

Intercessions - 8th June

Lord, thank you for this time to pause. To pray in peace. To be humbled in your presence, and lifted by your grace.

As Pentecost rests upon us we are reminded of your gift of the spirit, of your teachings, of your call to go out and have you speak through us. We ask that you fill us up and prepare the road for us to walk.

Father, we pray that we can be brave with our faith. That we let ourselves be guided by you, steered to that great unknown, to places where our feet may fail. To put out trust fully in you. To take that leap, to let you work through every one of us and everything we do.

Bring your fire down lord, rest upon us.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God, we are blessed by a church full of your servants. People who give their time and selves sacrificially. We thank you for this gift and pray that you continue to fill their cup.

Father we pray for Jeni as she starts her sabbatical, we thank you for her leadership of this church and pray that her time away will be one full of rest, reflection and learning. We ask that you stand with and support Nick, Jess and the whole team as they lead our congregation over the coming months.

Lord, life is busy and we are uplifted that this church can hold so much of it within these walls. The groups, events and outreach that place St Paul's at the heart of our community. We ask that you bless the work going into events like New Wine, holiday club and countless more.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

God our father, the world feels more unstable than ever, with problems so insurmountable that we need one who can move mountains to solve them. We pray that you bring your wisdom, patience and compassion down on our leaders - to drive them to act with love not hate; words not war; empathy not ego.

Lord, our protector, the threats facing children are new and complicated. Outpacing parents, teachers and carers. Corners of the online world give rise to bullying, abuse, misogyny, hate, grooming - and can influence the minds and actions of our children. We pray for your guidance, to intervene to steer them and to steer us as we help them navigate their world.

Holy Advocate, we pray for an end to wars - in Gaza, Ukraine, South Sudan - everywhere. To stop the violence, stop the killing, stop the destruction of homes and childhoods, to stop the unimaginable devastation of innocence. As tensions escalate we pray for peace.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Father, when life gets tough we ask that you show us the beauty in this world, in your creation. To marvel at the wonders we have been gifted, the joy of community and family, the hope brought by kindness, the love shown by sacrifice. To see and feel those acts of gentleness that carry us through.

Lord, our great teacher, we thank you for these gifts and for your teachings.

Send us out Lord.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen