

Prayer for the interregnum

Almighty God our Heavenly Father,
whose beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, commanded Saint Peter to tend your flock, and Saint Paul to be your witness in all the world, and have charged us at All Saints' and with all the saints to make disciples, send us, we pray, a priest to lead, teach and pastor your flock at All Saints' that we, abiding in Christ the true vine, may serve and witness in our community and bear much fruit to your glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

At the time when Hezekiah was seeking to bring God's people back to a life of faith this was written about him: 2 Chronicles 31:21 *In everything that he undertook in the service of God's temple and in obedience to the law and the commandments, he sought his God and worked wholeheartedly. And so he prospered.*

We need to be wholehearted in seeking God through the interregnum

Profile – Isaiah 40: 3-5 *A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.* We need to pray that the profile we publish sets out a “straight way” for God to work in our parishes in the future and attracts the right person to lead us.

Person – 1 Timothy 3:1-7 *If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect... He must not be a recent convert...He must also have a good reputation with outsiders.* We want a priest with a strong faith who will oversee work in the parish, not doing everything but leading and co-ordinating the work of lay people for the good of all.

Panel – Psalm 133:1 *How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!* The panel need to be united in what they are looking for and in their decision about who to recommend to the Bishop and the parishes.

Parish – Hebrews 12:14-15 *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

Acts 2:42-47 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

We need to be united in coming months, maintaining our faith as well as activities in the church and praying together faithfully about the process of appointing our new priest.