

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for on the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary . Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

The feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on the 15th August. As such it is the matronal festival of St Mary's Lynton, and a very significant day of celebration for the Sisters of Mary Morning Star.

In our communities the 15th August is, of course remembered as the anniversary of the Flood.

This year as it is also the 75th anniversary of VJ day which marked the end of the second world war conflict with Japan, commemorations have been prominent.

In today's time of prayer and reflection I would like to hold all the significance of this weekend together asking God to help us learn from this convergence.

First, let us ask God to release us from all that gets in the way of giving and receiving God's love

Father, through Mary's "yes", you sent your Son to free us from our sins: when we resist your will for us, Lord have mercy

Lord Jesus, Mary stood at the foot of the cross as her Son asked for you forgiveness for those who put him to death: when we are overwhelmed by sorrow or anger with our enemies, Christ have mercy

Lord, Mary was praying with the disciples when the Holy Spirit filled their hearts: where we closed our hearts to the Spirit at work in us, Lord have mercy

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Luke 1:46-55

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God, We give thanks for the faithful life and example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We ask that your whole church may share her virtues: her openness to God's purposes for her, her devotion to Jesus, her humility and courage. We ask you blessing on all churches, communities and institutions dedicated to her.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Father of all, as we have marked the anniversary of the end of conflict in the Second World War, we pray for a commitment to peace across our world: for an end to strife in places where violence is rife; for a reconciliation between long-time enemies; for the healing of painful memories and the learning of lessons from the past. We remember all who have died in war, commend them to you eternal love, and ask your comfort for all who are bereaved.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we pray for our local community. At this time we give thanks for the communal life we share, for the skill of all who have rebuilt the parts of our local area that were devastated by

flooding, and all that has been learnt and shared to prevent others suffering in the same way. We commend to you all who lost their lives through the flooding of our rivers and pray for all who still suffer their loss.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Loving Lord, We bring to you in our hearts all who we know to be suffering at this time: through illness, injury or any kind of distress. Help them to have a sense of your presence with them. Bring them wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and the healing that is according to God's will,

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Eternal God, we commend to your everlasting love all who have died: those we love and see no longer, those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around now. We keep a time of silence to remember all those whose deaths we commemorate this weekend.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen