

**Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh, Colombo, Kurunagala,
Mpwapwa, Port Sudan and Isikwuato**

Intercessions May - August 2013

Theme: The Seeds We Sow

May 01 Prayer for St Philip & St James, Apostles:

Almighty God, who gave to your apostles Philip and James grace and strength to bear witness to the truth: Grant that we, being mindful of their victory of faith, may glorify in life and death the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

May 09 Ascension Day Prayers

You are not only risen and alive, you are Lord.

This is your ascension, your ascendancy over the whole universe.

You stand over and above all that is best in life as its source.

You stand above all that is worst as ultimate victor.

You stand above all powers and authorities as judge.

You stand above all failure and weakness and sin as forgiveness and love.

You alone are worthy of total allegiance, total commitment.

You are Lord, "My Lord and my God." *Rex Chapman*

We praise our ascended and exalted Lord: Name above every name:

Jesus, Lord, **we worship and adore you.**

King of righteousness, king of peace, Enthroned at the right hand of

Majesty on high: Jesus, Lord, **we worship and adore you.**

Send us out in his power to live and work to your praise and glory:

through him to whom we belong, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen *Unknown*

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you ascended as king of heaven and earth, and that you are in control of all things: help us to trust you in joy and in sorrow, and to obey you always: for the honour of your name. Amen *Michael Botting*

Prayers taken from "Prayers for the People" edited by Perry, Goodland and Griffiths

Ascension Day is the key to heaven in one sense because while we know and believe that Jesus rose from the dead - until he returned to his Father he hadn't quite completed his work on earth. So the Ascension marks a new beginning of Jesus in Spirit. Ascension is the curtain raiser to Pentecost and to Christ's triumph over death.

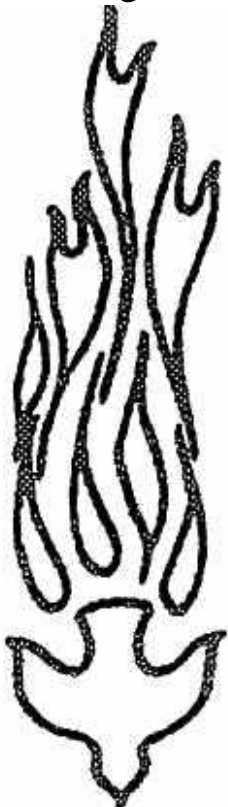
15 May: International Day of Families:

We ask you to bless all families, especially where there are problems, breakdown in communications, broken marriages, unruly children, drink & drug abuse.

19 May - Pentecost is the second most important Jewish feast. The word Pentecost is Greek for fiftieth and, adopted by the Greek speaking Jews, alludes to the fact that the feast fell on the 50th day from the next day after the Sabbath of the Passover (Leviticus 23:11). On the day of Pentecost two young lambs were offered as a peace offering and a buck goat for sin, together with a holocaust of seven lambs without blemish, one calf and two rams. The Feast was an occasion for social and joyful gatherings and we may believe from the New Testament that it was, like the Passover, attended at Jerusalem by a great home-coming of Jews from all parts of the world (Acts 2:5 – 11).

Pentecost is now seen as the new covenant between Christians and Jesus Christ which fulfils the old Mosaic covenant at Mount Sinai. It reveals a similar theophany (appearance of God) in the form of wind and fire and is the resolution of the Tower of Babel story in Genesis. From a nation who became separated by language and confusion to a new world in which everybody understood, Pentecost has become the onset of a mission that would know no language barriers. The modern example of the internet is in some ways a Pentecostal desire, taken one stage further - for nations to have a common way of communicating universally.

The Holy Spirit is the creative breath by which the world is impelled towards perfection. Thanks to the Holy Spirit we are now living in a light that



enkindles our understanding, a light that discloses a new world to us. Our hearts are transformed if we receive the Spirit with an open heart! In those who receive it, the Holy Spirit infuses a burning charity. For Christ desires that the lives of Christians will set people's hearts on fire. That is why the Spirit came the first time in the shape of tongues of fire.

Pentecost, the Feast of the Holy Spirit, is a great feast and makes our hearts full. It is the time of hope. A Christian takes many risks and one of the risks that one must take is to continue always to hope. The Feast of Pentecost is the moment of this hope! It is faith in things unseen. The fire is here; it binds and lifts us. The "new law", the words of Christ, have not been written on tablets of stone but instead, engraved in our hearts. It is the Holy Spirit who inwardly, interiorly makes us understand the word of the Gospel. It reveals to us the demands of loving and serving our God.

