

Faith at Work



Prayers to draw on

I pray that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.

Amen



Introduction

God loves the ordinary, everyday lives that we lead.

Our work matters enormously to God; it is what God created us to pursue. As Christians, our two-fold role in the workplace is to make God's world a better place by living and displaying Kingdom values and to have conversations with colleagues at Spirit-led moments in their lives that can help their own personal journeys of faith.

This isn't easy. The day-to-day challenges and dilemmas of the workplace can blow us off course.

Prayer can help put us back on track by giving us fresh insights and renewed courage so that we can be the people that God wants us to be at work. It is also an opportunity for us to lay before our heavenly Father the needs and concerns of our colleagues and customers.

This booklet aims to support and enrich our work-related prayer life. Do therefore take the time to explore and reflect on the prayers it contains: as you will see, they are arranged approximately by theme.

I am very grateful to Katrina Hutchins of the Faith at Work team for collecting the prayers and designing this booklet. I trust that you will find it to be a rich source of inspiration for your faith-led working life.

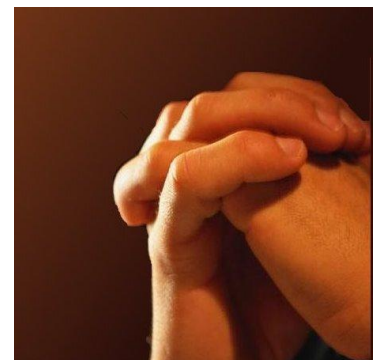
A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'B' followed by a smaller, more intricate signature.

Bishop of Brixworth

Index

| Section | Type of Prayers | Page No. |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| i | Learning and sharing | 4 |
| ii | Living our faith | 8 |
| iii | At work | 13 |
| iv | At home | 18 |
| v | At leisure | 20 |
| vi | New every morning | 21 |
| vii | At the end of the day | 23 |
| viii | Guiding others | 24 |

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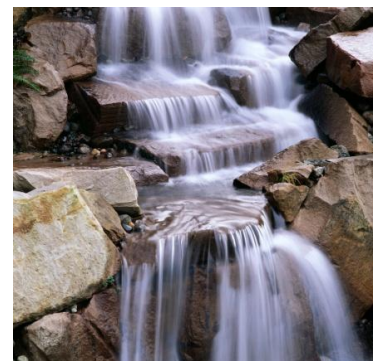
i Learning and sharing

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Heavenly Father,
we recognise that
without the power of your Holy Spirit
we cannot be your witnesses.
We need your Spirit
to change our hearts and transform us.
We need your Spirit
to see and take all the opportunities
for witness and service you give us.
Help us to open our hearts and our lives
so that you can fill us afresh with your Spirit
and make us more effective
in our witness and service of you.
For Jesus' sake.

Amen



A prayer of St. Benedict of Nursia

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
intelligence to understand you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the Spirit
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

A prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have won for me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

Amen

Lord of all faithfulness,
we offer ourselves to your service,
asking that by the Spirit at work in us
others may receive a rich harvest
of love and joy and peace.

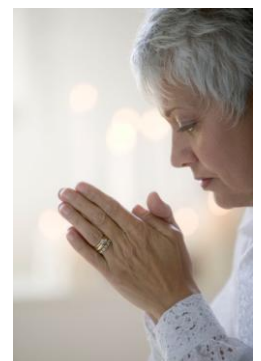
Amen



Holy God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thank you for being with me on the journey so far,
for the times that have been good
and those that have been difficult.
Help me to grow in my knowledge of you.
Grant me the confidence
to share what I know of you with others.
Amen

Holy God,
who inspired your servant Moses
to turn aside to see the burning bush
and who equipped him to go and lead
the people of Israel out of Egypt;
help me to see the opportunities
that you lay before me,
to listen and obey when you call,
and to ask for the help that I need
in order to fulfil your commission.
I may not be eloquent or confident,
but, "Here, I am. Send me."
I ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen

Father God, thank you for sending me
teachers to share their knowledge
and friends to support my faith,
so that I may be your loyal
witness and servant. **Amen**



Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom;
confirm and strengthen us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

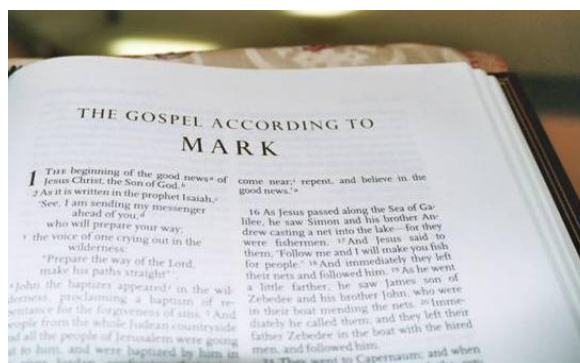
Amen

God of wisdom,
thank you for the gift of the Holy Scriptures
and for the wealth of Christian resources
that are available to us.
Make us hungry to read, discuss
and digest your Holy Word,
so that we may deepen our knowledge of you
and grow the confidence to share it with others.

