

PRAYERS FOR 28 JUNE 2020

In our prayers we continue praying through the Lord's Prayer and today we come to "Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Those of you who knew me in HSM and Wotton will know that I love candles and used to fill the churches with them whenever it was appropriate. The use of candles is well established as one of the most potent symbolic actions in prayers, so in the following intercessions the phrase "we light a candle" can allow us to light our own candle mentally and help us focus on the light.

Let us pray:

'Give us this day our daily bread'

Father, in your kingdom everyone will have what they need – their particular 'bread'. In anticipation of that time we dare to ask for what we need, what we really need, not for what we'd rather like to have. Lord give us today our daily bread, and may we remember to say thank you. But even as we pray that prayer, we light a candle and bring to you the hungry of the world, those whose need is simply bread, basic food, clean water and a chance in life. "Give us all this day our daily bread."

'Forgive us our trespasses (sins, debts)'

Lord Jesus, you taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. We admit to our selfishness at times when we think only of ourselves, when even if we can't visit, we could pick up the phone or send an email and make contact. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, tend the sick and to assure the isolated of our love and your love. Father forgive us when we do not follow your son's teaching to love each other.

We light a candle for all who are anxious, fearful, sick, isolated, all who have died and the grieving. All needing comfort. In a moments silence we focus on the light of the candle and bring into that light those we know in need of continued prayer and comfort....

In their loneliness, be their companion; In their anxiety be their hope;

In their darkness be their light; Through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns now in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

"Forgive, as we forgive those who trespass against us"

Do we always forgive as we should? We pray for grace, that we may surprise ourselves in acts of love towards those who have hurt us, those who we have difficulty forgiving and against whom we still hold grudges. As we light a candle now, we bring them to mind.... May we forgive them and release them from our grasp.

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

We light a candle for ourselves and for our church communities who have stayed faithful to you in experiencing times of different forms of worship. May we continue to love and support each other in the days ahead.

Father we know that nothing can separate us from your love revealed in Christ Jesus. Help us to live as he taught us, to love as he urged us, to serve as he showed us and to trust as he told us, so may we live in him. Nothing can hold back your reign Lord. "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever." Amen