayer, confidence to proclaim the Good News.

Friday 6th May *'Make known his deeds ...'* (Isaiah 12.v4, Ezekiel 38.v23 Psalm 105.v1)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism to children & young people, Church schools, all teachers and school governors.

Saturday 7th May *'We are ambassadors for Christ'* (2 Cor. 5 v20-21)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism in the Parish where you live or worship, those in positions of leadership in your church, those who live, work and study in your parish.

Sunday 8th May *'Here I am send me!'* (Isaiah 6.v8)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism in your Deanery, pioneer ministers, self-supporting ministers, lay ministers.

Monday 9th May *'Building up the body of Christ'* (Ephesians 4.v 11-12)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism across the Diocese of Sheffield, those in positions of leadership in the Diocese, the Parish Support Team.

Tuesday 10th May *'Always be ready...'* (1 Peter 3 v15-16a)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism to the disabled, the isolated in our communities, those who are unemployed.

Wednesday 11th May *'By this everyone will know...'* (John 13.v35)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism in our local hospitals, colleges, Universities, and prisons, Chaplaincy teams, voluntary organisations.

Thursday 12th May *'You will be his witness...'* (Acts 22.v14-15)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism in the work place, sports clubs, uniformed organisations.

Friday 13th May *'Proclaim the good news...'* (Mark 16.v 15)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism to young adults, families and the elderly.

Saturday 14th May *'The harvest is plentiful...'* (Matthew 9.v37)

Prayer subjects: Evangelism across the world, refugees and migrants, those persecuted for their faith.

Sunday 15th May Pentecost *'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...'* (Acts 1.v8)

Prayer subjects: evangelism through the power of the Holy Spirit, confidence to continue to pray for Evangelism in the future.

Thy Kingdom Come...



THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD

The Archbishop of Canterbury is calling all Christians to take part in a time of prayer leading up to Pentecost:

"...we long to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches."

"The dream is this: imagine every Anglican, perhaps even every Christian, in this nation praying that prayer together with the specific intention that all may come to know Jesus as Lord."

"Evangelism is the work of God, and it begins as we seek him in prayer. It is good for the Church to pray."

10 DAYS OF PRAYER

Thursday, 5th - Sunday, 15th May

10 Days of Prayer 2016

Each year for the past six years Bishop Steven has led and encouraged the Diocese to pray individually and together in the time between Ascension and Pentecost (10 Days of Prayer). This year this time coincides with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, writing to every Parish in the Church of England, inviting them also to join together in a time of prayer for the evangelisation of our nation.

The focus for our prayers as a Diocese during this time is:

- for all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus, so that we may have confidence to share our faith;
- that all may respond to the call of Jesus Christ to follow Him.

Why not pray each day for one of the seven disciplines of evangelisation, praying that they will grow in the place where you live?

- i. The discipline of prayerful discernment and listening (contemplation).
- ii. The discipline of apologetics (defending and commending the faith).
- iii. The discipline of evangelism (initial proclamation of the Good News).
- iv. The discipline of catechesis (learning and teaching the faith).
- v. The discipline of formation (growing the community of the church).
- vi. The discipline of planting and forming new communities (fresh expressions of the church).
- vii. The discipline of incarnational mission (following the pattern and life of Jesus).



The Spirituality of Evangelism:
The rock upon which our proclamation of the Good News is built, is in and through our prayers to God.

Praying through some thoughts about evangelism;

‘There’s something about being a part of the Body of Christ, as people who worship, as people of Scripture and sacrament, which equips us to be neighbours to others and creators of new community.’

‘When Jesus talked to the woman at the well, he broke a lot of rules and social boundaries to give her some new news, unexpected news. She went away, a new evangelist, and told everyone about it. What would it take to help people meet Jesus Christ at the wells of today’s society.’

‘Perhaps we need a better, more holistic theology of evangelism to see where people’s whole lives, as children, as young people, as adults and as older people, equip us to share our faith more widely and more appropriately, no matter where

we have come from or what we have done.’

‘What does it really mean to be the face of God’s Love? What would it take for people really to trust us, to find the hope we carry and be drawn to God because of that faith, hope and love?’

(These thoughts are those of Dr Anne Richards, National Adviser: mission theology, and are taken from the Report of the Archbishop’s Evangelism Task Group to the General Synod 2015.)

Want more resources...?

Planning your prayer, prayer stations and meetings, how to get involved with prayer walking, prayer for young people, schools and government, Novena Prayer, prayer outlines, and special events.

Check out:

www.sheffield.anglican.org/10DAYS16

www.thykingdom.co.uk



Bishop Steven

“Over the last six years, the Ten Days of Prayer has been a highlight of our Diocesan calendar: each year we seek to centre our lives again on God’s life and love and pray together for our communities and for our wider world. This year we are following the theme and call of the Archbishops to pray together for the sharing of the gospel within our nation. One of the real strengths of the Ten Days is that every church and parish prays in a different way. But please do pray that many across our Diocese and across our country will discover and rediscover the riches of the Christian gospel and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ”



And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28 v19-20