Amen

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ
is the way, the truth and the life:
help us to walk daily in his way,
to rejoice openly in his truth,
and to share the message
of his risen life with others;
in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen



ii Living our faith

Our Father in heaven,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
through our daily lives,
at work,
at home,
and in the community.

Amen

Lord, you keep us waiting.
You, the God of all time,
want us to wait for the right time
in which to discover who we are,
where we must go,
who will be with us,
and what we must do.
Grant us the patience to wait,
the vision to see the path
that you set before us
and the courage to take it.

Amen

Lord, we thank you
that you care for us
and that we are always
in your hands.

Amen



Father, I know you love me and have plans for me.
But sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of the future.
Show me how to walk forward one day at a time.

May I take heart while I search openly,
learn all the choices; listen to others for advice and
pay attention to my own feelings.

By doing these things, may I hear your call
to live a life that will let me love only as I can;
and allow me to serve others
with the special gifts you have given me.

I ask all this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Loving Father,
help me to take some time today
to turn aside from my busyness
and listen to you.

Fill and inspire me with your love,
so that my thoughts, words and actions
may reflect my love for you
and guide others to you.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

*Give some time to God today, in thoughts, actions and deeds
And reflect upon his love for us, helping our spiritual needs
Guiding us to a better life, God lights the path to follow
Sharing faith in his love, he leads us towards tomorrow*

Almighty God
you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Living God's Love

Living God,
draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord,
send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit,
make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us,
teach and inspire us
to live your love
with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus,
Amen

From the Diocese of St Albans

Move our hearts, O Lord,
with the calm, smooth flow of your grace.
Let the river of your love flow through our souls,
out to the people that we will meet this day.
Amen



God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem;
may the light of our faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ our Lord.
Amen

God of glory,
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
fill us with your Holy Spirit
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters
we do also for you;
give us the will to be the servant of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for us,
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.
Amen



Almighty God
who inspired your apostle Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the Living God:
help us to have the confidence and courage
to live out our lives in the light of our faith
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
When we like Peter on occasions lose our nerve,
send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and guide us.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen



iii At work

Heavenly Father,
we ask that we may never forget
that you come with us
as we leave the church building on a Sunday.
You promised that you would be with us to the end of time,
continue to walk beside us in our places of work.
You are needed there; in us and through us.
You have provided so many types of workplace
where you call us to be your witness.
Many have joys, but many have problems and issues to face.
We pray for all who work in paid employment,
voluntary work and those who work at home,
in the church and in their local community.
We pray too for those in training for work
and all who are seeking paid employment.
Through us, offer your yoke of peace to the heavily laden.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Lord, we thank you
for all you have given us,
especially the help
and encouragement
of colleagues.

Amen.



O Almighty God
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector
to be an apostle and evangelist:
give us the grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain
and the possessive love of riches
that we may deal fairly and justly
with our customers, colleagues and suppliers.
We ask this in the name of Jesus.

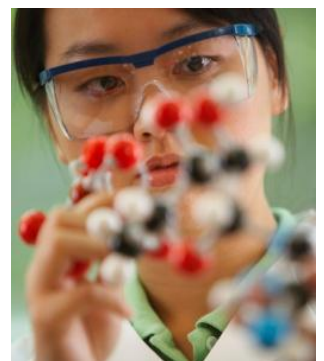
Amen

Creator God,
thank you for the gifts and graces
of human hearts and minds;
for insight and imagination,
for curiosity and research;
for creativity and dexterity;
for compassion and understanding;
which help to make our workplaces
fulfilling places to be.

Amen

At last, Lord, it is time for bed.
Thank you for this day,
for the people who have welcomed me,
for the sights and sounds that have cheered me,
for all that I have achieved with your help.
May I never forget that you are always with me.

Amen



God of love,
we ask that you take care
of those who cannot work
due to disability or ill-health.
Hold them close to you,
help them to feel that they are valued
and strengthen them with
your loving presence.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

God of all time and ages,
we pray for people who are retired
and give thanks for all that they do
for their families,
for their church,
and for their communities.
When they feel lonely or unwanted,
help us to bring them
the light of your love.

Amen

We pray for all who work and receive very little pay in return,
who struggle to put food on the table and to clothe their family.
God give them the courage to face each new day
with hope and strength to carry on.
Thank you for all the organisations that help
to relieve the burden of poverty in our communities.

Amen

Living God,
remember all who have to endure
a long, spirit-sapping time of unemployment.
As days turn to months and years,
and hope fades and dies:
God let your life, your hope,
be always present for them.
May our world be a place
where everybody has something to give
and everybody is worth something,
as we all are in your eyes.

Amen

God of love and mercy,
we pray for people who are shocked and grieving
because they have just lost their jobs.
For all who mourn
the loss of purpose,
the loss of earnings,
the loss of friends, and
the loss of dignity.
May they find a new dignity,
a new hope.
We pray that our world
will heal its financial difficulties,
so this doesn't have to keep on happening
to people and communities,
to parents and children.

Amen



For the world of work in all its diversity:

hear us, good Lord.

For the industry and workplaces of this parish/community:

hear us, good Lord.

For the right ordering of work in time of technological change:

hear us, good Lord.

