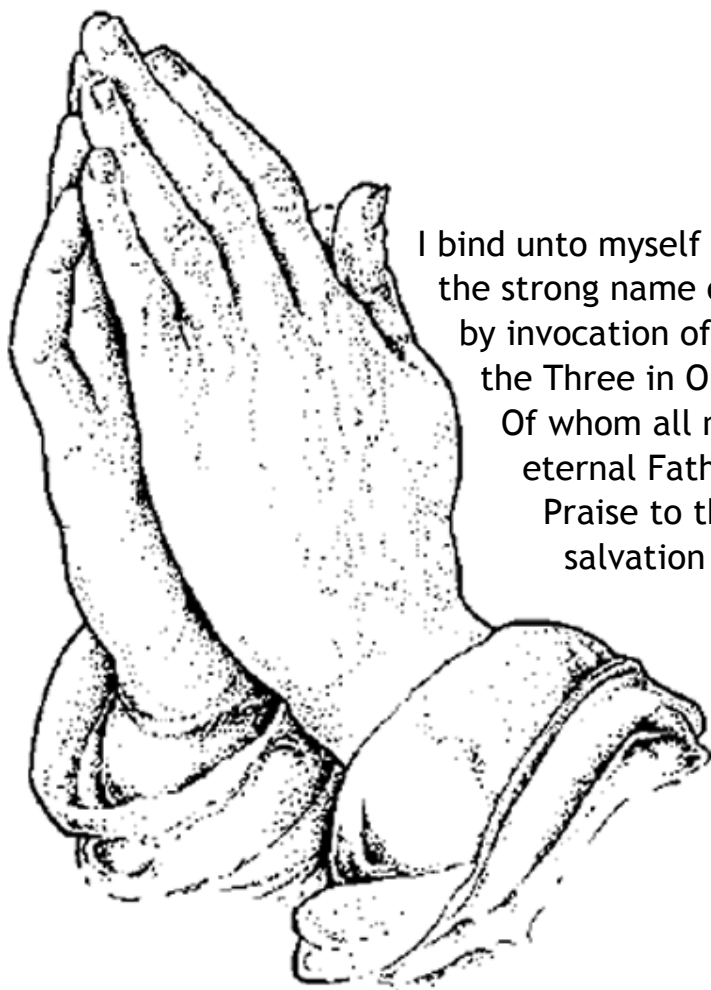


Prayer Leaflet

June 2006



I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity,
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One, and One in Three.
Of whom all nature hath creation;
eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
salvation is of Christ the Lord.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

The Essential Ingredient

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.



A teacher asked one of her ten-year-old students to describe salt. “Well, um, it’s ...,” he started, then stopped. He tried again, “Salt is, you know, it’s ...” Finally he said, “Salt is what makes chips taste bad when you don’t sprinkle it on.” Many foods are like that – incomplete without a key ingredient. Imagine pizza without cheese, strudel without apples, a banana split without bananas.

The Christian life also has an essential element: love. Paul emphasized its value as he wrote his letter to the Corinthians. Right in the middle of a section about spiritual gifts, he paused to say that even if we have gifts of service, speech, and self-sacrifice, but don’t have love, we are nothing. A follower of Jesus should love their family, their friends, their fellow believers, those who don’t know Christ, and even their enemies. A true Christian is known by their love.

Doctrinal purity is important. Faith is a magnificent quality, as are actions of obedient service to the Lord. But without love, we’re about as bland as chips without salt.

Ask God to help you grow in love until it flows from your heart to others. That’s the essential ingredient.

Our Prayers in June are especially requested for:

In the Church

the Revd David Busk and his family as they prepare for their forthcoming move to Godmanchester.

Pastoral Team – give thanks to all those whose hard work and dedication, which is given tirelessly and with the love of God, are helping to ‘walk alongside’ those who are in need.

Mothers’ Union – for all those who will have a holiday sponsored by the ‘Away From It All’ project.

Magazine – that it may become an effective vehicle for outreach in our community.

Flower Guild – give thanks for all that Edith Petit did during many years as a member, and pray for the souls of all previous members who have died.

Evening Bible Study Group (shared with Hemingford Abbots) and the Ignatian Prayer Group, both to restart soon after their break.

In the Community

The school’s in the town – Prayers for pupils and staff ‘moving on’ to new classes and new schools. Whilst they will not physically move until September, June sees the changes and a need to adjust future aspirations and ambitions.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – give thanks for the rich diversity in the world. Pray for all who step outside their communities to seek reconciliation with those who would naturally be their enemies. Pray they will be protected from misunderstanding and prejudice.

The charity the Church supports through the collection plate in June:

Committee of Social Welfare, an independent social work service for anyone in the diocese, especially supporting distressed families.

This month, in our Street Prayer Mission, we’ll be praying for:

Week commencing Sunday 4 June:

Bayliss; Bluegate; Hudpool; Pinder Close; Malcoff.

Week commencing Sunday 11 June:

Pettit Road; Windsor Road; Stuart Close; Ravenshoe.

Week commencing Sunday 18 June:

Buttermel; Brick Kiln; Ferndown; Golden Rod.

Week commencing Sunday 25 June:

London Street; Betts Close; Barringer Court; Earning Street; Sylton Close.

Please remember the residents of the above streets, those known to us, and especially those, as yet, unknown to us.

Some Prayers for June:

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.

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.



Prayers for all involved in the World Cup
Lord God, the source of all life and joy, recreation and skill,
we pray for all involved in the World Cup,
and especially for those who represent our nation:
for good health for the players,
for high standards of sportsmanship and fairness,
and for the safety and well-being of all who will watch,
that in our shared enjoyment of the game,
we may rejoice in the one who came to bring life in all its fullness,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Written by the Revd Peter Moger, and reprinted with permission