

DIOCESSES OF MIDDLESBROUGH & LEEDS CONSULTATION MEETINGS
FORMAT FOR PRAYERS

Opening Prayer Time

Clergy/Lay Leader: It is very important that what we do here this evening, as with everything we do in our lives as disciples of Jesus, begins with prayer. We are going to spend some time now acknowledging God's presence with us and inviting Him to guide our conversations this evening.

And so, I invite you to join me in prayer.

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

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon the people
of the Diocese of Middlesbrough
and the Diocese of Leeds.

Where there is uncertainty, give trust.

Where there is fear, give hope.

Where there are differences, give charity and mutual understanding.

Teach us to listen deeply,

to speak with wisdom and humility,

and to seek not our own will, but Yours for Your Church.

May any steps we take be rooted in prayer,

guided by Your Spirit,

and directed toward the building up of Your Body

and the proclamation of Your Gospel.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Clergy/Lay Leader: We will now spend some time listening to the words of Jesus, after which we will have a period of silence where we invite Him to speak to our hearts.

Clergy/Lay Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

All: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Clergy/Lay Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Time of silent prayer

Clergy/Lay Leader: We are gathered here because those who came before us listened and acted upon the command of Jesus to baptise all nations and passed on all that Jesus entrusted to them. Our conversations here are a continuation of that mission and part of the discernment process of how it will continue in the future. We know that the Lord's plans are the best ones, and so we commend all that we do into His care.

Prayer of Intercession

We pray for greater communion in the Church.

That through our conversations, and through our relationship with You and with one another, we may be united and strengthened as the Body of Christ. May our dialogue be guided by Your Spirit, and may any divisions or misunderstandings be transformed into understanding, respect, and love.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for continued participation in the life of the Church.

That each of us may be willing to offer the gifts You have entrusted to us — our time, talents, and hearts — in service to You, our local communities, and the wider world. Inspire us to act with humility, generosity, and joy, so that our service bears witness to Your love.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the mission of the Church.

That, united in Christ, we may always keep in mind our common call to build up Your kingdom. Guide our work and our decisions, so that all we do may proclaim Your truth, nurture justice, and bring Your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our meeting.

That the Spirit may enlighten our minds, soften our hearts, and lead our discussions so that our deliberations may bear lasting fruit for the life of the Church.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We ask the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, as we pray:

Hail Mary...

O God, You call Your people to walk together as pilgrims
and never cease to guide Your Church by the Holy Spirit.

Look with favour upon us as we begin this journey of discernment.

Grant us hearts attentive to Your will, that, listening to one another in faith,
we may learn to collaborate generously

and to share the gifts You have entrusted to us for the good of all.
If it is Your will that our journey leads us to become one Diocese,
let it be for Your glory and the salvation of Your people.
Whatever the outcome of our discernment,
keep us united in charity and steadfast in faith.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Pray for us
St Wilfrid – Pray for us

Prayer for the end of the meeting

O God,
who have gathered us to listen, reflect, and discern together,
we give You thanks for the gifts shared among us this day.
As we bring this consultation gathering to its close,
send forth Your Holy Spirit upon the work begun,
that what has been spoken and heard
may bear fruit in wisdom, unity, and peace.
Entrusting our way forward to the care of Mary,
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour,
and the intercession of Saint Wilfrid,
keep us faithful to Your will
and generous in service to Your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, *pray for us*
Saint Wilfrid, *pray for us*