



## First Friday Prayer Meditation & Calendar – September 2017

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*  
I Thessalonians 5: 16-18 ESV

Welcome to our September 2017 first Friday Prayer Meditation and Calendar. You will notice a change in format as we seek to improve our monthly prayer mailings to you by combining the Call to Prayer and Calendar into one monthly email and by removing redundancies where they occurred. Please let us know what you think!

<p>We urge you to set aside <b>the first Friday, September 1<sup>st</sup></b>, as a day to pray and fast for our diocese (ANiC), the Anglican Church of North America, and the Anglican Communion worldwide. We live in an age of immense pressure against the Gospel. It is critical that we unite together in prayer.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Notable Prayer Quotes</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“The one who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Andrew Murray (1828 – 1917)</i></p>
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## New Beginnings

September is a month of new beginnings, in some ways, even more than January. Driven, perhaps, by the beginning of the new school year, many people are returning from summer family vacations, hopefully refreshed and ready to re-enter more normal life. Many pastors see the fall as a time of implementing renewed vision as they seek to mobilize their parish family to impact their neighbourhood and community with the Gospel. Scaled-down services and programs are restored to full, normal vigour and new ones are initiated.

So, how should we then be praying as we enter this month of new beginnings? Of the various possibilities, let me suggest two possible areas of focus for our intercession.

1. Pray for our children or grandchildren who are heading off to elementary, high school or university. The world's tolerance for Christians and a Christian worldview is rapidly eroding and a growing hostility is becoming the new norm. At whatever educational level, there are those who see it as their role as educators to “liberate the children from the narrow thinking of their home, and prepare them to be world citizens” (direct quote from our sons' grade school principal in 1986). The stakes are much higher for these students than merely good grades and social acceptance. For many of the older ones, their very faith in Christ may be in jeopardy.

As well as praying for academic success, competent teachers, and accommodating roommates, let's also pray for the power of Gospel truth to rise up in their hearts. Let's use the authority that we have in the mighty Name of Jesus to stand with them against the assaults and strategy of the devil to rob them of their faith or at least neutralize any effectiveness in sharing the Gospel with classmates. Mere survival shouldn't be the goal here.

**For many of the older ones, their very faith in Christ may be in jeopardy.**

Pray for Christian educators, at whatever scholastic level, that they may have a fresh revelation by the Holy Spirit as to who they are in Christ, adopted children in the family of God and ambassadors of His Kingdom. May they have both the wisdom and courage to serve Him with love and yet without compromise.

2. We will soon celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ANiC at our diocesan synod in October. It has been a decade of great blessing to us who have sought to be Anglicans, faithful to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus as revealed in the written Word of God. But it has not been without cost or sacrifice. Many of our parishes from coast to coast are still in rented facilities, meeting at odd hours and without weekday access to a building. Some clergy are bone weary and struggling to impart the vision of church planting to their congregation. Returning from summer vacation may create an expectation on our pastors, perhaps indeed self-imposed, to have in hand the needed answers to the questions of growth and stability. As always, our primate, our bishops, and our clergy are in need of the prayers of the intercessors in every parish.

Below is a prayer by the apostle Paul in his letter to the Ephesian church that reflects his passionate love for them and his deep desire for them to be reminded of the Gospel, to have fresh insight into all of what Christ Jesus has accomplished on the cross. I have modified it slightly, only to make it personal and to allow us to insert the name of our bishop, rector or pastoral leaders for whom we would like to pray this prayer.

**“We do not cease to give thanks for you, (insert name here), remembering you in our prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 1: 16-20 ESV**

Can you see the apostle’s priorities here? He’s not asking for temporal prosperity or ease of life for the Ephesian church. He’s praying for a blast of Holy Spirit revelation, so that they will see more clearly than ever “the riches of His glorious inheritance and the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe”!

Does this seem a might presumptuous for us to be praying such an apostolic prayer for our leaders? I don’t think so, and I fervently believe that they would be the first to agree, grateful for such anointed prayers to be offered on their behalf.

Secondly, we all struggle with “Gospel amnesia”. We all forget to intentionally apply the truth of the Gospel to our day-to-day experience, even primates, bishops and clergy!

Let us, with resolute commitment through the month of September, lift these two prayer needs to our Heavenly Father, expecting visible evidence of answered prayer; stories of students having amazing opportunities to share the Gospel, pastoral leaders with fresh and exciting vision for our future, and a Church with a passion for revival in a world so desperate for God’s redemption. Amen!

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## Praying through September 2017

