

Thought for the Day – Thursday 26th May

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Thy Kingdom Come

Today is Ascension Day, when the 40 days after Easter comes to an end, and Jesus, having shown to many people that He had risen from the dead, 'goes up' to heaven'. He tells His disciples, just before He ascends, to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit, which happens on the day of Pentecost, 10 days later.

In the days between Ascension and Pentecost, it has been the habit of many Christians, for many centuries, to make the focus of our prayers the same as those first believers.

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives... 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying... 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

- Acts 1:12-14

The instruction to wait for the Holy Spirit is so important because without the Spirit's empowering presence, it is impossible to be a faithful witness to Christ. We need this gift of the Father to be the people Christ is calling us to be. The Spirit then isn't for some private experience, but for the sake of our life for Christ in the world.

Thy Kingdom Come, is a global prayer movement, which encourages each of us to hold five specific people in mind in these days; and to pray for them, that they may experience the Father's love and power in their lives.

I also encourage you, to pray for our mission at St James.

So, please pray for:

- Five people you know to experience God's love and power
- Our new Mission Action Plan - for discernment to know what God is calling us to prioritise and that as many people as possible will participate.
- That our mission will be effective and that we will grow in faith, numbers and positive relationships with our wider community.
- That many people from our wider community will come to the Platinum Jubilee picnic and to the service before hand on Sunday the 5th June.
- For the Holy Spirit to fill us with a fresh energy and love

Praying can be so hard sometimes. It can be hard to make the time and when we do, it can be hard to know what to say. I would like to encourage us to make a special space and time over the next 10 days, and to use our own words. It can be very helpful to use prayers written by others, indeed the Lord's Prayer was taught by Jesus, however it is also important that we use our own words too. God loves it when we just talk to him. There is no right or wrong way to pray, there is just praying. And we can all do that.

There are a wide range of resources produced by the Church of England, including a free app, smart speaker and resources for young people and children, which can be found [here](#)