

# Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

## Pentecost Novena 2016

Archbishop Justin Welby says: “On Ascension Day (May 5<sup>th</sup>) we celebrate the completion of Christ’s mission on earth as he returns to heaven. Then for nine days (*‘novena’ is Latin for ‘a group of nine’*) we prepare to celebrate Pentecost (May 15<sup>th</sup>), and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to equip us to carry on the work of Christ in all our communities: *Let’s pray together for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives, our church and our community!*”

### Daily Prayers and Readings from Ascension Day to Pentecost

*...so that we can all join in...please take this away with you; ideas for you to use, whether by yourself or with others...*

#### Opening Prayer:

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you,  
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for in your ascension you are crowned King of kings  
and Lord of lords.

As we worship you on your heavenly throne,

prepare our hearts for the coming of your Spirit.

To you, Lord Jesus, be honour and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### Readings and Prayers for each day:

##### Friday May 6th

Jesus said to his disciples:

“A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see

you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy.” (John 16:21-22)

*‘Pray for those for whom the future looks worrying - even terrifying. Pray for their consolation and comfort.’*

### **Saturday May 7th**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.” (John 16:27)

*‘Pray for those who have had to take the big picture into account – and who are concerned about how their decisions will be received.’*

### **Monday May 9th**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

*‘Pray for those who will have to make ‘brave’ decisions over coming months. Pray for a generosity of spirit – for trust in the work of the Holy Spirit.’*

### **Tuesday May 10th**

Jesus prays for his disciples:

“Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.” (John 17:7-8)

*‘Pray for a deep love of Scripture.*

*Pray for the gifts of openness to the Word of God and willingness to be guided by it.’*

### **Wednesday May 11th**

Jesus prays for his disciples:

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:15-17)

*‘Pray for those who are fearful.*

*Pray for God’s people to have a clear sense of identity and calling.’*

## **Thursday May 12th**

Jesus prays for all believers:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (John 17:20-21)

*'Pray for people in neighbouring parishes.*

*Pray for wisdom and enthusiasm for people who will be working together.'*

## **Friday May 13th**

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?

Yes, Lord, he said, you know that I love you.

Jesus said, Feed my lambs.

Again Jesus said, Simon son of John, do you truly love me?

He answered, Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.

Jesus said, Take care of my sheep.

The third time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love me? He said, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.

Jesus said, Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17)

*'Pray for God's people to be fed.*

*Pray for those who are called to be their shepherds.'*

## **Saturday May 14th**

This is the disciple [John] who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:24-25)

*'Pray for a sense of joy as people see God fulfilling his promises.'*

## **Time for open prayer**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **Closing Prayer**

Father,  
pour out your Spirit upon your people,  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power,  
a new faithfulness to your Word,  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us,  
and your kingdom come;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
**to live and work to your praise and glory.**  
**Amen.**