

Prayers 24 Oct

In response to the message

Our gracious heavenly Father, thank you for the wonderful reminder of Jesus' power to give sight and forgive. Thank that there is no one too far gone to be forgiven and saved. Thank you that the loving sacrifice of Jesus provides for our forgiveness and his loving arms welcome us home to eternal life. Thank you that Jesus' grace is deeper and wider and more wonderful than we could ever imagine. And thank you that we who were once blind can now see the glory of Jesus. May we revel in his mercy and saving grace in our lives every day. For any here today who have yet to say "I'm sorry" and "Jesus, have mercy", give them all the humility and courage they need so that they might enjoy with us the riches of your grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the spread of the gospel

Lord we long that more people know about Jesus' love for them. So we pray that you would cause the news of Christ to be proclaimed with power throughout central and western NSW. Renew us your people, so that we have your heart of compassion for those who are like sheep without a shepherd. Please raise up more gospel workers among us who will inspire and equip us to share the news of Jesus. Have mercy on those who have pushed you aside. Please soften their hearts and open their minds to consider again the reality of your love for them. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

For our church

Lord of the church, please refresh and renew your church – refresh and renew us your people. Show us where we need to change. Teach us your Word. Excite us again about the gospel. Equip us in and for your service. Please strengthen our clergy and lay ministers for their work but also show each of us how we may best serve you. Please send more energetic and visionary ministers to fill our parishes who are currently without clergy. And please Lord, knowing we are missing generations of younger people in our churches, please show us how to reach them with the good news of your Son; for we ask it in his name. **Amen.**

For the sick, the bereaved, the dying

Please Lord, sustain and heal the sick. Uphold and comfort the bereaved. Grant your peace to the dying. Please help those who are anxious, lonely or depressed and remind them how precious they are to you. Finally Lord, hear our thanks for those we knew and loved who once served you here, but are now in your presence. May the example of their trust in you, continue to inspire us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**