

10th Birthday Celebration Virtual Week of Prayer

1st-6th Feb 2021.

Daily Prayer Points

Our prayers are powerful and we know God invites us to partner with him in bringing his Kingdom on earth as in heaven through prayer. The children and young people we work with are growing up in a world full of challenges and trials and we want to see them equipped, inspired and encouraged to live a life of faith, hope and love. This last year in particular has been such a season of change, challenge and uncertainty but we have a hope, and his name is Jesus. So let's pray for our schools, pray for our children and young people, pray for our staff and volunteers, and pray for the work of SparkFish for the years to come.

Monday - Thanksgiving

We want to start the week with praise and affirmation and a reminder that God is with us and for us and for all people.

Perhaps use a psalm for thanksgiving such as some verses from Psalm 8 or 105:1-5

- Give thanks for all of our schools and colleges, for all those who work or learn in them.
- Pray God's blessing over the schools and colleges of Redhill, Reigate and Merstham, giving thanks for the privilege of free education in this country.
- Give thanks for the work of SparkFish in schools and for partnerships with local churches enabling us to work with more and more schools each year.
- Thank God for his provision of finances for work this year and pray for continued provision for September 2021.
- Thank God for the provision of our new filming equipment and we pray God will help us use this wisely and give us the technical know how to make professional looking content.

Tuesday - Think

- Please pray for the Think at Home resources being released this month which will bring prayer into people's homes.
- Pray they can be useful resources for teachers in their online RE lessons. Particularly for years 5-8 at the Hawthorns who will all experience Think at Home in their RS lessons next week.
- Pray for every home that watches a Think at Home video, that they will experience the peace of God in their homes and take a moment to pause and be still.
- Pray for Jen as she creates resources for use at home and in schools.

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere." Ephesians 6:18

Wednesday - Hope

- Pray for young people who are struggling with anxiety, depression/ low mood, stress, loneliness, self-harm, abuse, suicidal thoughts and intentions, eating disorders, grief or loss.
- Please pray for healing, resilience, good support, safety, hope in hopeless situations and above all that they will meet God and know that they are immensely loved and that they have great purpose.
- Pray for SparkFish's programme of mental health and emotional wellbeing support in schools. For continued good relationships with schools, staff and young people. And for good mental health and resilience for SparkFish staff when working with young people with complex pastoral needs.
- Self-esteem and self-worth: that young people will know that they are loved, valued and worthy and that they might experience this from SparkFish staff and volunteers and experience the immense love of God.

Thursday - Learn

- Please pray for the impact of our digital Christmas Journey that it will have touched the lives of lots of children and staff and leave them wanting to know more about the true meaning of Christmas! Pray that the staff team will have wisdom on how to proceed about Christmas 2021 as we have the option of a digital resource as well as our interactive Christmas Journey experience.
- Please pray for the development of Easter Experience as the team write the script, plan, prepare and produce this exciting digital resource for all year 5's and 6's in our local Primary Schools. Please pray for openness in the schools, good technology on the day, schools finding the time to schedule it into their busy school calendars and for new schools being interested in receiving the resource. Pray that hearts will be opened to the gospel message and young people will want to find out more!
- Future RE possibilities - please pray for our staff team and volunteers that we will continue to be able to be creative and flexible in meeting the needs of schools in relation to Religious Education. Pray that through our continued relationships with schools we will be able to create great content and lessons that can be shared with students explaining the Christian faith intelligently, allowing young people to make an informed decision.
- Please pray for the development of online collective worship resources and the blessing of being able to continue delivering these remotely. Please pray for schools to be open to receiving more Christian assemblies, for good content, for good relationships with local churches delivering Christian assemblies in person after the lockdown and pandemic ends. Pray for increased creativity, enthusiasm and energy when planning and delivering our collective worship. Pray God will give the words to speak to these children, that we will have fresh vision for this part of our ministry and for increased volunteers to go into the local schools.

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Friday – Schools & Homeschooling

- Pray for parents managing workloads/ home schooling and the demands of family life in lockdown. For those struggling with a lack of usual support structures. Pray for families who are forced together in lockdown will find ways to live peacefully and happily and give each other space. And for those families who are kept apart, who are missing hugs and support, that they'll be able to overcome isolation through creative ways of staying in touch.
- Please pray for school staff struggling with the immense pressure they are under to be agile and adapt in exceptional circumstances. Pray for safety for school staff and good mental health. Ask God to sustain, strengthen and equip principals, head teachers, leadership teams, teaching and support staff at this time as they manage the challenges of adapting to change and take on new responsibilities for testing. Pray for creativity, inspiration and the gift of time for staff who are having to re-work lessons to be able to deliver them online whilst still teaching children of key workers in class.
- In your prayers today, pray specifically for anyone you know who works in a school or college. You could ask them what they would most appreciate prayer for.

Saturday – Young People

- Ask God for increased resilience in each young person during this difficult time of lockdown. Thank God for all the resources placed within each individual and pray that those resources would be unlocked at the right time, just when the young person needs it: peace, courage, joy, hope, self-control, creativity, understanding etc. Pray that our young people will be dynamic individuals who will be equipped to stand in any storm of life. That they will find healthy ways to manage their emotions during this time, making the most of the good resources that are online, avoiding the negative influences, reaching out for help when they need it, and also being generous in their support of one another.
- For their academic studies and for helpful ways to learn away from the classroom. God, please let no young person be left behind.
- For those who are especially worried about their hopes and aspirations for the future. In spite of the challenges and possible disappointments, we pray that there will be achievements to celebrate and a surprising confidence in the future. For students preparing for leaving Secondary Education/ going to university next year/ preparing for employment - for wisdom and guidance in such a different world . Parents worried about their children's prospects in light of the changing world of work/ education system.
- Pray that young people will learn how to have healthy relationships and look after each other; for an end to bullying and peer on peer abuse and violence in our schools. We pray for healthy romantic relationships where young people will learn respect, consent, compassion and care for one another. Pray for an end to family breakdown and protection of the family unit.
- Finally pray for the new legislation on relationship and sex education that schools will be appropriately equipped to teach children about healthy relationships and that young people will grow up knowing that they don't need to settle for unhealthy relationships and instead deserve love, respect and kindness. Pray that SparkFish will be equipped to support schools in this vital education.

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