

6th Sunday of Easter

5th May 2024



*A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. John 15*



Christ's greatest command, according to the Gospel of John, is that we love one another as Christ has loved us. When we think about the consequences of such a love, we may quietly admit to ourselves, "I could never love others to the full extent that Jesus loves me." Can anyone actually fulfil this commandment?

We are reminded, especially in this Easter season, that Jesus died on the cross for everyone, in fact, if you were the only person in the world Jesus would have died for you, why, because he loves each one of us.

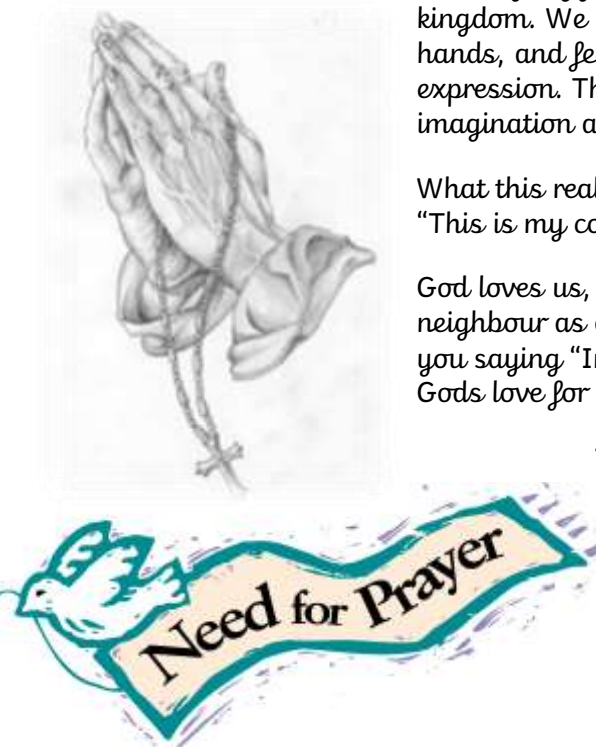
Jesus calls us to be his friends. We can come to him at any time. We are full partners with him in trying to save this world because he has made his business known to us. We are fully pledged partners with him in the cause of bringing the world into God's kingdom. We are his partners... his ambassadors. Jesus chose us to be his voice, his hands, and feet. There are many ways in which our friendship with Jesus can find expression. The fruits of love that we bear for Christ are limited only by our imagination and by the depth of our love of Jesus.

What this really boils down to is that we have no choice in the matter. Jesus says, "This is my command: Love each other as I have loved you."

God loves us, each one of us. In a perfect world, we would all love God and love our neighbour as ourselves and, at that point, all wars and hate would stop. I can hear you saying "In a perfect world but this is not a perfect world. Yet, if we respond to God's love for us, then we can start to make it a perfect world.

**This week let us pray for:**

- ◆ the light of the Easter message shining across the world;
- ◆ Peace in all the countries at war;
- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are feeling isolated;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



**"By his ascension, Jesus draws our gaze to Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father." - Pope Francis**

A Prayer for the Ascension of the Lord—9th May

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, right before your Ascension into heaven you told your apostles to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth upon receiving the Holy Spirit. May I be similarly inspired to spread your Gospel message in word and deed, according to your will for me. And may I do so prudently and joyfully, with your help, your guidance, and your grace! And remembering this glorious event, help me to seek what is above, Heaven, where you are seated at the right hand of God the Father!

An Easter Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for the victory and power in Your name. Thank You that You hold the keys over death, that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You. Thank You that You had a plan, that You made a way.

**We confess our need for You...fresh...new...again. We ask that You renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for Your refreshing over us. Amen**