



DIOCESE of  
**WINCHESTER**

## **Clergy Conference 2024**

### **Intercessions from the Closing Eucharist**

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your presence here among us throughout these days away. For the different ways you have spoken to and through the diverse community of people gathered here, each one called by name, dearly loved by you.

Fan into flame the hope of our calling, speaking your words of life to each of our hearts, renewing in us passion for your glory and your purposes for us, imagining our diocese as a place where 'good things run wild'.

Lead us on in our journeys to grow as true Worshipers, putting in our hearts a new song that we may sing it back to you.

Help us to be those who bear Witness, declaring the praises of God to the world, not with strain or stress but overflowing with joy of the gospel.

And may we be those who pursue Wisdom, deepening our faith and enlarging our hearts through knowledge of your word.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

We thank you for the many conversations and connections made over this conference. We pray you would send us out from here with a greater sense of our place in the body of Christ, and that you would continue to heal and strengthen our diocesan family, knitting us closer together in love and unity.

We pray especially for Bishop Philip as he begins this new chapter, that he would be able to lead us into deeper community with the love, listening and laughter that you have put on his heart to pursue.

Help us not to be anxious about the future of the church in this diocese or the world, but to focus on our primary calling which is to love and serve you. Help us to be faithful, those who stick with our task down on the beach, our eyes fixed on the horizon and the coming of your kingdom, regardless of the going in and out of the tide.

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, who in your earthly life bore our grief and carried our sorrows, we pray that you would stand with all those who suffer, in fear, distress and uncertainty.

We pause now for a few seconds to lift in our hearts to you the people near to us, and the situations in the world where we long to see your love and justice bring hope.

We pray too for the earth that is suffering from the wounds inflicted by humanity. May we be your stewards, those, though the task is overwhelming and we cannot fix it on our own, whose prophetic actions speak of the tender care of the God who made creation, and the day when it will be renewed.

Lead us all on, in all our struggles, through the depths of the cross, to the height and joy of the resurrection.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**