

Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, because we are called to further your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves, we prayerfully commit ourselves to the following:

- To seek to know you better day by day
- To let your Spirit enable love to grow in our hearts and overflow to the world
- To being kind and fair to those we meet daily at home, at school or at work
- To open our eyes to see the people we often miss because we are self-absorbed or regard them as not important
- To reach out in love to these people through a smile or kind word
- To count our blessings often
- Not always to want more and more but to be content and trusting
- To let you show us those close to us whom we can help
- To let you help us take risks for the sake of love
- Being open to new understandings through being open to receive wisdom from people from different backgrounds
- Never to believe I am superior because of my wealth, race, culture, accent or schooling
- To control our tongues so that our words are life-giving and love-giving
- To work towards balance in nature so that plants and animals and people can all live in harmony

Lord Jesus, you showed us how to live a life in connection with the Father and governed by love. Help us to live up to our commitment to you and your kingdom. May each of us be a blessing to your creation and your creatures every day to the delight of your heart and the glory of your name. **Peter Westwood.**

*Dear Lord, I am often alone,  
And it can be a time  
For dreaming, for praying, for catching  
up on things.*

*But I am thinking of those who are  
really alone,  
alone in their loneliness,  
alone even when surrounded by people;  
desperately lonely, lonely in heart and  
mind.*

*O beloved Lord,  
whoever they may be:  
touch the sadness of their loneliness with  
your presence.*

*Please hold them in your arms,  
so that they may feel the sweet comfort  
of your nearness,  
and the depth of your everlasting love.  
Rosa George - Speaking to God.*

*Do your little bit of good  
where you are;  
It's those bits of good put together  
that overwhelm the world.*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

**Gentle God, grant that at home  
Where we are most truly ourselves,  
Where we are known at our best and  
our worst,  
May we learn to forgive and be  
forgiven,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

