

THY KINGDOM COME 2020: 21st to 31st MAY



Ascension Day falls on Thursday 21st May. On that day, we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ returning to the Father in heaven. Before He left them, He promised the Disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, the coming of Whom we remember at Pentecost (31st May this year.) In obedience to Jesus' command, the Disciples spent the period between these events in Jerusalem, ' together constantly in prayer'. (Acts 1.14)

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a worldwide movement of Christians, launched in 2016 by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. It invites us to spend those 11 days praying for friends and family to come to faith in Jesus Christ. In previous years, we might have met in church for prayer, but the coronavirus pandemic prevents us doing that this year. Instead, we can, like the first Disciples, pray in our houses, in our 'upper rooms' , and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we shall still be praying together. 'Thy Kingdom Come' takes its title from the Lord's Prayer, in which we pray for the coming of God's Kingdom. The kingdoms of this world have been greatly shaken by the present crisis, and many people are open to prayer and considering the Christian faith.

Our country has never been more in need of knowing, loving and following Jesus. So the church renews the call during these 11 days to pray for our community, and for our friends, our families, to become participants in God's Kingdom by coming to know its King. Here at St. Mary Magdalene, Bolney, we would like to encourage you to take part in this prayer initiative.

Specifically:

-) Identify 5 people to pray for, in addition to the community as a whole.
-) Commit to a regular time of daily prayer for them.
-) Put your prayers into action, as words and deeds of love to those you are praying for. Your friends can receive these as proof of the King and His Kingdom. Praying and caring are linked.
-) Consider inviting your 5 friends to church when the lockdown ends.

You are allowed to keep praying for them after Pentecost!

For more information/resource visit the Diocese of Chichester website:

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/>

Thy Kingdom Come also has its own website:

www.thykingdomcome.global

May God bless you in your prayers,
Fr. Martin