

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS 18 - 25 JANUARY EVERY YEAR

Invocations for Unity

From a text devised by Fr Paul Couturier, an Apostle of Unity

Lord, for the low importance we have given to those words that came from your Heart: "I have other sheep not from this fold. I must also bring them; they too shall hear my voice":

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For our disagreements with our Christian brothers and sisters, sometimes full of irony, or narrowness of spirit, or exaggeration; for our intransigence and harsh judgments about other Christians and Churches:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For all acts of violence or unkindness against our fellow Christians; for all in the past and sustained to this day for which we are to blame:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For all attitudes of pride and self-sufficiency that our Churches may have shown across the ages to other Christians, and for all our failures of awareness or understanding towards each other:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For the bad examples in our conduct, which have slowed down, diminished or destroyed the effects of grace in the souls of others:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

For forgetting to offer prayer, frequent, friendly, fervent, on behalf of our fellow Christians:

We ask you to forgive us, Lord.

Above the frontiers of language, race and nation, through all our rich difference and diversity:

Unite us, Jesus.

With Christians who are persecuted and in need, with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters across the world and in our midst:

Unite us, Jesus.

Above our ignorance, our prejudices, or any unconscious hostility, through better understanding and ever closer communion:

Unite us, Jesus.

Above our different spiritual and theological traditions, in one spirit, one Bread and one Body:

Unite us, Jesus.

O God, for the increase of your glory:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, for the triumph of good and of truth:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, that there may be but one fold and one Shepherd:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, that justice and peace may finally reign in the world:

Gather your scattered people.

O God, to bring fullness of joy to the heart of your Son:

Gather your scattered people.

Daily Prayer of the Chemin Neuf Community

based on a meditation by Paul Couturier

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to You for the unity of Christians,
according to Your will, according to Your means.
May Your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering caused by division,
to see our sin,
and to hope beyond all hope. **Amen.**

Let us not become settled in our divisions. Keep us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love. *Paul Couturier*

Prepared for free distribution by the Catholic League, an ecumenical society working towards the communion of all Christians in visible unity with the Apostolic See of Rome.

www.unitas.org.uk

www.paulcouturier.org.uk

Daily Intercessions

Each day's prayer can be used, where permitted, within the Prayer of the Faithful at the Eucharist or the Intercessions at Morning or Evening Prayer, or for personal devotion.

January 18 *The Unity of all Christians*

On the night before he died, Christ prayed that we, his disciples, might be one as the Father and the Son are one. For the Unity of all Christians, that he will not look not on our sins, but on the faith of his Church; and grant us the peace and unity that is in accordance with his will, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 19 *The Sanctification of Catholic Christians*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. Today we pray especially for all Catholic Christians. That the Lord may give Catholics, and all Christians together, an ever greater holiness and lead us all along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 20 *The Sanctification of Orthodox Christians*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. Today we pray for all Orthodox Christians. That the Lord may give Orthodox Christians, and all Christians together, an ever greater holiness and lead us all along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 21 *The Sanctification of Anglican Christians*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. Today we pray for all Anglican Christians. That the Lord may give Anglicans, and all Christians together, an ever greater holiness and lead us all along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 22 *The Sanctification of all Protestant Christians*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. Today we pray for all Protestant and Pentecostal Christians. That the Lord may give Evangelical, Reformed and Pentecostal

Christians, and all Christians together, an ever greater holiness and lead us all along your path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 23 *The Sanctification of the Jewish People*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. May he give us an ever greater holiness and lead us along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ. Today we pray for the Jewish people. That by faith they may continue with us to advance in love of the Lord's name and attain the fullness of redemption, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 24 *The Sanctification of People in other Faiths*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. May he give us an ever greater holiness and lead us along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ. Today we pray for people of other faiths. That we and they may be enlightened by the Spirit, walk before God with a sincere heart, be made more perfect witnesses to his love and advance on the way of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

January 25 *The Unity of all Humanity in the Charity and Truth of Christ*

We pray for the Unity of Christians, that the Father will forgive us the sin which separates us and maintains divisions among us; that his Spirit will penetrate all our souls, and draw us closer to Christ in holiness. Today we pray for the unity of all humanity in the charity and truth of Christ. That God may give all human beings, his children, an ever greater holiness; and lead us along his path, to unity in the love and truth of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Or Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

These themes reflect the Prayers at the Liturgy for Good Friday in the Latin Rite. They were devised in 1934 by the French priest, Paul Couturier, for his relaunch of the Week of Prayer toward the union of all humanity with God in Christ: "Father, as you are in me and I am in you, may they all be one, that the world may believe it was you that sent me". St John 17.

From the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The walls of separation do not rise as far as heaven
Metropolitan Platon Gorodetsky of Kiev