

Prayers for the Civic Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of D-Day, Deddington, 6th June 2024 @ 06:20

Dear Friends, as we come together on this day, and at this hour, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the moment when the allies began their courageous campaign to liberate Europe from the dark forces of occupation, let us come before God, conscious of our need to give thanks for the extreme bravery of all those who gave their lives so selflessly for our freedom.

As we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, let us also give thanks for the years of peace that the nations of Europe have enjoyed since the Second World War. And let us come before God, conscious also of our own continuing need for his forgiveness, for the sin and desire to dominate others, which leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

Therefore, let us pray with one heart and mind...

Lord of the nations, as we commemorate this anniversary of D Day, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in Operation Overlord. We also remember with thanksgiving, the collaboration between the Allied Forces and those who planned and oversaw the Normandy beach landings and subsequent operations. We give thanks for the ingenuity of General Hobart, himself once a resident of this Parish, and the part his specialised vehicles played. Grant us similar courage to recognise and restrain evil in our own day, and may those who lead the nations of the world, work together to defend human liberty, that we may live peaceably one with another. This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Lord of compassion, we remember those who were maimed physically or scarred mentally in the operation, and the burden they endured afterwards. We think of the young men and women who went into battle for the first time against war-hardened troops and heavily defended beaches. We remember also, all the civilians who were killed or injured in the fighting and events that followed. We give you thanks for all these people, and all they endured for our liberty. Teach us, we pray, to show your loving compassion to all who are scarred by war, violence or trauma of any kind in our society today, and teach us how help them in their need. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Lord of healing and compassion, **Amen.**

Lord God of Hosts, we pray now for all those who serve today. Stretch forth your almighty arm, to strengthen and protect our service men and women. Support them in times of conflict; and in their rest and training, keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things, they may serve without reproach. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Lord of forgiveness and justice, we are sorry for all the times when we have not learned the lessons of history, nor heeded sufficiently the now silent pleas of those who gave their lives for our freedom today. We are sorry for the conflicts that continue to blight the lives of so many in our world at this time. Forgive us, we pray, for our part in these things, and for the collective failings of our world. Raise up, we pray, leaders in all nations, with hearts and minds that are fixed on working for peace, and thwart the ways of all who seek to perpetrate evil, hatred and oppression. Grant your wisdom, to all in positions of influence, and teach them how to forge new paths to reconciliation, even across the most hardened of lines. We ask this in penitence and faith, through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign King Charles, and all who are in authority under him; that they may order all things in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour of your name, and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth, and all people: Peace and concord; and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, come down upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

And now we remember by name, all those Deddington men who died in World War II:

Robert Alec Farquhar Churchill

William Charles Coulton

Edward Bostock Dumbleton

Francis Beesley Garrett

John Richard Frederick Gilkes

William Richard Greenaway

Edward Sydney Hall

Kenneth Henry Harris

John H Lewis

Lawrence Lee Pyman

Henry Sorrell

Ernest Arthur Sykes

Thomas Willem Van Oss