

# Distant but United

## St Martin's Parish Church



## Seventh Sunday of Easter, 24<sup>th</sup> May

Now is the time between Ascension and Pentecost, called 'Novena'. Novena means 'Nine Days', and is a time of devotional prayer for the mission of the church and for the people we love.

It reflects the days of waiting between the ascension of the Risen Christ, as he returned to his Father, and the coming of the Holy Spirit which Jesus had promised his followers. This came at Pentecost, the birth-day of the church.

In those days of waiting the disciples prayed with fervent hope and expectation that they would not be left alone, that God's promise would be fulfilled. The Aramaic word 'Marantha' means 'Come, our Lord!' and it can never have been far from the lips of the disciples in those confusing days and nights.

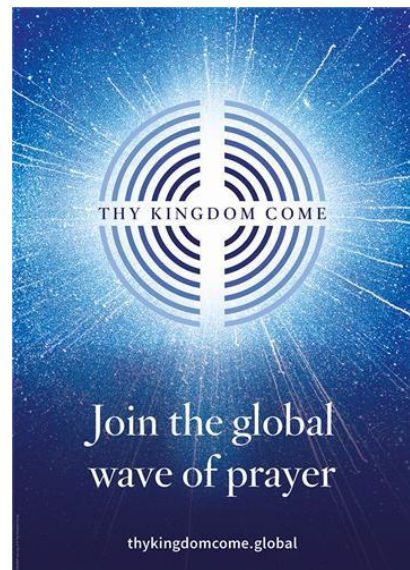
Today, the church invites us to devote these 9 Days to prayer in an initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. We are encouraged to pray for the revival of the church, and that the Good News of God's Love would be heard in the hearts and minds of those who do not yet know their Lord.

That can seem like a tall order. But I like to keep it simple. Why not choose just five people - five names - to pray for. People who you know would benefit from hearing the Good News of God's Love. And then offer those names to God each day, and trust in God to do the rest.

*"With God all things are possible"* (Matt 19: 26)

**Rev Jonny**

## Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come offers a wealth of resources to help guide and inspire you in your prayer during this season of Novena, including:

- Daily Worship Services
- Children's Activities
- Inspiring Stories
- Tips and Ideas
- Prayer Journals

Visit [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

## Ascension Day Service

The Dean of Jersey, Rev Mike Keirle, has shared a special service for Ascension Day on the Deanery Website ([www.jerseydeanery.je](http://www.jerseydeanery.je)).

It doesn't really matter if you watch it on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>, you can enjoy it at any time!



## Bible Reading

I thought it would be good to encourage you to read your Bibles a little more often (I know I should!). So, each week I will recommend some extended reading that will fit with the season.

This week, read through **Acts of The Apostles chapters 1 and 2**, and follow the story of the early church from Ascension to Pentecost.

## Daily Hope Phonenumber

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phonenumber as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes.

Daily Hope, which is available from today, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line.

The line - which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

Please spread the word to our folk who aren't online.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: [smartinsrector@gmail.com](mailto:smartinsrector@gmail.com)