

Welcome to the FWW Prayer Guide for May, focusing on the economy, workers, and our ministry of workplace chaplaincy. We hope it will be useful for personal prayer, but also for those who lead intercessions in services. Do pass it on to others. Any feedback from use of the Guide would be most welcome.

We also use the Guide as the basis for our monthly online prayer meeting, held on the first Wednesday of each month. The May meeting will therefore be on **May 7th from 1.00 – 1.30 p.m.** (the next will be on June 4th). For the Zoom link, and any feedback, please email dickjohnson@faithatwork.org.uk The guide is in three parts: an introduction to the theme; a written prayer or collect; and finally, specific items for prayer for this month.

Resurrection in the Economy

As the Easter Season continues, our prayers in May focus on how Resurrection is experienced in work and the economy. Those who first met the Risen Jesus knew profound renewal in their lives, a new beginning, and a Holy Peace. The disciples experienced this in their work - the great catch of fish when Jesus met them for breakfast - and the new work they would be inspired to do in the world as witnesses of his resurrection.¹

The month concludes with Ascension Day (May 29th) preceded by Rogation Sunday. Rogation means 'to ask' and is taken from John 14 when Jesus told his disciples that, after he had gone to the Father, they could, 'ask him for anything and he would do it'.² It is the foundation for our vocation to pray for the world and our neighbour and, coinciding with Spring, has become a time of prayer for the crops, those who work in agriculture and, more generally, commerce and industry. The Chaplaincy for Agriculture and Rural Life committee (CARL) has arranged a Rogationtide Pilgrimage to Stockton Court Hop Farm, on May 15th 6.30 for 7 pm All are welcome. Bring boots!

Gracious Father, in revealing the Resurrection you offer new hope and life to all.

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to pray that the risen life of Jesus

may be seen in all the work of this world;

renewing relationships;

serving the needs of the most vulnerable;

producing what is needed for life;

caring for your creation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Saviour.

Amen.

Especially we pray for:

- Workers, that they would know Resurrection life through their work. (*Be specific, praying for neighbours, friends and family in their work, and workers whose paths cross yours today*)
- Those whose work is burdensome, dangerous or unrewarding, that God would reveal to them the light of the Risen Christ, in new beginnings, new relationships or new opportunities.
- Those working in agriculture and the food industry – producing, distributing and retailing – that all may receive a just return for their labour.
- For those without food – refugees, the poor and those who face famine – that they may share in God's generous provision through a just sharing of resources.
- The Rogation Pilgrimage to Stockton Court Hop Farm on May 15th, and all who attend, that they may understand afresh God's sustaining love for all creation.
- FWW in its work of supporting the mission of the Church across Worcestershire, through chaplaincy and theological reflection on the experience of work and structure of the economy.
- New volunteers for FWW as trustees and chaplains.
- In our cycle of prayer for the work of FWW, volunteers and staff, this month we pray for **Chaplains to the Worcester Livestock Market** - Brenda Williams, Tim Richards and Sue Adeney

¹ John 21 v 1 - 19

² John 14 v 1 - 14