

Speak, Lord

your servant is listening...

Pastoral Reflections for the Family



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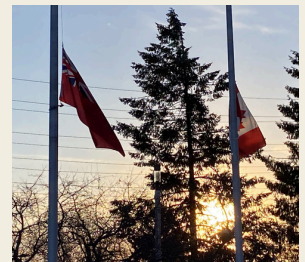
"If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand."

Sirach 15:15-20

Scripture reading for this week

A special prayer for the victims at Tumbler Ridge, B.C.

On Tuesday, we received the awful news that, in an act of unspeakable violence, 9 people (incl. the perpetrator) were killed in a small school community in northern British Columbia. The shock, confusion & sadness we feel in a moment like this - especially in our own country - can be overwhelming. Coming from a small community myself, I can picture how interconnected the families of Tumbler Ridge must be, and how the trauma of this school shooting will affect them deeply. This week, we lowered the flags in front of our school, and offered prayers for the victims & their families.



Loving Father, who desire that Your children live & learn in freedom & safety, we come before you in our shock and confusion.

Let perpetual light shine upon the victims of this tragedy, and send your Holy Spirit to comfort the survivors and family members.

Empower our school community, O Lord, to be a dedicated force for peace. Let our words & actions show others that they matter - that we honour the dignity of each & every child of God.

Amen.

Take care, everyone!



'Listen to Understand' Pastoral Prayer

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us.
We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