# PRAYER DIARY

St Thomas Church

RONDEBOSCH



October  
2020

| Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  | Sunday  |
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| <p>5 October</p> <p>rPs 111:1-6 Acts 22:30-23:11<br/>Luke 6:39-49</p> <p>Pray for the healing of our beloved country and for an end to the greed and self-interest that has led to so much corruption and exploitation.</p>  | <p>6</p> <p>Ps 139:1-14 Acts 23:12-24<br/>Luke 7:1-17</p> <p>Pray that God's spirit of peace and joy will enfold all who are experiencing grief, loss, separation, loneliness or disappointment today.</p>                                    | <p>7</p> <p>Ps 117 Acts 23:29-35<br/>Luke 7:18-35</p> <p>Ask God to give us compassion, kindness and generosity towards the strangers, the lonely, the hungry, the unemployed and the poor among us.</p>                                       | <p>8</p> <p>Ps 89:19-30 Acts 24:1-23<br/>Luke 7:36-50</p> <p>In times of doubt or fear, we say with the psalmist: You are my Father and my God, as well as the mighty rock where I am safe</p>   | <p>9</p> <p>Ps 111:4-10 Acts 24:24-25<br/>Luke 8:1-15</p> <p>Pray for all the farmers who produce our food: for their homes, their safety, their workers and their trust in the Lord's bountiful provision.</p>   | <p>10</p> <p>Ps 105:1-7 Acts 25:13-27<br/>Luke 8:16-25</p> <p>Pray for Archbishop Thabo, Bishop Joshua and all the clergy who have been leaders and advisors in the midst of the events of the past 6 months.</p>   | <p>11</p> <p>Ps 106:1-6;20-24<br/>1 Cor 4:9-16 Mt 16:21-28</p> <p>As we come to worship today, at home or in church, we pray for our families, those near us and those far away. Pray for their safety.</p>   |
| <p>12</p> <p>Ps 113 Acts 26:1-23 Luke 8:26-39</p> <p>Ask God to come with His healing love and forgiveness into the darkness of all the past and present hurts and prejudices that divide the people of our country.</p>   | <p>13</p> <p>Ps 119:41 – 48 Acts 26: 24-27:8 Luke 8: 40-56</p> <p>“Jesus said ...Do not be afraid; just believe” Pray that all whose lives are shadowed by doubt, fear or despair will turn to God and put their trust in Him.</p>            | <p>14</p> <p>Ps 1 Acts 27:9-26 Luke 9:1-17</p> <p>Even in times of anxiety or trouble, remember to thank God for the wonder of His creation all around us: the changing seasons, rain and sunshine, new life and growth.</p>                   | <p>15</p> <p>Ps 98 Acts 27:27-44 Luke 9: 18-27</p> <p>Pray for Jeremy and the Inspire teachers, for the energy, enthusiasm &amp; insight they need to bring meaning and truth into the hearts and minds of the young people of our parish.</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Ps 33: 1-12 Acts 28: 1-16<br/>Luke 9:28-36</p> <p>Ps 33:10 the Lord foils the plans of the nations. Pray for far-sighted wisdom &amp; integrity in world leaders as they form plans &amp; strategies for the “new normal” after Covid19.</p>     | <p>17</p> <p>Ps 8 Acts 28: 17-31 Luke 9:37-50</p> <p>Ask our Lord to bless the parents who are preparing for their children's baptism. May they be united in their love &amp; their commitment to raise their little ones in God's infinite care.</p>   | <p>18</p> <p>Ps 99 1 Cor 10:1-13<br/>Mt 16:13-20</p> <p>Give thanks for the freedom to worship together today and for the dedication &amp; hard work of Fr Leslie, Caro, Jeremy, &amp; all who have made the recorded services so meaningful &amp; rewarding.</p>     |
| <p>19</p> <p>Ps 100 Rev 7:1-8<br/>Luke 9:51-62</p> <p>Pray for God's guidance on Hugh Nourse, Ian Paul and the members of the Parish Council. Pray for discerning wisdom in their discussions&amp; decisions about Parish matters.</p>                             | <p>20</p> <p>Ps 85: 8-13 Rev 7: 9-17<br/>Luke 10: 1-16</p> <p>Give thanks for all missionaries &amp; all who courageously tell others about Jesus. Pray for the clergy, active &amp; retired, who lead &amp; guide our worship.</p>           | <p>21</p> <p>Ps 113 Rev 8:1-13<br/>Luke 10:17-24</p> <p>Lift to God's healing all victims of violence and crime, especially women &amp; innocent children. Ask for a changed attitude in those who use violence to further their own ends.</p> | <p>22</p> <p>Ps 33: 1-11 Rev 9: 1-12<br/>Luke 10: 25-37</p> <p>Give thanks for all who have cared for the sick during the pandemic, often disregarding their own safety &amp; comfort. Praise Him for their compassion &amp; skill.</p>        | <p>23</p> <p>Ps 24: 1-6 Rev 9: 13 – 21<br/>Luke 10: 38-42</p> <p>Let us take time today to slow down, be still &amp; allow Him to take over our thoughts. Reflect on how silence &amp; stillness in His presence enriches our lives.</p>                      | <p>24</p> <p>Ps 122 Rev 10: 1-11<br/>Luke 11: 1-13</p> <p>Thank Our Father in Heaven for earthly fathers and for all they do to provide for, enable and encourage their children. Pray His forgiveness for absent, neglectful or abusive fathers.</p>   | <p>25</p> <p>Ps 1 1 Cor 10: 15 – 24<br/>Mt 18: 15 – 20</p> <p>The Collect for today: Almighty God, Your Son has shown us how to love one another: let our love for You overflow into joyful service and be a healing witness to our neighbour.</p>                    |
| <p>26</p> <p>Ps 68 Rev 11: 1-16<br/>Luke 11: 14 – 26</p> <p>Pray for all educators, students and learners who have had to adapt to new ways of teaching, studying and learning this year. Pray for all who are writing exams, specially the matric candidates.</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Ps 128 Rev: 11: 14 – 19<br/>Luke 11: 27 – 36</p> <p>Pray for the poor, oppressed and powerless people of the world, remembering that Christ brings hope where there is despair and sorrow. May we be His messengers of hope.</p> | <p>28</p> <p>Ps 145: 10–18 Rev 12: 1-6<br/>Luke 11: 37 – 52</p> <p>Pray for the ongoing research into a safe &amp; effective vaccine for the Coronavirus. Give thanks for all participating in the trials and pray for their safety.</p>       | <p>29</p> <p>Ps 144:1-10 Rev 12:7-17<br/>Luke 11:53 – 12:12</p> <p>Let us pray for Archdeacon Mark Long and for all the Clergy, Lay ministers and people who witness to Christ in the eight parishes of his Archdeaconry</p>                   | <p>30</p> <p>Ps 111 Rev 13: 1-10<br/>Luke 12: 13 – 21</p> <p>Pray for all who are working for peace in our world; for all who speak out for justice &amp; freedom; for all who strive to maintain law and order, for all who serve God by serving others.</p> | <p>31</p> <p>Ps 42: 1-7 Rev 13: 11-18<br/>Luke 14:1, 7-11</p> <p>As the month draws to an end, give thanks for all that Fr Leslie has done to lead &amp; shepherd our parish. Give thanks for Caroline, Jeremy and all who have played a part in bringing Sunday services into our homes.</p> | <p>1 November</p> <p>PPs 34:1-10;22<br/>1 John 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12</p> <p>Give thanks for all who, in their preaching and teaching, bring the Word to life for us. Pray for all who study the Bible, at COTT, in Bible study groups and in their quiet times at home.</p> |