

Encouragement to pray

It is our privilege in these challenging times to come to God in prayer. As we do so let's be assured that our prayers are effective and have power to bring change for good.

Take some time to reflect together on the following:

Firstly, the Bible assures us that God draws near when we pray:

The Lord is close to everyone who prays to him, to all who truly pray to him.
Psalm 145:18

Then, Jesus promises to be with all who join together in prayer, whether they are together in person or simply in heart:

If two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. Where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.
Matthew 18:19-20

Finally, we are promised the Holy Spirit's help as we pray:

The Spirit is here to help us... when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words.
Romans 8:26

So, as we play our part in asking for God's help through our prayers, let's do so with confidence, knowing that, whatever the limitations, our prayers have meaning and power.

*We give thanks that as we unite together in prayer,
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit draw near.
Where our understanding is limited, God's is perfect,
and our desire to pray echoes God's desire to answer.
We give thanks for the privilege of praying in partnership with God.
Amen*