



THY KINGDOM COME

2018 10th - 20th May 2018
Resources for Schools

What is it?

Thy Kingdom Come is global prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost where schools and parishes are invited to pray for their community, region and the wider world and to ask God to shape it in a better way – His way.

The words ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ originate from the Lord’s Prayer where Jesus told us to pray ‘Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’.

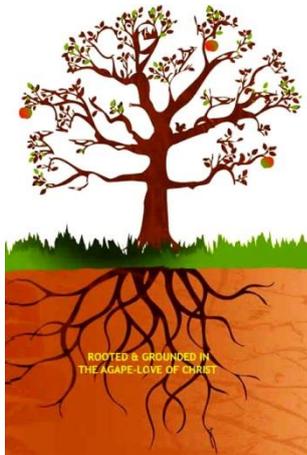
This week of prayer gives children and young people the opportunity to reflect and pray for a better world. To consider how that might be shaped by the teachings of Jesus.

This year our Diocesan theme is ‘The River of Life’.

Our theme for 2018 is ‘The River of Life’ taken from the prophet Ezekiel’s vision of the future outpouring of God’s Spirit for healing, renewal through God’s saving love; with a stream of water flowing from God’s temple growing from a trickle to a mighty river, with trees on the banks with fruit and leaves symbolising the healing of the nations (Ezekiel 47). Jesus refers to this in John 7. 37-39, with the promise of the Holy Spirit.

‘Christians believe that their lives should be a blessing to others. They believe that the Holy Spirit helps people to do this through transforming them. A sign of this can be found in recognising the ‘Fruits’ of the Spirit in a person’s life. These include: ‘love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.’ (Gal 5:22-23).

Sometimes when Christians pray they look for an answer outside themselves when in fact it may be that God is calling them to be a part of the answer. We might describe such a person as displaying courageous advocacy.



This year we are encouraging schools to reflect on their locality and the world and to think of places and situations where they think there should be healing and renewal and to establish prayer spaces of trees by rivers. They will be encouraged to write their thoughts or prayers on leaves and fruits which can be displayed in school before being brought to a special service at the Cathedral on May 20th starting at 18:30.

The prayer leaves are for writing thoughts and prayers for people and places that need to receive hope and a vision of a better future, as individuals, communities or countries, for those people we want to be healed or whole again. The fruit prayers are thank you prayers for where we see signs of new possibilities, healing of relationships, new ventures that enable people to grow, flourish and prosper. These can be placed on the prayer tree. Leaf and fruit templates alongside other resources are available to download from the Diocesan website <http://exeter.anglican.org/christian-faith/tkc>

In addition schools might want to find out more about Christians who have been or are agents of change – courageous advocates and reflect on their lives including the problems they faced and when things went wrong. Christians believe that everyone has the opportunity to transform the world for the better even when they have messed up.

¹ Image courtesy of http://the310course.com/IMAGES/roots_and_fruits%20retitled.jpg