

### The Naval Prayer

O Eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who has compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end; be pleased to receive into Thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us Thy servants, and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air, and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass upon the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our islands and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of Thy mercies to praise and glorify Thy Holy Name. **Amen.**

### An Army Collect

Almighty God, whose command is overall and whose love never fails, let us be aware of your presence and obedient to your will. Help us to accept our share of responsibility with strong heart and cheerful mind. Make us considerate of those with whom we live and serve, and faithful to the duties our country has entrusted to us. Let our uniform remind us daily of the traditions of the Army in which we serve. When we are tempted to sin, let us resist. When we fail, give us courage to try again. Guide us with the light of your truth, and keep before us the example of Jesus in whose name we pray and in whom we trust. **Amen.**

### Royal Air Force Collect

Almighty God, who has promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength and mount up with wings, as eagles, we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force. Uplift and support us in our endeavour, that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and a sure defence to our homeland. Help us to fulfil our several duties with honour, goodwill and integrity, and grant that we may prove to be worthy successors of those who by their valour and sacrifice did nobly save their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen!**

**Thy choicest gifts in store,  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign!  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause,  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen!**

### The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the Queen, the Commonwealth, and all people, peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## PARISH OF STONY STRATFORD WITH CALVERTON

### AN ACT OF COMMEMORATION FOR THE 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (VE) DAY

8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020



### The Introduction

In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Grief may endure for a night:  
**But joy comes in the morning.**

God is our refuge and our strength:  
**A very present help in time of trouble.**

My brothers and sisters, we have come together on this day to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe, when the sounds of war fell silent on this continent.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness of our sins and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

As we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War.

We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and pray: **Our Father...**

### Hymn

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with fear, His praise forth tell;  
Come ye before Him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;  
Without our aid He did us make;  
We are His folk, He doth us feed,  
And for His sheep He doth us take.**

**O enter then His gates with praise;  
Approach with joy His courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the Lord our God is good;  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.**

To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,  
The God whom Heaven and earth adore,  
From men and from the angel host  
Be praise and glory evermore.

**The First Reading** Micah 4: 1-4

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 15

**R/. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R/.**

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,  
nor let your beloved know decay. **R/.**

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your hand happiness for ever. **R/.**

**Gospel Reading** Luke 15: 18-24

**Responsory**

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,  
**that glory may dwell in our land.**  
Mercy and truth have met together;  
righteousness and peace  
have kissed each other.  
**that glory may dwell in our land.**  
Righteousness and justice  
are the foundation of your throne;  
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.  
**Your salvation is near to those who fear you,**  
**that glory may dwell in our land.**

**Hymn**

**Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Saviour, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid the rage did sleep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
And bid their angry tumult cease,  
And give for wild confusion peace;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.**

**O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
Your children shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,  
Protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus, evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.**

**An Act of Commitment**

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and  
all people: that we may help, encourage and comfort  
others, and support those working for the relief of the  
needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**Lord God our Father,  
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all people,  
in the cause of peace,**

**for the relief of want and suffering,  
and for the praise of your name.  
Guide us by your Spirit;  
give us wisdom;  
give us courage;  
give us hope;  
and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

**Collect for Peace**

Almighty God,  
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed:  
kindle in the hearts of all people the true love of peace;  
and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom  
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth;  
that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A prayer for the Sovereign**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness,  
bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth,  
and all who are in authority under her;  
that they may order all things  
in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace,  
to the honour of your name,  
and the good of your Church and people;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For those who served and died in World War II**

O God of truth and justice,  
we pray for those men and women  
who have died in active service,  
particularly in the Second World War,  
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe,  
that they may rest in peace.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

**For those serving in Her Majesty's Armed Forces today**

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your al-  
mighty arm to strengthen and protect our service men  
and women. Support them in times of conflict, and in  
their rest and training keep them safe from all evil; en-  
dure them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all  
things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For the peace of the world**

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a sin-  
gle peace; that the design of your great love lighten  
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows and give  
peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in  
our dwellings and peace in our hearts; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sir Francis Drake's Prayer**

O Lord, when thou givest to thy servants to endeavour  
in any great matter, Grant us also to know that it is not  
the beginning but the continuing of the same until it be  
thoroughly finished that yieldeth the true glory; through  
him for the finishing of thy work laid down his life, Jesus  
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer of Saint Ignatius Loyola**

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest,  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labour and not to ask for any reward;  
except that of knowing that we do thy will. **Amen.**