

Sometimes we also need to ask for God's forgiveness.



March 2019

Moving into Lent

I first realised Lent had arrived as I left the swimming pool last Wednesday morning. As I reached my car I saw a crocodile of school children walk past me. I knew that didn't usually happen on a Wednesday. Then I saw the tell-tale black smudges on their foreheads They were returning to the Roman Catholic primary school after an Ash Wednesday service.

Two days earlier I had been to a training session to prepare for this year's Thy Kingdom Come Prayer initiative where we had examined new Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic materials prepared for this year.

We should be receiving materials again this year. There are new A6 Novena booklets for this year prepared by the 2019/20 President and Vice-President

Prayer on Forgiveness

Lord, just as You so generously forgive me, help me also to forgive others and not keep any form of hate, anger or revenge within my mind.

Bestow the power of love upon us all and just as I forgive so too would everyone.

We often think in terms of fasting partially or totally but Lent is also a time when we examine our lives, our behaviour and our priorities.

We may look and search for ways in which we can take action particularly those which help others.

One example we looked at on Sunday night was that of forgiveness. One of the most difficult things to do when others have done terrible things to us or those we love:

And so we pray:

Merciful Lord, Thank you for your gift of forgiveness. Your only Son loved me enough to come to earth and experience the worst pain imaginable so I could be forgiven. Your mercy flows to me in spite of my faults and failures. Your Word says to “clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.”. Help me demonstrate unconditional love today, even to those who hurt me.

I understand that even though I feel scarred, my emotions don't have to control my actions. Father, may Your sweet words saturate my mind

and direct my thoughts. Help me release the hurt and begin to love as Jesus loves. I want to see my offender through my Saviour's eyes. If I can be forgiven, so can he. I understand there are no levels to your love. We are all your children, and your desire is that none of us should perish. When I forgive in words, allow your Holy Spirit to fill my heart with peace. I pray this peace that only comes from Jesus will rule in my heart, keeping out doubt and questions. And above all, I am thankful. Not just today, not just this week, but always. Thank you for the reminder, “Always be thankful.”

With gratitude I can draw closer to you and let go of unforgiveness. With gratitude I can see the person who caused my pain as a child of the Most High God. loved and accepted. Help me find the compassion that comes with true forgiveness.

And when I see the person who hurt me, bring this prayer back to my remembrance, so I can forget any ungodly thoughts. And may the confidence of Christ in my heart guide me into the freedom of forgiveness. I praise you for the work you are doing in my life, teaching and perfecting my faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen