

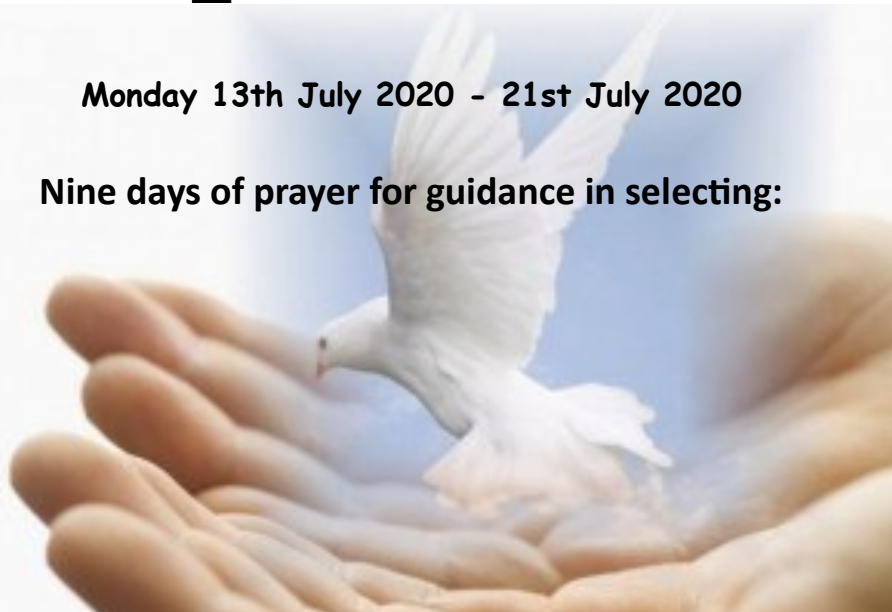


Central Hartlepool Group

One Family, Three Parishes,
Growing the Kingdom.

Monday 13th July 2020 - 21st July 2020

Nine days of prayer for guidance in selecting:



- Community of Hope Project Leader and Volunteer coordinator
- Community of Hope Community worker/Evangelist
- Community of Hope Children and Families worker

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call, answer me

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me.

DAY 1 Matthew 7v7

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."



Today, Lord, we ask you to encourage those Christians who are praying to work with children, families, schools, the vulnerable, refugees, the lonely, those on the fringes of society to respond to our advertisement for staff to lead and develop our Communities of Hope which are:

To plant a family and children's community into St. Matthew's Community Centre.

To plant a "Community of Hope" into St. Aidan's, growing Christian community around daily discipleship, shared meals, Eucharist, Catholic spirituality and practice, storytelling, and responding to community pain, through challenging poverty in all its forms.

To further plant a children and families congregation into the St. Aidan's building on the relationships forged through the kitchen, and school engagement.

We offer these Communities of Hope to you Lord as we pray

"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

DAY 2 1 John 5:14

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us".

Dear Lord, We pray these exciting roles in our Communities of Hope will attract individuals who have been praying for a

challenge to develop and lead a new programme of evolutionary and transformative community life.

The Project Leader and Volunteer Coordinator will have the responsibility of developing and managing the project, working closely with the leadership team to deliver church growth, challenge poverty and work with Children and Families (including Schools).

Pray the Holy Spirit will dare them to carry the light of Christ into dark places

The Community worker/evangelist will develop and create new Christian communities. Initially being based within St Aidan's, you will train, support, and develop the missional focus of their aspirations in doing so you will, together with leadership team, respond to community pain, through challenging poverty in all its forms.

Pray the Holy Spirit will dare them to carry the light of Christ into dark places

The Children and Families worker will develop, lead, and coordinate the children's work within the church & local community (including schools) through discerning and initiating new activities in partnership with the leadership team.

Pray the Holy Spirit will dare them to carry the light of Christ into dark places

Heavenly father, we lift every applicant to you. We pray that you will be with each of them. Help those applying to show how they will work together with our Ministry Experience Volunteer, to make disciples and transform the lives of many. May they share their experiences and faith to bring our Communities of Hope to life.

Amen.

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

DAY 3 Ephesians 6v18

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."



Pray the applicants for the Children and families worker can demonstrate both the ability to work with 8 primary schools (e.g. Ward Jackson, St Aidan's, Kingsley, Stranton, Eldon Grove, Throston, West Park, Jesmond Gardens) and the ability to bring the schools together within 6 months to celebrate a major festival (Christmas, Easter). Pray they will show a willingness to encourage families to share in a new worshipping community.

