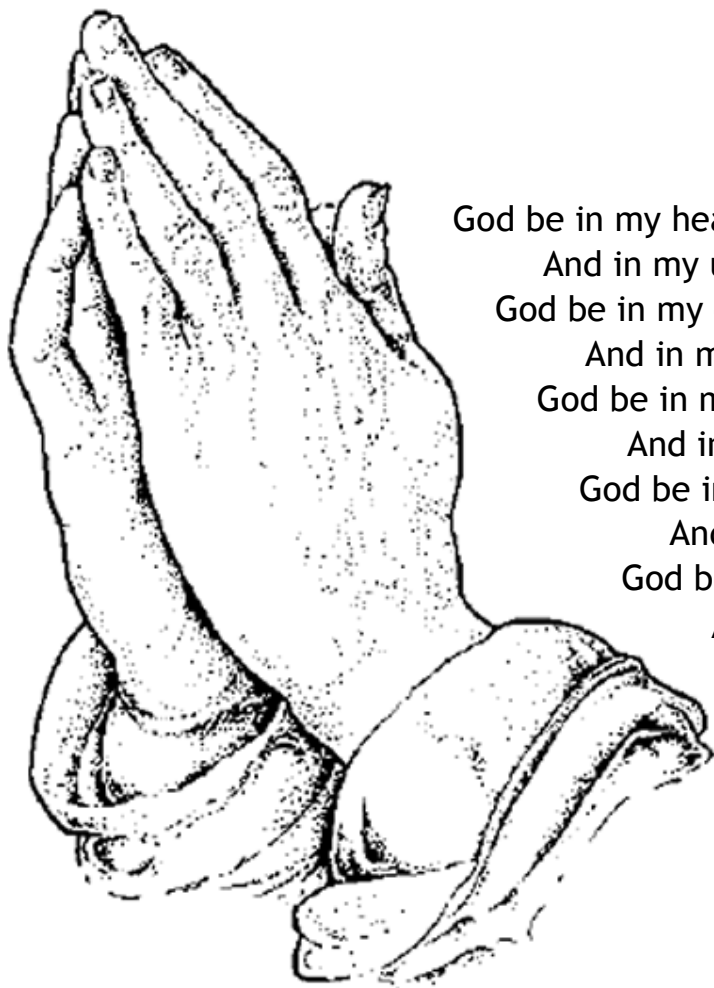


Prayer Leaflet

May 2007



God be in my head
And in my understanding.
God be in my eyes
And in my looking.
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking.
God be in my heart
And in my thinking.
God be at mine end
And at my departing.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

Refuse To Rush

Matthew 14:13-23

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.

They call themselves "rovers". Their goal is to visit all 275 stations on the London Underground, the world's largest subway system, in the shortest time. The current world record is 18 hours, 25 minutes, 3 seconds. In the process, a rover will cover around 250 miles on the "tube", run 11 miles above ground between stations, and climb 3,000 stairs. Detours are annoying and delays are intolerable. Rush hour lasts all day.



There are times when rushing is required – to set a record, to win a race, or to save a life. But constant rushing can become a defence against responding to people in need. When we become obsessed with our plans, everything about us shouts, "Don't even think about interrupting me!"

Who had more reasons to rush than Jesus? Yet no one responded to needy people more graciously than he did. Matthew described a time when Jesus went by boat to a deserted place for a well-deserved rest. But when Jesus saw the multitudes that had followed him, "he had compassion for them and cured their sick" (Matthew 14:14).

Yes, there are times to rush. But there are also times to accept interruptions as God-given opportunities to help people in need. Let's follow Jesus' example.

Our Prayers in May are especially requested for:

In the Church

Ally Barrett – for her continuing ministry to the people of Buckden and the Offords as she takes up her new post on the 14th.

David Busk and the family – to be refreshed and invigorated as they enjoy their family holiday this month.

Events – Meal with Movie (12th); Ely Choirs Festival (19th); Spring Barbeque (20th); Archdeacons Visitation (24th) – please pray for these events, and those who will attend them.

Mothers' Union – for the continuing work of Mothers' Union worldwide

Flower Guild – give thanks for our beautiful riverside town.

St Mary's 0s-5s Group – for the new committee members as they lead the group into the summer term; also for the group to welcome new members over the coming summer months.

Choir – give thanks for the continued commitment of our choirmaster Ken and all choir members and pray for the Ely festival.

In the Community

The schools in the area – for all the youngsters settling into their Summer Term; and especially those who have exams this term that they may approach them positively and confidently, and that those who feel diffident may be encouraged.

In the World

Christian Solidarity Worldwide – We give thanks to God that South Korea has proclaimed 2007 an international year of prayer for North Korea. We ask that these prayers would rain down on the secret state, bringing God's light and life back into that nation.

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

Tearfund is a leading relief and development charity, working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches worldwide to tackle the causes and effects of poverty.

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

Week commencing Sunday 6 May:

White Hart Lane; Hilsdens Drive; Anderson Crescent; Kisby Avenue.

Week commencing Sunday 13 May:

Saxon Close; Pipers Lane; Laroc Close; Lavender Grove; Cow Lane.

Week commencing Sunday 20 May:

Porch Close; Grainger Avenue; Littlefield Close; Sears Close.

Week commencing Sunday 27 May:

Park Lane; The Avenue; Pavilion Close.

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

Some Prayers for May:

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,
now and for ever.

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

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.