For communities that have lost traditional industries,
and for their regeneration:

hear us, good Lord.

For all expanding industries and for the promise of new jobs:

hear us, good Lord.

For small business and co-operatives:

hear us, good Lord.

For local trade and commerce:

hear us, good Lord.

For all service industries that provide our daily needs:

hear us, good Lord.

For the unemployed and for those living in poverty:

hear us, good Lord.

For school leavers and all who are seeking to enter
employment:

hear us, good Lord.

For the retired and those unable to work:

hear us, good Lord.

For all who work as volunteers:

hear us, good Lord.

iv At home

Father God,
I thank you for everything
you have given me,
especially the love and support
of my friends and family.
May I truly know
that all good things
come from you.

Amen

Dear Lord,
bless our home,
may it always be a place
where our children/grandchildren
can feel nurtured, protected
and, most of all, loved.
May we guide them
to know and love you.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Loving God,
I pray for all my family
and I ask that you
keep them in your loving care,
this day and always.

Amen



O God our Father,
thank you for all
the bright things in our lives.
Help us to see them,
and to count them,
and to remember them,
that our lives may flow
in ceaseless praise;
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Lord.
Amen



v At leisure

Loving Father,
thank you for creating a world
rich with opportunities for leisure,
help us to take the time out to enjoy them
in fellowship and friendship
with our friends, families and neighbours.

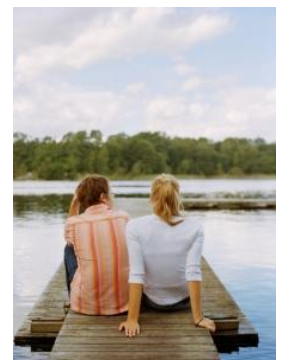
Amen

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
always and everywhere.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Merciful Lord,
grant us the grace to withstand
the temptations of the world,
so that we may follow you
with pure hearts and minds,
and our whole lives reflect
the light of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



vi New every morning

Awaken me, Lord, to your light;
open my eyes to your presence.
Awaken me, Lord, to your love;
open my heart to your indwelling.
Awaken me, Lord, to your life;
open my mind to your abiding.
Awaken me, Lord, to your purpose;
open my will to your guiding.

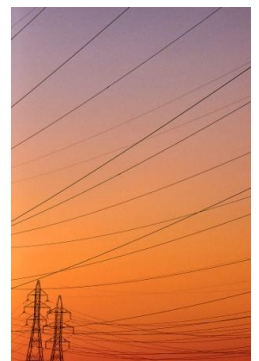
Amen

Father God,
thank you for this new day,
for all the people that I will meet,
for all the places that I will visit,
for all the tasks that I will complete,
may I walk today in the light of your love
and share a little of it along the way.

Amen

Lord our God,
as with all creation
we offer you the life of this new day,
give us grace to love and serve you
to the praise of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Blessed and Holy God,
as your dawn renews the face of the earth
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hearts and hands to do your will;
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Loving God,
as I prepare for the day ahead,
help me to be ready to cope
with the challenges that I will have to face today.
When I find myself filling up with stress,
help me to relax, take a moment and
re-focus my whole heart and mind on you.

Amen

Spirit of God,
fill me afresh this morning,
as I brush my teeth,
polish my spiritual confidence;
as I eat my breakfast,
feed me again with your love;
and as I put on my shoes,
make me ready to walk this day
in God's service, sharing his love.

Amen



vii At the end of the day

God our protector, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light.
We give into your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and unfulfilled hopes.
For you alone are our sure defence
and bring us lasting peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Heavenly Father,
as this day draws to a close,
help me to look back on it
with praise and thanksgiving
remembering the times today
when your love has guided
my words and my actions;
help me to look forward to tomorrow
with renewed heart and mind
having learned from the mistakes
and the missed opportunities of today.
I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Christ be with me in my lying down,
Christ be with me in my sleeping,
Christ be with me in my dreaming.
May I awaken refreshed for the day ahead,
ready to share Christ's love with all.

Amen



viii Guiding others

Heavenly Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ
was a knowledgeable and innovative teacher,
inspiring and enlightening his followers
and the crowds who came to see him,
help me to have the knowledge, skills and confidence
that I need to encourage and equip my congregation
to live out their whole lives in the light of their faith
and to share what they know with others.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

Heavenly Father,
inspire and enable
our clergy and lay ministers
to better equip their congregations
to live out their whole lives
in response to God's calling.
Grant our ministers
humility, wisdom and the skills
to see and show their people
that God's mission
should be pursued
not only in church
but all their waking lives.
For your glory and
the good of all your people.

Amen



Heavenly Father,
thank you for our bishops,
priests, deacons and licensed lay ministers.
Bless them as they inspire and equip their people
to be your disciples and beacons out in the world.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

O Lord our God,
we give thanks for all
who have taught us the faith
and brought us to know you.
We ask you to bless
all preachers and teachers of the Word,
in universities and theological colleges,
in churches, cathedrals and diocesan offices,
in schools and in pre-schools,
in homes and in fresh expressions of church.
Fill them with the inspiration,
creativity and confidence that they need
to guide all whom they teach
to know and love you.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

