

Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021



Vespers hosted by The Precious Blood & All Souls

Tuesday 19 January

The Feast of Saint Wulstan

In the Archdiocese of Birmingham today Catholics celebrate the feast of a local saint, Saint Wulstan (1008-1095). Wulstan was born at Long Itchington in Warwickshire. His early studies were at the monasteries in Evesham and Peterborough. After some time as a clerk at Worcester he then studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1038. He became a Benedictine monk at Worcester Cathedral Priory and Bishop of Worcester in 1062, late in the reign of Edward the Confessor. His wise and benevolent ministry of oversight lasted thirty-two years. As Bishop, Wulstan was renowned for his care of the poor and sick. He was a fierce opponent of the slave trade and helped to stop the transport of slaves from Bristol to Viking Ireland. He devoted his life to the care of his diocese, visiting parishes routinely, rebuilding his cathedral, and planting new churches. Wulstan died at the age of 87 during his daily service of washing the feet of twelve of the poor of Worcester and he was buried in his cathedral.

If you wish to *mute* yourself to help you to pray, that's fine.

If you wish to remain *unmuted* so that you feel a greater sense of praying with others, that's fine too.

We'll say the hymn together.

Please join in with the words in *italics*.

We'll recite the psalms at an unhurried pace.

After the intercessions there will be a short period of silent prayer.

Introduction

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen. Alleluia.

Hymn

Who are these like stars appearing,
these, before God's throne who stand?
Each a golden crown is wearing;
who are all this glorious band?
Alleluia! Hark, they sing,
praising loud their heavenly King.

Who are these of dazzling brightness,
clothed in God's own righteousness?
These, whose robes of purest whiteness,
shall their lustre still possess,
still untouched by time's rude hand?
Whence came all this glorious band?

These are they who have contended
for their Saviour's honour long,
wrestling on till life was ended,
following not the sinful throng;
these who well the fight sustained,
triumph through the Lamb have gained.

These are they whose hearts were riven,
sore with woe and anguish tried,
who in prayer full oft have striven
with the God they glorified;
now, their painful conflict o'er,
God has bid them weep no more.

These, the Almighty contemplating,
did as priests before him stand,
soul and body always waiting
day and night at his command:
now in God's most holy place
blest they stand before his face.

Psalm 14 (15)
Who is worthy to face the Lord?

“You have come to Mount Sion, to the city of the living God” (Hebrews 12:22).

I have become a minister of the Gospel according to the bountiful gift of God.

Lord, who shall be admitted to your tent
and dwell on your holy mountain?

*He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue;*

*he who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord;*

*he who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
*as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.*

Amen.

I have become a minister of the Gospel according to the bountiful gift of God.

Psalm 111 (112)
How blessed are the just

“Be like the children of the light; for the fruits of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth” (Ephesians 5:8,9).

This is the wise and faithful servant whom the Master placed in charge of his household.

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
 who takes delight in all his commands.
His sons will be powerful on earth;
 the children of the upright are blessed.

*Riches and wealth are in his house;
 his justice stands firm for ever.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
 he is generous, merciful and just.*

The good man takes pity and lends,
 he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
 he will be remembered for ever.

*He has no fear of evil news;
 with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
 he will see the downfall of his foes.*

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
 his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

*The wicked man sees and is angry,
 grinds his teeth and fades away;
 the desire of the wicked leads to doom.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit,
*as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end.*

Amen.

This is the wise and faithful servant whom the Master placed in charge of his household.

Canticle Apocalypse 15
A hymn of adoration

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice: there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

Great and wonderful are your deeds,

 O Lord God the Almighty!

Just and true are your ways,

 O King of the ages!

Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord?

For you alone are holy.

All nations shall come and worship you,

for your judgements have been revealed.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

 and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice: there will be only one flock and one shepherd.

Short Reading

I Peter 5:1-4

I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ as well as a partaker in the glory that is to be revealed. Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory.

Short Responsory

This is a man who loves his brothers and sisters and intercedes for the people.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and sisters and intercedes for the people.*

He laid down his life for his brothers and sisters.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and sisters and intercedes for the people.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

– *This is a man who loves his brothers and sisters and intercedes for the people.*

My soul rejoices in the Lord

This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

*His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.*

He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.

*He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.*

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

This is the faithful and wise steward whom the Master placed over his household to give them their measure of food at the proper time.

Prayers and intercessions

Let us pray to Christ, the high priest, who was appointed to represent us in our relations with God.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Lord Jesus, in times past you have lighted the way for your people through wise and holy leaders; may Christians always enjoy this sign of your loving kindness.

– *Lord, save your people.*

You forgave the sins of your people when holy pastors prayed; continually cleanse your Church through their powerful intercession.

– *Lord, save your people.*

In the presence of their brothers and sisters, you anointed your holy ones and poured on them your Spirit; fill with your Holy Spirit all the leaders of your people.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Nothing could ever separate the holy pastors from your love; do not lose even one of those whom you redeemed by your passion.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Through the pastors of your Church you give your sheep eternal life, and no one can steal them from you; save the faithful departed, for whom you laid down your life.

– *Lord, save your people.*

It is your will that your disciples be one as you and the Father are one; preserve the unity of your Church.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Pardon our pride and our lack of faith, of understanding and of charity, which are the causes of our divisions.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Save us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Teach us to recognize the gifts of grace among all those who call upon you and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

– *Lord, save your people.*

Silent 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.

Collect

Fill us, we pray you, Lord our God,
with that spirit of charity
which burned in the heart of St Wulstan your Bishop,
that as he honoured you by faithful service of your poor,
so we, helped by his prayers may, through lives of service and works of charity,
attain to the blessed life of your kingdom.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Blessing

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Bestow increase of heavenly grace
on your people, O Lord;
may they praise you with their lips, with their souls, with their lives;
and since it is by your gift that we exist,
may our whole lives be yours.
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you, and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.