Living Lord, send your Holy Spirit like wind to waken your church,
like fire to enflame your people with living hope.

**Come, wind and fire of the Spirit,
enflame us forever with the passion of Christ's love.**

Living Lord, send your Holy Spirit like wind to stir your world,
like fire to renew the earth.

**Come, wind and fire of the Spirit,
enflame us forever with the passion of Christ's love.**

Living Lord, send your Holy Spirit like wind to enliven this community,
like fire to warm our common life.

**Come, wind and fire of the Spirit,
enflame us forever with the passion of Christ's love.**

Living Lord, send your Holy Spirit like wind to soothe the wounds of the sick,
like fire to cleanse the minds of the tormented.

**Come, wind and fire of the Spirit,
enflame us forever with the passion of Christ's love.**

Living Lord, send your Holy Spirit like wind to rouse up the witness
of your saints, like fire to inscribe the testimony of their lives in our hearts.

**Come, wind and fire of the Spirit,
enflame us forever with the passion of Christ's love.**

Nicola Slee (from "Seasons with the Spirit" compiled by Ruth Harvey)

A Pentecost Thanksgiving

Thank you, kaleidoscope God for the strong colours of Pentecost!

Thank you for blue and green: rippling and raging,
scouring and roaring in gales of the Spirit, winds of change.

Thank you for red and yellow: sparkling and blazing,
leaping and alighting in tongues of fire, torches of courage.

Thank you for white and silver quieting and consoling,
inspiring and soaring in dove of peace, messenger of hope.

Thank you for all these colours of love and longing,
wildness and wisdom, challenge and compassion.

So colour our lives by your mighty Spirit,
that we change find courage, radiate hope,
for this is thanksgiving more precious than words.

Kate Compston (from "A World of Blessing" compiled by Geoffrey Duncan)

Other items to remember in your prayers, not only on the dates below:

27 May - 2 June National Family Week

29 May International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers

2nd June - National day of Prayer for Christian Toddler Groups, *continued overleaf*

5th June - World environment Day
12th Jun – Annual Meeting, Bath,
20th June - World Refugee Day
20th June - International Day - Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking
29th June - St Peter & St Paul, Apostles
22nd July - Mary Magdalene
6th Aug - The Transfiguration of Our Lord
12th Aug - International Youth Day
11th June - St Barnabas, Apostle,
16th June - Father's Day,
24th June - Birth of St John the Baptist,
3rd July - St Thomas, Apostle
25th July - St James, Apostle
9th Aug - Mary Sumner Day, being observed in Edinburgh at the Church Of the Good Shepherd*
24th Aug - St Bartholomew, Apostle

The Seeds We Sow: During the four months ahead, may the seeds already sown in our gardens, greenhouses and farmlands come to fruition. We pray for suitable weather conditions to promote good growth. In spiritual terms, may we reflect this growth in what we do and say to promote our faith within our own families and in our communities or in chance meetings. You may feel that for health or other reasons that you are unable to do much in practical terms, but you can do something very valuable and that is support the 'Power House' of prayer.

Worldwide: With the help of the information listed in your copy of Families Worldwide, pray for the members and work of the MU in the dioceses listed between May and August. Pray for Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, and all who work and meet in Mary Sumner House.

Our Own Linked Dioceses:

Pray for the Office Bearers, and members in the dioceses of Colombo, Kurunagala (Sri Lanka - *DP Erani*); in Mpwapwa (Tanzania - *Verian & Rose*); in Port Sudan (Sudan – *Naima & Ebtsam*); and in Isikwuato (Nigeria - *Cecilia*); as well as in our own diocese of Edinburgh - *Angela*.

Provincial MU Prayers:

Pray for God's Blessing on Jean Richardson, who was commissioned on Saturday, April 20th as our new Provincial President. Guide her through the coming months, through the decisions that will face her, and enable her to lead the MU in Scotland. Pray that God will guide the members of the Board of Trustees, especially those who are taking up office for the first time.

Edinburgh Diocesan Prayers: Pray for the new Trustees and especially for Angela, who has a very heavy work load. Pray for people to come forward to take on some of this work. Pray for a good turnout on 9th Aug (see *above).

Your own Prayers: For those you know who are sick in body, mind or spirit. For those you know who are bereaved, for your family, for your church and clergy..

The Lord's Prayer - The Mothers Union Prayer - The Grace

Prepared by Jean Hindle