



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 14TH JUNE 2021

School Prayer



God our father you love everyone in our community
You have given each one of us special gifts and you
want us to use them to help each other.

We feel the power of your love when we work
together for the good of the whole community.

Thank you for your gifts and for your loving
presence among us.

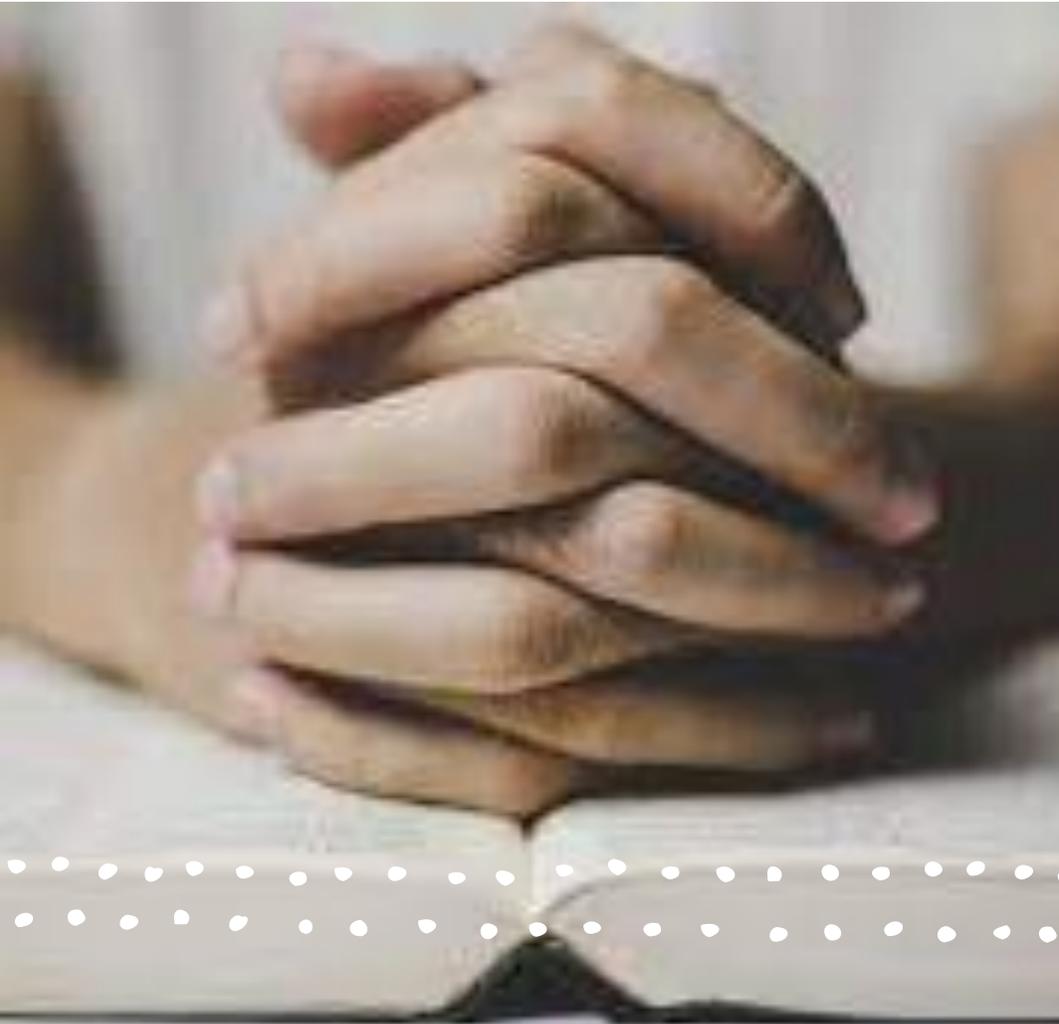
Give us courage and confidence to keep on working
for a better world which will be your kingdom of
love, justice and peace.



