

A Novena – Nine Days of Prayer for the Waterloo Anglican Churches



While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me. (Acts 1:4)

A Novena, in Christian tradition, is nine days of prayer for a special intention, or for grace for a particular task. It could be argued that the very first Novena was the nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost, as the disciples awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit.

So in the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost 2015, all in the four Anglican Churches in Waterloo are invited to pray for the Gift of God's Holy Spirit, for all of us and for one another, that we might be formed more and more into the Church God calls us to be; each with our distinctive gifts, but belonging to one another in God's mission.

Each of the nine days has a particular intention. There is an invocation of the Holy Spirit, then the intention for the day, then a related piece of scripture with which to pray.

The hope is that as many people as possible in all four churches will take just a few minutes each day to pray the same thing. Prayer is about aligning ourselves with God's purposes and giving him space to act – we quite properly have our ideas and plans, this is about offering all of this to God.

Day 1: Friday 15th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the vision for this Diocese in Bishop Paul's paper 'Fit for Mission,' and for a deepening awareness of how our conversations in Waterloo are part of this.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17.22-23)

Day 2: Saturday 16th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the Waterloo Group Council; for a growing sense of a common task between the four churches, and for the 'green shoots' of its practical realisation in outreach to the elderly, to the young in Messy Church, for a common prayer life and for the work of the ministry team.

You are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. (Ephesians 2.19-20)

Day 3: The Sunday After the Ascension, 17th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the stipendiary clergy, Gregor, Simon and Sue, in their ministry and calling, as they seek to lead God's people into their calling as prophets, priests and kings.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2.9)

Days 4-7: for individual churches

Day 4: Monday 18th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For God's Holy People at Christ Church

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in^{} him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. (Colossians 1.15-16)*

Day 5: Tuesday 19th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For God's Holy People at St Faith's

The white robed army of martyrs praise you; throughout the world, your Holy Church proclaims you, Father of majesty unbounded (from the Te Deum)

Day 6: Wednesday 20th May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For God's Holy People at St John's

This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know

that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21-24-25)

Day 7: Thursday 21st May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For God's Holy People at St Mary's

*My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the
lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will
call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for
me,
and holy is his name. (Luke 1. 46-49)*

Day 8: Friday 22nd May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

That we might be willing to put aside old conflicts, to bear with one another, and to be reconciled, to witness to the peace of God.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond

of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4.1-6)

Day 9: Saturday 23rd May

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people; and kindle in us the fire of your love.

That we might, here in Waterloo, receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit and so be led into the future to which God is calling us, to witness in unity together and each in our own distinctiveness to the joy and hope of the Gospel.

You are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God. (Ephesians 2.19-22)

The Collect for Pentecost:

*Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire.
Strengthen your children
with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***