

Mears Ashby and Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone



**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home**

Sunday 10 May 2026

Easter 6

Welcome to this week's Prayers and Reflections. Our Gospel reading follows on from last week's passage. Jesus makes a second promise to his team. When he is gone, the Holy Spirit will come to help the apostles share his good news and build his church. He will be God's Go-Between.

May this role speak to your heart.

God bless,

Revd Katrina

Vicar

Phone No. 01604 812907

Mobile No. 07710 464675

E-mail: katrinahutchins94@yahoo.co.uk

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As you prepare to contemplate our Lord's gift of his Go-Between, celebrate God's life-giving powers.



Lord of beauty, thine the splendour
shown in earth and sky and sea,
burning sun and moonlight tender,
hill and river, flower and tree:
lest we fail our praise to render
touch our eyes that they may see.

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

**Prayers and Reflections
for use at home on Easter 6
Go-Between**

PREPARING OURSELVES

*Take a moment to be still in God's presence, and feel his love.
You may wish to light a candle as a sign of God's love - here,
in this room. You may also wish to have a bowl of water ready for the
time of letting go. When you are ready, say this opening prayer.*

Risen Lord Jesus,
as I prepare to spend this time in worship,
I invite you to come and fill this space,
and my inner stillness,
with your presence.

Amen.

LETTING GO

*If you come to this time of prayer and reflection with any regrets,
with things that you wish you had not said, done or been,
offer them to God in the silence of your heart. And, when you are ready,
reflect on the second verse of this week's hymn.*

Lord of wisdom, whom obeying
mighty waters ebb and flow,
while unhasting, undelaying,
planets on their courses go:
in thy laws thyself displaying,
teach our minds thyself to know.

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)



If you wish, dip your finger into a bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on your palm.

Feel the Father's forgiveness.

Our opening verse takes us right back to the start of time – to God's story of creating order out of chaos. The opening part of the Creation invites us to picture his Spirit in action. When we gaze up into the night skies or around us at nature's orderly patterns, we are looking at God's Spirit's handiwork. It is an invitation to draw close to him. Contemplate God's nearness as you read these familiar opening words.



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2

Ponder too how God's orderliness could help calm or tidy any chaos in your own life. Offer this prayerfully to his Go-Between (the Holy Spirit).

PRAYING TODAY'S PRAYER (The Collect)

Today, this prayer is being said across our villages and the worldwide Church. Add your voice to the earthly cycle of prayer to our risen Lord who always listens to our prayers.

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Our prayer is for a deeper connection between our risen Lord and us, his Church, and between us and our neighbours who have yet to experience the full power of his love. We can't do this all on our own. Over the two thousand years since Jesus' leaving and the Spirit's coming, Christians have relied on God's Go-Between to bring their faith to life, to bring to life their words that speak of Jesus, his life and death, his role in their lives. For our faith to be alive and active, we need God's Spirit within us. For our witness – outreach – to our neighbours to bear fruit, we need God's Spirit to fan the flames within their hearts.



For it is God's Spirit who makes these connections for us. He is rather like the telephone operators who – back in the day – used to connect callers physically with the people they wanted to reach. Think about this image of God's Spirit as the Go-Between making the links.

Contemplate how you have experienced this in your own life. Ponder too who you would love to come to know Jesus. Pray for this person. Ask for God's Go-Between to open their heart and their eyes to God's possibilities – to make the necessary connections.



Lord of life, alone sustaining
all below and all above,
Lord of love, by whose ordaining
sun and stars sublimely move:
in our earthly spirits reigning,
lift our hearts that we may love.

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.'

John 14:15-21

The Go-Between...

I still remember the feeling, thirty years ago, on the evening of the day that my dad died. I was staying in a hotel room in the New Forest as there were things for my brother and I to do in the morning: the 'sad-min' which follows any death. Suddenly, I felt so very alone – an orphan. Although I was no longer a child in need of a parent's care and protection, I did feel like I had been orphaned. Dad – such a constant in my life – was gone and I would see him no more in this life. My brother and I were now heads of our part of the family tree. A very strange feeling when you are only in your thirties.

I wonder if this is how the disciples felt as they waited in the upper room, on the Friday evening, after Jesus' death on the cross: orphaned? alone? lost without their teacher? Later, at the Ascension, did they feel the full weight of responsibility as Jesus left them in charge of building his Church, of spreading his good news? If so, I do pray that his promise of a Go-Between (the Holy Spirit) helped them to believe that all would be OK.

We know that Jesus did not desert them. His Spirit is very much at work in the accounts of the early Church (Acts of the Apostles). Believing this, we can trust that he will never desert us. His Go-Between will connect us with the Son and his Father whenever we call on him. Ponder this. Celebrate this with the help of this Eastertide verse.



Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight
received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

*from Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

Jesus offers a beautiful image of how their lives will be when his Spirit – God's Go-Between – comes. Their lives will be rooted in him. You can really sense this perfect connection in the actions of the apostles – Peter, John, James, Philip and the others. This promise did come true.

Because I live, you will live.
On that day you will realise that I am in my Father,
and you are in me, and I am in you.

John 14:19b-20

Give thanks with this final verse. Feel the hope in the last two lines.



Lord of beauty, bid us own thee,
Lord of truth, our footsteps guide,
till as Love our hearts enthrone thee,
and, with vision purified,
Lord of all, when all have known thee,
thou in all art glorified.

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

OUR PRAYERS

Here are some Eastertide prayers. Feel free to add your own.

Risen Lord, when you died – when you left, your apostles felt so very alone. Like them, I have experienced times of loneliness, sadness and loss. Yet, you are always there for me. Thank you...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

Risen Lord, I think of the people across the globe and closer to home who feel lost and alone. Lord, I think of the children made orphans by wars not of their making. Send your Go-Between to comfort them...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

Risen Lord, you sent your team – the apostles – to go and share, to go and be your good news. You wanted to unite all peoples through the power of your love. Send your Go-Between to reconcile...

Risen Lord, hear my prayer.

Offer your own heartfelt prayers and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF BLESSING

A closing prayer of blessing for this week.

Risen Lord, come and meet me where I am,
this Eastertide. Fill me with love and joy and peace,
so that I may offer your hope to others.
Bless me and keep my loved ones safe, I pray. **Amen.**