Monday 14th June

- "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you." Matthew 5:38-42
- Jesus teaches non-violence against others, but does not rule out moral victory over evil. Today God I ask for the grace to stand up for what is right.
- It would be next to impossible to help every person we meet begging in the street. Today I pray for God's grace to help me to be a more generous and less judgemental person. Amen

Tuesday 15th June



- You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew 5:43-48
- Jesus said, as he died, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". St Paul tells me that I am a temple of the Holy Spirit; but do I think myself better than anyone else?
- A prayer from Sean O'Casey's Juno and the Paycock: "Take away these hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh..." Can this be my prayer today?

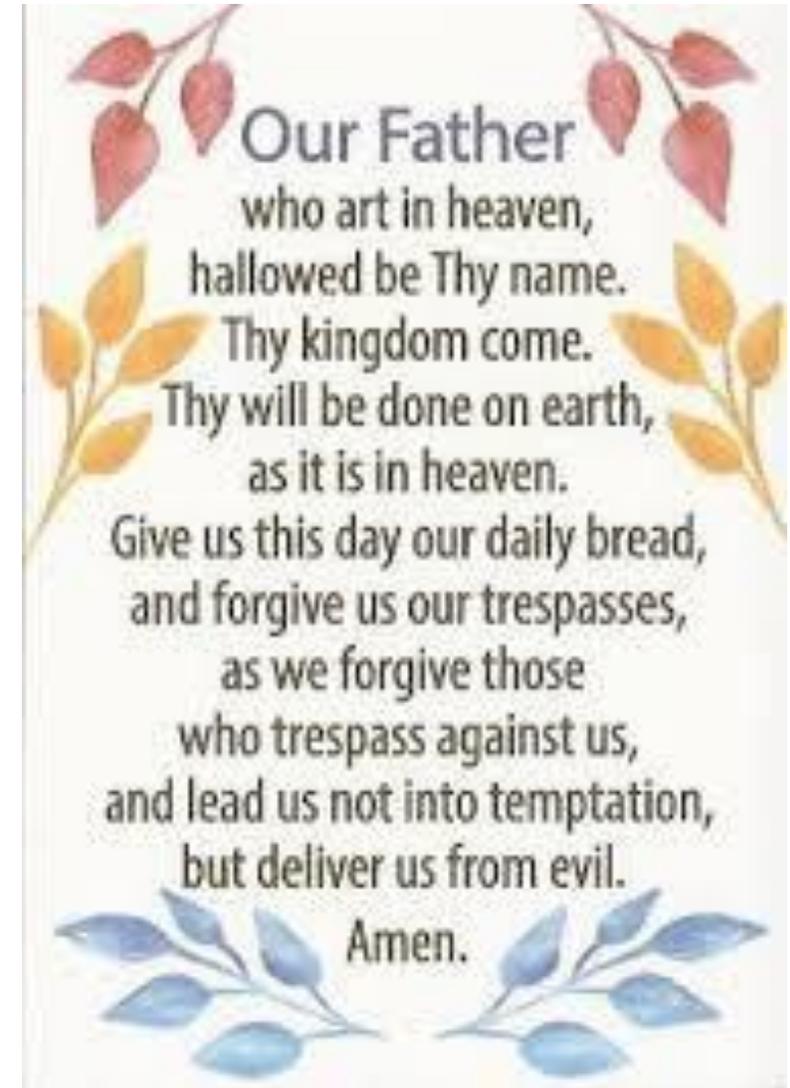
Wednesday 16th
June



- 'Whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
- The Kingdom of God is not a place for show and fanfare. It is not about looking pious, so that people will admire our holiness. Instead, it is about relationship; first, with our Heavenly Father, and, with our fellow human beings. Like any relationship, our relationship with God must be nourished by time spent with God in quiet and in private. Lord help me today to spend some time with you in prayer. Amen

Thursday 17th June

- Jesus said, "When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 'Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.'" Matthew 6:7-15
- This is probably the best -known passage of the Gospel - the Our Father, the prayer that Jesus taught us. Maybe it is so familiar that the words have lost their meaning for me?
- Today, I will spend some time just saying those words slowly, letting each phrase sink into my heart.



Friday 18th June

- 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 'The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full.'
Matthew 6, 19-23
- Where is my treasure? Where does my heart gravitate towards when I am not busy? Is it to someone I love? Or is it to something trivial, prey to rust and moths? Father, help me to treasure the things that matter the most. Amen.

