

Prayer for the interregnum

The first prayer meeting/sheet ended with this reading...

Jeremiah 29:11-13 *“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”* This was linked to a message from God reminding us that He is the Lord our God and we can only build His church on Him. We must also remember that there is pain and a need for healing and wholeness.

Profile – John 20: 15-16 *“Woman,” he said, “ why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary”.* Although it was very early in the morning, after an emotional weekend, Mary was clear about what she wanted. Let us pray that our profile is also clear about what we need to move forward.

Person – After Peter and John had healed a lame man in the temple they spoke to the crowd that gathered saying, *“ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know what made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.”* Let us pray that like Peter and John our new priest will be someone who can help us find wholeness and healing as well as deepen our faith in Christ. We don't want to be so concerned with what we think we want the new priest to be like, or not like, that we limit God who knows the real needs of the church and the wider community.

Panel – 2 Chronicles 32: 7-8 *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.* The panel are facing a challenging task but just like the people of Jerusalem our panel will have God with them.

Parish – 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.* As we continue to work through the interregnum we need to try to build on our strengths and heal divisions, so that through being reconciled to God we can become reconciled to one another. Let us all think about what we can do and how we should act to bring this about.

As the profile is completed and the advert for the new priest is published let us continue to pray individually and when we meet together, using our own words or the words of the prayer for the interregnum....

Almighty God our Heavenly Father,
whose beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, commanded Saint Peter to tend your flock, and Saint Paul to be your witness in all the world, and have charged us at All Saints' and with all the saints to make disciples, send us, we pray, a priest to lead, teach and pastor your flock at All Saints' that we, abiding in Christ the true vine, may serve and witness in our community and bear much fruit to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen