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This week's reflection comes from The Ven David Sharples, Archdeacon of Rochdale. | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Monday 18th March 2024** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8.26) | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We rightly say “I will pray for you” as the natural response to someone who is going through a difficult time.  Bringing someone to mind before God is a duty and a privilege. But St Paul reminds us that we do not actually do the praying; rather it is the Holy Spirit who prays within us. In other words, we are the place not the agent of prayer. Often we can feel inadequate because we cannot find the ‘right’ words to express prayer yet the Spirit prays in a way that is beyond words, ‘with sighs too deep for words’.  What difference does it make to know that our intention and desire is enough?  In our prayer, do we call to mind that the Holy Spirit is praying within us? | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9/images/025a142f-f304-6703-d3bb-cc56766eaa49.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9/images/77d6c74b-caf9-2e5b-646b-8c9015c4243e.jpg | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **A prayer to end knife crime** | |  |  | | --- | | Last week, as Knife Angel stands in Bury, a violent attack took place on the streets of the town. Revd Julian Heaton, Rector of Bury Parish Church, situated close to the scene, shares this prayer for the three victims in Bury and for everyone affected by knife crime. ------------------------------- Father of all, We speak prophetically and hopefully of turning swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks. Yet young people still wield knives, Blades puncture skin, Lives are scarred, Fear stalks our streets.  Hear our prayer for those affected by knives; For victims of attack, For parents, family, and friends, For perpetrators and their families, For neighbourhoods whose daily rhythm alters.  We ask you to Give wisdom and courage to those who seek to keep our streets safe, Skill to healers of mind and body to respond to trauma, Insight to those who work with young people.  May we work creatively to build partnerships of trust and communities of peace and reconciliation with those who can influence our localities And, in the power of the Spirit, become a people of deep hope and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our wounded Lord.  Amen. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9/images/025a142f-f304-6703-d3bb-cc56766eaa49.jpg | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://mcusercontent.com/0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9/images/0896170c-21e3-c23e-9ab1-4a19c8cb5b14.png | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Pray for Peace Wednesdays** | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Bishop [Matthew Porter](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fanglican.us17.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9%26id%3D89ec42876c%26e%3D83e3ad9319&data=05%7C02%7Cjoanne.rowley%40salford.gov.uk%7Cc75db07409ee4da1147708dc4742f108%7C68c00060d80e40a5b83f3b8a5bc570b5%7C0%7C0%7C638463600831500316%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Avv%2FojfSG2Fks16O4UD7iACSoCt49sjjeqOeNYKQOic%3D&reserved=0) will be leading a short time of focussed prayer for various situations of conflict each Wednesday at 12 noon on Facebook Live via his page.  All are invited to join him to #prayforpeace.  During Holy Week (on Wednesday 27th March), Bishop Matthew will lead this session from Manchester Cathedral at 12 noon for twenty-five minutes. You are welcome to join him on Facebook Live or in person at the Cathedral. Bishop Matthew has shared this prayer that we can all use during Lent, which you can download [here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fanglican.us17.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D0788334860e9fdd899814d7e9%26id%3De7dd9857e7%26e%3D83e3ad9319&data=05%7C02%7Cjoanne.rowley%40salford.gov.uk%7Cc75db07409ee4da1147708dc4742f108%7C68c00060d80e40a5b83f3b8a5bc570b5%7C0%7C0%7C638463600831511708%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=o1iiq5j%2BF80I8cHW4VTuzoireU3SN%2B0pjoUVVGb6Gh0%3D&reserved=0). | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |

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