In these strange and dislocating times, it is more vital than ever that we continue in our prayer.

Prayer is simply a way of talking and listening to God. Over the years we find ways and words that work for us, and we come to rely on them. They are the pattern of our lives of faith.

When our lives are disrupted, and our rhythm interrupted, our prayers can sometimes take a while to settle again.

That is why I encourage you to turn again to those forms of regular prayer that have been formed over the ages by men and women of great prayer and dedication. This week, I wanted to share with you an order of service for Compline - Night Prayer.

The evenings may be the moment when you can finally relax after the stresses of the day, or they may be a time of anxiety and unknowing, especially if you are isolated and alone.

In the words and silences of Compline, I pray you might find solace and peace.”

Rev Jonny

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.
Dear friends and colleagues, brothers and sisters in Christ

Following the ‘Day of Prayer’ instigated by the Archbishop of Canterbury last week on Mothering Sunday for the Anglican Church, I am calling for an Ecumenical Day of Prayer on Sunday 29th March, for the whole of the Channel Islands, as, together, we face this pandemic of Covid-19.

Mindful that churches may be streaming services in the morning, I am asking all church leaders in their various denominations to contact their church members to encourage them to pray on Sunday and collectively at 6pm, specifically for:

- those who lead our Island communities and the difficult decisions that they have had to make.
- those who have Covid-19, both in the wider world and within our own communities.
- those in the healthcare profession who are caring for them and working long hours at great risk to themselves.
- those who are anxious and afraid and who are far from home.
- Those who are bereaved.
- those who have lost their jobs and income and are at financial risk.
- that we, as Christians, may be servants in our communities, united in our faith and committed together in prayer.

Please join with me in using this prayer and/or others at or around 6pm as we bring to God our concerns.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated of our love and your love,
for your name’s sake. Amen.

Please spread this message as widely as possible, using social media so that all Christian communities are united purposefully in prayer this coming Sunday.

Yours, in Jesus Christ

Rev. Mike

Cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you
1 Peter 5:7

To speak to Rev Jonny, please ring: 07797 939692 or email: stmartinsrector@gmail.com