Lord, as Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven". May applicants enthusiastically describe how they work with schools and encourage shared worship, may you guide them by your Holy Spirit in all they do. We pray school leaders respond to the call to be involved in a Community of Hope.

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

DAY 4 Hebrews 10:24–25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Pray an applicant for Project Leader and Volunteer Coordinator has the skills and experience in developing, managing and growing a Christian community. May they show creativity in ways to engage people to extend God's kingdom on earth. May they share God's love with their co-workers, volunteers and all communities with which they work. May their love for fellow man be apparent in their application to build Communities of Hope.

O Lord, we thank you for this wonderful gift of love which You have given us and which allows us to build a true communion of people ---provided we remain ever open to You, the source of all love. Help us to continue to love one other and accept one another unconditionally, as we grow our Communities of Hope together. Make us generous in giving and humble in receiving. Enable us to communicate to one another all our joys, sufferings, and desires and all our hopes, sorrows, and difficulties and in doing so create loving, worshipping Communities of Hope.

Give us the power of Your Love that we may forget self and live for one other. AMEN

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"



DAY 5 Matthew 25 v37

"...Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?"

Pray an applicant for Community worker/evangelist can show how they are able to respond to community pain, through challenging poverty in all its forms. May they be committed to social justice, supporting vulnerable and those on the fringes of society. As the homeless come for help may they show love, care and understanding and be prepared to listen to those who are disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control. May they encourage the guests attending St Aidan's kitchen to share their experiences and come to know God.

Jesus, You know what it is like to be hungry and thirsty.

You know what it feels like to be a stranger who is made unwelcome.

You know the suffering of all who have lost everything.

We pray that by welcoming those hungry and in need we may show love for our neighbour and be closer to you.

Amen.

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

(prayer amended from Tony Singleton/CAFOD)

DAY 6 Psalm 127:3

"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him."

Pray the applicants for the Children and families worker and Community worker/evangelist are committed to church growth and are fuelled by the Holy Spirit to grow in love. May they be empowered to bring children and families to You and to create new worshipping communities in St Matthews Hall and St Aidan's.

Pray they are able to work effectively with groups offering activities for children' (including schools) and can encourage cooperative working so that children may be brought to Christ through experiencing festivals together. Pray they are able to listen and understand the problems faced by many families without judgement, fear or favour.

Lord God, we know you are in control of all things. We pray you will protect all children and families particularly within the Central Hartlepool Group. Keep them healthy and help them to thrive. Watch over them in every area of their lives, keep them safe and let their hearts be open to you. Amen.

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

*Prayer
Works*

DAY 7 Mark 16:15

"...Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."



We ask the Holy Spirit guide those choosing applicants for interview as selecting high calibre candidates is not an easy task. We ask you Lord, though your grace, they choose with wisdom, discernment and integrity, valuing each candidate as unique individuals. We pray those chosen will be able to show how they will make a difference to church growth, challenging

poverty and to children and families involved in the Hartlepool Communities of Hope project.

Saint John Chrysostom (349–407) wrote, ‘Prayer... is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings... The potency of prayer has subdued the strength of fire, it has bridled the rage of lions... extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases... rescued cities from destruction... and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt.’

We pray “Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done”

DAY 8 1 John 5:15

“And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

As the closing date of 15th July approaches we pray those who requested more information have spoken with Mother Gemma and been enthused to pursue one or more of the posts advertised. “The Holy Spirit is up to something MIGHTY” ! We ask those who have been praying for a challenging opportunity to serve God by working with children, families, vulnerable members of society and being passionate about social justice have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to apply for a position which will build our Communities of Hope. May they live and understand the words of St Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me bring love.
 Where there is offense, let me bring forgiveness.
 Where there is discord, let me bring union.
 Where there is error, let me bring truth.
 Where there is doubt, let me bring faith.
 Where there is despair, let me bring hope.
 Where there is darkness, let me bring your light.
 Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.
 O Master, let me not seek as much
 to be consoled as to console,
 to be understood as to understand,
 to be loved as to love,
 for it is in giving that one receives,
 it is in self-forgetting that one finds,
 it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,
 it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

We pray "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"

DAY 9 Matthew 5:16

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"

We pray those selected to attend an interview allow their faith, hope and love to shine through.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Dear Lord, we give thanks to all who have prayed during the last nine days. With their support and encouragement, we know the candidates you have blessed with the Holy Spirit will be identified and interviewed. We know with the right workers in post the Hartlepool Communities of Hope will be successful and that hope will spread throughout Hartlepool and wider afield reflecting your kingdom here on earth.

We pray **"Thy Kingdom Come, Thy will be done"** Amen

