

Prayers 29 August

Response to the message

Our gracious Lord and Heavenly Father, how we thank you so much for your unending love towards us. We thank you that you are patient. We thank you that you are kind. We thank you for sending Jesus to take away our sins, so our record of wrongs is completely gone. Please help us to be constantly awed and brought to our knees at the sight of your love. Keep us from overfamiliarity about the nature of your love. Please also to serve in your love, to love out your love, and help us to constantly seek this love and to share this love which will never fail. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

A prayer for Afghanistan – by Roger Phelps

Lord, we bring before you the people and country of Afghanistan.
We ask that your “will and purpose ” be done there and that you would be honoured in that country by all people.
With the political and military changes that have recently occurred there since the Taliban have taken control, the danger levels for those who live there have risen dramatically. Please, we ask, that you protect your people and that you would provide for them safety and their daily needs.
By your Holy Spirit, please enable them to continue to trust you, to stand firm with you, and not give in to temptation.
We ask also that you would help them to speak with love your gospel to those who oppose them and oppose you.
Please give them wisdom to know how to deal with their situation.
We ask also that you confuse the Taliban so that they do no further damage.
And that you would give love and compassion to us as we support our brothers and sister there.
We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

A prayer for Covid and NSW – James Daymond

Dear Father,
We ask that you would protect the people of NSW from becoming infected with Covid.
Please heal those who have become sick.
Please strengthen: those who are suffering through fear, those separated from loved ones, those experiencing financial hardship, or those mourning the loss of people who have died.
For government and health authorities, we ask for wisdom, strength, and skill in their leadership and administration so that we may lead peaceful and quiet lives.
For front-line workers, please confer courage and shielding.
For our indigenous communities, please enable culturally clear communication and the curtailing of the virus spread, particularly in western NSW.
For all citizens, please cause people to be subject to our governing authorities, for they have been instituted by you.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For churches in lockdown – Bec Choi

Father, we pray for all churches across Australia who are ministering whilst in lockdown. For clergy, we ask for energy, creativity, and clear avenues for ministry as they seek to encourage and disciple the people under their care without physical gatherings.

For church members, we ask that Jesus would be our shepherd, drawing us closer to you through scripture, prayer and fellowship through whatever means available to us.

I pray Father for many across our diocese who aren't used to meeting via zoom, or have inadequate internet access. Please prompt us to reach out in love and practical care for those who will feel more isolated as a result.

Please make our churches in this diocese beacons of light, hope and love that many will come to a saving faith in Jesus.

Amen

A prayer for ourselves in challenging times - Andrew Thornhill

Loving heavenly Father,

We bring ourselves before You and pray that Your Spirit guide us to pursue what is holy and pleasing to You.

In our anxiety, grant us peace; in our frustrations, grant us patience and kindness; in our fear and doubt, grant us the joy and comfort from our firm and living hope.

We know that You are good and faithful. At this time especially, may we never doubt this, but to cling to You and Your promises.

Prompt us to love and serve one-another in faithful, creative and impactful ways: staying connected, looking out especially for those struggling.

Help us to be disciplined and organised to hear Your voice from the Scriptures. As we do this, give us ears that hear, eyes that see...and discernment to listen to this voice – Your gospel of grace – rather than other voices that discourage, overwhelm.

And as You speak to us through Your Word: strengthen our faith, I pray. Draw us closer to You, and graciously equip us with strength, perseverance and endurance.

In all this, we claim nothing from ourselves but humbly affirm our reliance on You. All this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**