1. **Our province and primate** – Pray for **Archbishop Foley Beach** (& Allison). May God glorify Himself through the ACNA and give us a passion for sharing the Gospel.
2. **Our diocese** – Pray for the **Anglican Network in Canada** and our congregations. Pray for **revival** in our churches. We desperately need the Lord.
3. Pray for **Bishop Charlie Masters** (& Judy) as he leads ANiC. May God grant him the health, strength, discernment and passion he needs for this heavy responsibility.
4. Pray for ANiC's suffragan bishops: **Bishops Stephen Leung** (& Nona) and **Trevor Walters** (& Dede). Pray for wisdom and vision as they care for clergy and churches.
5. **Bishop Don Harvey** (& Trudy) – Pray for Bishop Don in his roles as ANiC's episcopal vicar and as senior chaplain to the ACNA College of Bishops.
6. Pray for our retired bishops, **Bishop Ron Ferris** (& Jan) and **Bishop Malcolm Harding** (& Marylou). Thank God for their fruitful ministries.
7. Pray for the new **Missionary Bishop Andy Lines** (& Mandy), who was consecrated at the ACNA Assembly on the 30<sup>th</sup> June. Given the disappointing decisions by the recent Church of England general synod, his ministry to orthodox evangelicals will be very important.
8. **ANiC council, chancellor & registrar** – Pray for wisdom and servant hearts as they serve ANiC. May they know God's leading, seek His will, and experience His joy.
9. **ANiC staff & volunteers** – Pray for strength for the tasks, faithfulness in service, & joy in the Lord. May God's blessing rest on ANiC as we seek to know, love & serve Him.
10. **Asian & Multicultural Ministries in Canada (AMMiC)** – May God bless this ministry as it reaches ethnic communities & new immigrants with the Gospel & plants churches
11. **ANiC's 5 Ministry Priorities** – Pray that God will use these to transform us and our churches: **Bold witnesses; Biblically grounded; Loving children; On mission; and Planting churches.**
12. **Anglican Relief & Development Fund Canada** – Pray for our project, raising funds to buy a van to support the ACNA church plants in Cuba. We are almost there!
13. **ANiC archdeacons, canons & all clergy** – Pray for spiritual and physical protection and renewal as well as for God's blessing on them, their spouses & families.
14. **ANiC's New England congregations**
  - Holy Trinity (Marlborough, MA)
  - Holy Trinity (Attleboro, MA)
  - Emmanuel - Chinese (Boston, MA)
  - St Brigid of Kildare (Medway, MA)
  - All Saints' (Rutland, VT)
15. **ANiC congregations in Newfoundland & the Atlantic Provinces**
  - St Stephen the Martyr (St John's, NL)
  - Good Samaritan (St John's, NL)
  - Resurrection (Halifax, NS)
  - Christ the King (Quispamsis, NB)
16. **ANiC congregations in Quebec**
  - St Timothy's (Montreal area)
  - Emmaus (Westmount, Montreal)
  - St James (Lennoxville)
17. **ANiC congregations in the Ottawa, Ontario area**
  - Faith (Embrun)
  - Messiah (Ottawa)
  - St Peter & St Paul's (Ottawa)
  - Eternal Hope (Carleton Place)
  - St Luke's (Pembroke)
  - Blackburn Hamlet Community (Ottawa)
  - Grace (Mississippi Mills)
18. **ANiC congregations in Ontario**
  - St Aidan's (Windsor)
  - Cornerstone Anglican Church (Sarnia)
  - The Way (Wasaga Beach)
  - St Aidan's at River's Bend (Belle River)
  - New Life (Sturgeon Falls)
19. **ANiC congregations in Ontario**
  - St Hilda's (Oakville)
  - St George's (Burlington)
  - Good Shepherd (St Catharines)
  - St Peter by the Park (Hamilton)
  - Epiphany (Hamilton)
  - St Jude (Guelph)

- 20. ANiC congregations in Greater Toronto and eastern Ontario**
- St Chad's (Toronto)
  - Christ The King (Toronto)
  - Bethel South Asian (Brampton)
  - St James Fellowship (Trenton)
  - Celebration Church (Barrie)
  - New Song (Port Perry)
  - Living Waters (Kingston)
- 21. ANiC congregations in Saskatchewan & Manitoba**
- Resurrection (Brandon, MB)
  - Redeemer (Dauphin, MB)
  - St Bede's (Kinosota, MB)
  - Cornerstone (Regina, SK)
- 22. ANiC congregations in Alberta**
- Holy Trinity - Filipino (Edmonton)
  - Christ the King (Edmonton)
  - Living Water (Athabasca)
  - Grace Anglican (Calgary)
  - Good Shepherd - Cantonese (Calgary)
- 23. ANiC congregations in the Fraser Valley & Interior of BC**
- Ascension (Langley)
  - Saint Matthew's (Abbotsford)
  - Church of the Holy Cross (Abbotsford)
  - Resurrection (Kelowna)
  - Christ Church (Kelowna)
  - South Okanagan Project (Oliver)
- 24. ANiC congregations in the Vancouver, BC area**
- St John's Vancouver
  - St John's Richmond
  - St Peter's Fireside (Vancouver)
  - Sojourn Church (UBC, Vancouver)
  - Immanuel Church (Vancouver)
  - St Andrews (Delta)
- 25. ANiC congregations in the Vancouver, BC area**
- St Matthias and St Luke (Vancouver)
  - All Nations – Japanese
  - Good Shepherd Vancouver – Chinese
  - Good Shepherd Richmond – Chinese
  - St John's – Sudanese (Surrey)
  - St Timothy's (North Vancouver)
- 26. ANiC congregations on Vancouver Island & Sunshine Coast**
- Open Gate Church (Victoria)
  - Church of Our Lord (Victoria)
  - The Table (Victoria, Saanich Peninsula)
  - Living Edge (Victoria)
  - Christ's Church (Oceanside)
  - Christ the Redeemer (Pender Harbour)
- 27.** Pray for **those in authority** over us, especially elected officials. We pray particularly with our brothers and sisters in New England for **God's intervention** in the escalating polarization and violence within the United States.
- 28.** Pray for the millions of **refugees and internally displaced people** worldwide. Pray for persecuted Christians, especially in Muslim, communist and war-torn lands.
- 29. Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans** – Pray that repentance, revival and renewal will spread throughout the Communion. Pray especially for the dedicated **Primates** leading this global fellowship of orthodox Anglicans determined to remain faithful to God's Word.
- 30.** Pray for a **fresh outpouring of repentance and revival** upon our nations and our world! *"Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence - as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence!"*  
Isaiah 64:1-2 ESV

Note: for further info about specific ANiC parishes see [http://anglicannetwork.ca/member\\_parish.htm](http://anglicannetwork.ca/member_parish.htm)