

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant:

God is love and commands us to live in that same love. Let us turn to him and pray for the strength to live as the Lord teaches:

1. For the Church: that all the baptised who follow Christ will truly live as God's priestly people, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light. **Lord, hear us.**

2. For all Christians, may the Holy Spirit infuse us with '*fresh heart*', that we may never grow complacent, despondent, or wearisome, but '*persevere in the faith*' with joy, hope and enthusiasm. **Lord, hear us.**

3. For unity and love where division and hatred have made a home. We pray for harmony in our nation, hope within our families and love within our service toward one another. **Lord, hear us.**

4. We pray for all who gather around the Lord's table: that we may love one another as he has loved us, and so give living witness to our faith in him. **Lord, hear us.**

5. As Paul and Barnabas assembled the church on their return, we pray for Parish Pastoral Councils: may they be blessed with the gift of discernment to discover God's will, and through their leadership and prayerful activity, form us into a community of His love. **Lord, hear us.**

6. For those preparing for engagement or marriage; – may their love for one another become a sacramental sign of God's love in our world. **Lord, hear us.**

7. The Lord is '*full of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love*'. Help us experience the grace of your mercy and healing in the

Sacrament of Reconciliation where we are loved and forgiven. **Lord, hear us.**

8. *‘Love one another as I have loved you’*. For a spirit of love and compassion towards those whom we find it difficult to love. **Lord, hear us.**
9. For children preparing for First Holy Communion: guided and encouraged by their parents may they grow in their love of Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. **Lord, hear us.**
10. For those preparing for exams: may they draw on the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit to show forth the best of their work throughout the year. **Lord, hear us.**
11. For those who have died; may they make their home in God’s eternal peace. **Lord, hear us.**

Celebrant:

God of hope, in your we trust. Renew us, our lives and our world through the Son of Man, who is your presence among us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**