

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

24 May

In 2009 (which is also the UN Year of Reconciliation), the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity overlaps with the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation. During this period we have an opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. This year's theme appropriately is ***'That they may become one in your hand'*** (Ezekiel 37:17) and we are invited to join purposely in that great wave of prayer begun by Jesus himself when he prayed *'that they may all be one... so that the world may believe'* (John 17:21).

The 2009 resources, adapted for use in Australia, are grounded in the experience of the churches in Korea. In their context of national division the churches have turned for inspiration to the prophet Ezekiel, who also lived in a tragically divided nation and longed for the unity of his people. As we join in prayer this week, we offer fresh encouragement to our churches in Australia to witness to their unity in Christ, and to pray and act for the greater visible expression of that unity, not least in the context of our journey towards national Reconciliation.

Daily prayer and reflections and other materials and further information can be found at www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au

Some simple Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for our unity in prayer with Christians all across the world
- Give thanks for the witness of the Church and especially for the Churches in Korea
- Give thanks for all those who work for reconciliation between peoples and pray for those who remain at enmity
- Pray for the national & state ecumenical bodies in Australia, for the World Council of Churches, the Global Christian Forum and other global networks
- Pray for the unity of all Christians, in our local community and further afield

*Let us pray for all Christian churches and ask for your help:
Lord, one day may we all be able to gather around the table and share the
fellowship of holy communion.*

Mary, Help of Christians, we entrust to you
all people, beginning with the weakest:
the babies yet unborn,
and those born into poverty and suffering,
the young in search of meaning,
the unemployed,
and those suffering hunger and disease.
We entrust to you all troubled families,
the elderly with no one to help them,
and all who are alone and without hope.
To you, Dawn of Salvation, we commit
our journey through the new millennium
and the new century of our history in Australia,
so that, with your help, all people may know Christ,
the light of the world and its only saviour,
who reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit
for ever and ever. AMEN.

Other significant days:

24 May – The Ascension
Mary Help of Christians – Patron of Australia

26 May – National Sorry Day

27 May – National Reconciliation Week

31 May – Pentecost Sunday

HAPPY FEAST DAY!!

Sources: http://www.ncca.org.au/home_page
<http://www.acbc.catholic.org.au/bc/liturgy/200105232.htm>