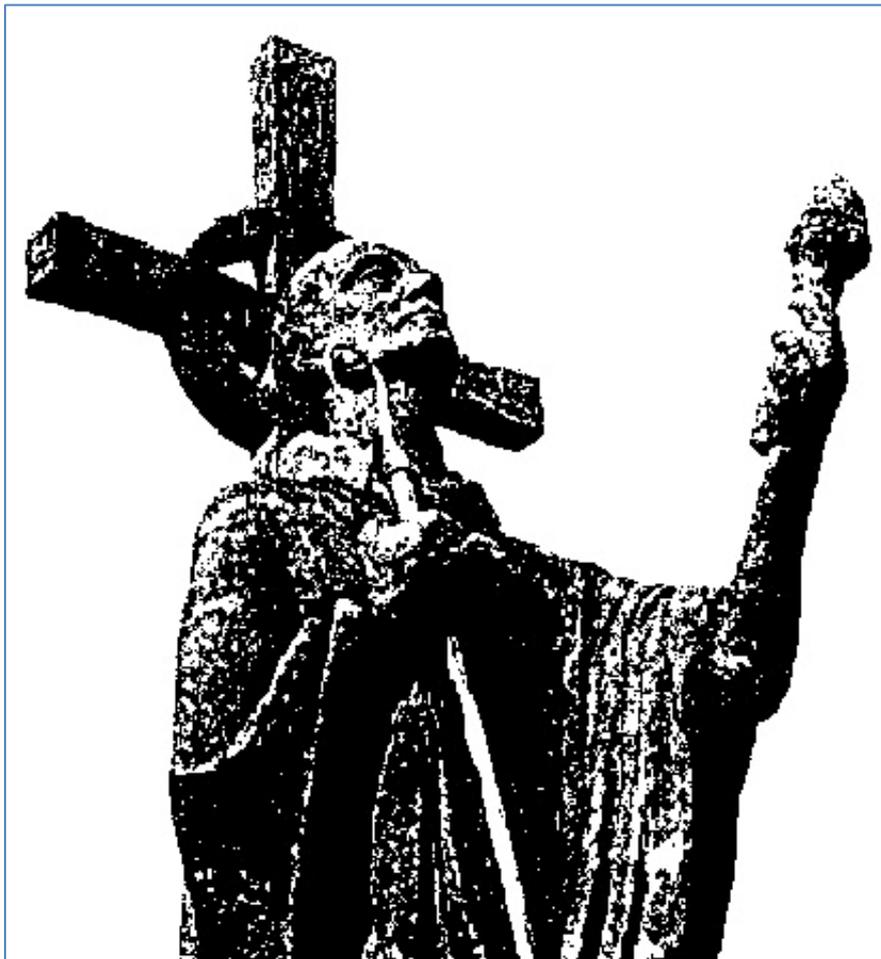


# ST AIDAN'S CHURCH LEEDS



**Pilgrim Prayers for  
*St Aidan's folk*  
for Everyday use**

## Preparation

*Mark yourself with the sign of the cross and say*

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

*If you pray this on your own, say all the words slowly and deliberately.  
If you pray this together with other folk, share the words out using the ordinary  
and bold print as a guidance, though always say the preparation and ending  
and the Lord's Prayer together.*

## Opening Psalm

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
**that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
**for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.**

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
**May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.**

*Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.*

*Psalm 67*

## A Reflection

*Reflect on these words, which a pilgrim kneeling at the foot of this sculpture of St Aidan on Holy Island once wrote:*

Oh Aidan, you had the vision of a population transformed in Christ:

**You had the faith to come.**

You had the gentleness to win the hearts of king and commoner.

*You ministered in power and patience to the sick and dying.*

**You created teamwork.**

Your visits to tell people Good News gave your team a pattern to follow.

*You loved the people of the island.*

**You lived simply and prayed much.**

You prepared a mission to the kingdom.

*You influenced many to reach others for Christ.*

**You are Christ for this nation.**

You are apostle to his people.

*You are in pain that people here are heedless of your Lord.*

**You will not rest till they are won.**

Father, put the mantle of Aidan upon me.

## Scripture Reading

*These are all readings, which are set as we celebrate St Aidan on his Feast Day on 31 August. They are worth reading and re-reading and pondering again and again as we pray.*

*Isaiah 52.7-10; Isaiah 61.1-3a; Ezekiel 34.11-16; Jonah 3.1-5*

*Acts 2.14, 22-36; Acts 13.46-49; Acts 16.6-10; Acts 26.19-23*

*Romans 15.17-21; 1 Corinthians 9.16-19; 2 Corinthians 5.11-6.2*

*Matthew 9.35-end; Matthew 28.16-end; Mark 16.15-20; Luke 5.1-11;  
Luke 10.1-9*

## Canticle

Lord of my heart  
Give me vision to inspire me  
That, working or resting,  
I may always think of you.

**Lord of my heart  
Give me light to guide me  
That, at home or abroad,  
I may always walk in your way.**

Lord of my heart  
Give me wisdom to direct me  
That, thinking or acting,  
I may always discern right from wrong.

**Lord of my heart  
Give me courage to strengthen me  
That, amongst friends and enemies,  
I may always proclaim your justice.**

Lord of my heart  
Give me trust to console me  
That, hungry or well fed,  
I may always rely on your mercy.

**Lord of my heart  
Save me from empty praise  
That I may always boast of you.**

Lord of my heart  
Save me from worldly wealth  
That I may always look to the riches of heaven.

**Lord of my heart  
Save me from military prowess  
That I may always seek your protection.**

Lord of my heart  
Save me from vain knowledge  
That I may always study your word.

**Heart of my own heart  
Whatever befall me  
Rule over my thoughts and feelings  
My words and actions. Amen.**

## **Prayers**

*Spend some time in prayer and contemplation, giving thanks to God for his goodness, and holding before him any needs.*

*Prayers may include these concerns:*

*The universal Church, and our parish and church family  
The leaders of the nations and the needs of the world  
The natural world and the resources of the earth  
All who are in any kind of need  
The sick and those who care for them at home or in hospital  
Those who have died and those who grieve and remember*

*Finish the prayer by praying the Collect for St Aidan:*

Everlasting God,  
you sent the gentle bishop Aidan  
to proclaim the gospel in this land:  
grant us to live as he taught  
in simplicity, humility and love for the poor;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name;  
your kingdom come; your will be done;  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

## Conclusion

Let us strive to be at peace among ourselves,  
and love one another.  
Let us follow the example of St Aidan and all the saints  
and pray that God will comfort us and help us,  
both in this world and in the world which is to come.

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

## **Additional Prayers for our use:**

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. **Amen.**

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*For those who are ill*

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*For hospital staff and medical researchers*

Gracious God, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*From one who is ill or isolated*

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Personal prayers*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself, and keep me in your care. **Amen.**

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

*From St Patrick's Breastplate*

I am giving you worship with all my life, I am giving you obedience with all my power, I am giving you praise with all my strength, I am giving you honour with all my speech. I am giving you love with all my heart, I am giving you affection with all my sense, I am giving you my being with all my mind, I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God. Praise to the Father, Praise to the Son, Praise to the Spirit, The Three in One. **Amen.**  
*adapted from Alexander Carmichael, Carmina Gadelica (1900)*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.  
*The Jesus Prayer*

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate upon you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
*St Benedict*

*Before going to sleep*

God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
*Church of South India*