**What’s Next: A Season of Prayer & Discernment**

COPY and PASTE these Collect Prayers

**DIOCESAN SEASON OF PRAYER COLLECT**

O God our Creator and Redeemer, it pleases you to invite us into the mission of Jesus, establishing the reign of God on earth. You promised through your Son to send the Spirit upon us, to teach us everything. We pray that you will send a fresh outpouring of your Spirit on this Diocese. Grant us clear vision and wisdom to discern what you are now calling us to do and the courage, love and creativity to perform it to your glory. We ask it in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*(By The Rev’d. Michelle Bull)*

**Prayers for Discernment**

O God our Creator and Redeemer, it pleases you to invite us into the work of Jesus, establishing the reign of God on earth. You promised through your Son to send the Spirit upon us, to teach us everything. We pray that you will send a fresh outpouring of your Spirit on this Diocese. Grant us clear vision and wisdom to discern the path you set before us and the courage and love to follow your Son faithfully on that path. We ask it in his name, Amen.

O God, our Creator and Redeemer, you see all things and we see so little. Forgive us for the times we have trusted in our own wisdom and forgotten to seek yours. Forgive us for the times when the task set before us has seemed impossible and we have despaired, either retreating from the situation or forgetting your faithfulness. Help us now, we pray, as we seek to follow you faithfully. Give us your wisdom, your vision, and trust in your resources to meet the needs of our time and place. Increase our faith, broaden our vision, help us to find creative solutions to the problems we encounter. Raise up leaders who will guide us in following you faithfully. Above all help us to rely on you, day by day. We ask it in the name of the one we love, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**At a Time of Election or Appointment in the Church (BAS, p. 676)**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For the Mission of the Church**

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love in this Diocese. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

**Prayer for the Neighbourhood (BAS, p. 680, adapted)**

O Lord, our Creator, by your holy prophet you taught your ancient people to seek the welfare of the cities in which they lived. We commend the provinces of NS and PEI to your care, that they may be kept free from social strife and decay. Give us the clarity of vision, the strength of purpose and the deep concern for others, that by the power of your Spirit, we may create here a community of justice and peace where your will may be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for the mission of the church (BAS, p. 125, litany #17, adapted)**

O Lord our God, you have made all races and nations to be one family, and you sent your Son Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people. Pour out your Spirit on the whole of creation, bring the peoples of these provinces into your fellowship, and hasten the coming of your kingdom here on earth as in heaven. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers for the Church (BCP, p. 43, 44, Slightly adapted)**

Guide, we beseech thee, Almighty God, by the light of thy Holy Spirit, the counsels of the Bishops, Clergy, and Laity of this Diocese, that thy Church may dwell in peace, and fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts: Grant thy blessing, we humbly beseech thee, to the clergy and laity soon to assemble for the election of a Bishop; and give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that a chief Pastor may be chosen who shall minister before thee to the glory of thy Name, the good government of the flock committed to his or her charge, and the welfare of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer for the Extension of the Church (BCP, p. 41)**

Almighty God, who by thy Son Jesus Christ didst give commandment to the Apostles that they should go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature: Grant to us whom thou has called into thy Church, a ready will to obey thy Word; and fill us with a hearty desire to make thy way known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayers for a Diocese (BCP, p. 43)**

Almighty and everlasting God who dost govern all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to this Diocese all things needful for its spiritual welfare. Strengthen and confirm the faithful; protect and guide the children; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent. Remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy holy Church, to the honour and glory of thy blessed Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For a Church Convention (The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer - Occasional Collects, Adapted)**

Almighty and everlasting Father, you have given the Holy Spirit to abide with us for ever: Bless, we pray, with his grace and presence, the bishops and the other clergy and the laity of this diocese discerning our future, that your Church, being preserved in true faith and godly discipline, may fulfill all the mind of him who loved it and gave himself for it, your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Prayer of Thomas Merton**

My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me

Nor do I really know myself,

And the fact that I think I am following your will

Does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you

Does in fact please you.

And I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this,

You will lead me by the right road

Though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though,

I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with me,

And you will never leave me to face my struggles alone. Amen.

**Adapted from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops webpage.**

Lord, our God and our loving Father, you have made us to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill our deepest longings. We know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead us to you. But of them all, there is one especially by which you want us to come to you. Since we will do what you want of us, we pray you, send your Holy Spirit to us: into our minds, to show us what you want of us; into our hearts, to give us the determination to do it, and to do it with all our love, with all our mind, and with all of our strength right to the end. Jesus, we trust in you. Amen

**Prayer to Know God’s Will**

Lord grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You, always follow your plans, and perfectly accomplish your holy will. Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever You may desire of me. Help me to respond to the slightest promptings of your grace, so that I may be your trustworthy instrument. May your will be done in time and eternity, by me, in me, and through me. Amen.

*- St. Therese of Lisieux*

**From the Church of England Website, prayer and worship, Daily prayers, other prayers:**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,

look favourably on your whole Church,

that wonderful and sacred mystery,

and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence

carry out the work of our salvation:

and let the whole world feel and see

that things which were cast down are being raised up

and things which had grown old are being made new

and that all things are returning to perfection

through him from whom they took their origin,

even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Gelasian Sacramentary, 8th century)*

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,

impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts,

and prayers better than our own prayers,

and powers better than our own powers,

that we may spend and be spent

in the ways of love and goodness,

after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen. *(Eric Milner-White and G W Briggs, Daily Prayer, 1941)*

**Prayer for Pilgrims**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

**The Prayer of St. Francis**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is discord, union;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled

as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Almighty God,

when we turn to the right or when we turn to the left,

may our ears hear a Word saying,

“This is the way; walk in it.” Amen. *(Based on Isaiah 30:21)*

**A Personal Prayer of Discernment**

Walk with me, good and loving God, as I journey through life.

May I take Your hand and be led by Your Holy Spirit.

Fill me, inspire me, free me to respond generously to Your call.

For I believe You desire my deepest joy,

And it is only in Your company

That my soul will be satisfied

And my life will find its meaning and purpose. Amen. *(Sisters of Notre Dame)*

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