

# Justice and Dignity



This week's prayers are prepared by Bellerive FCJ (and adapted by Upton Hall FCJ)



# Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October



Read the scripture together, each taking a line to read and then spend a few moments on your own reading. Are there any words, phrases or ideas that come to you about Justice and Dignity?

## Matthew 22:15-21

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.'

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October



Grant, gentle Father,  
that your Spirit may give us the will and the courage  
to act to make a difference,  
in order to make real your kingdom among us,  
so that we may we all live together  
in peace, truth, justice and love,  
sharing the resources of the earth.  
Amen.

# Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October



Spirit of Abundance, God of Grace, Mother of Hope,

We pause now to remember those stories that are all around us, but so often passed over, those stories that when told are shared because of what someone is, not who they are.

This month in our nation's character is Black History month.

Help us to realize that Black history is all our histories.

May the day come when these stories are so widely taught that no month need be separately divided.

We know this day will not come until we as a people make different choices.

We pray now for those new choices...

.....May we come to see a day where the prison system becomes redemptive, not punitive.

A day where the legal system learns to focus more on the facts, and the not colours of our skin.

A day where our schools are as well funded, as the needs demand.

May our role models be allowed to excel when they thrive, and not be taken down for their rich heritage.

We know this will require a shift in power and this can be scary for some.

Give those full of fear - hope.

May we come to know grace, so that our hearts will not be hardened to the pain around us.

There are so many beautiful stories needing to be told and we need to get the chance to hear them.

Widen our vision so that the history that is shared this month, and every month, Come to be known as our history too.

We are most human when we see the humanity in others.

- *Author Unknown*



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October

## **Solidarity Prayer**

God of peace and justice,  
help us to change,  
so that we work for a world that  
mirrors your wisdom.

Give us the desire to act in solidarity,  
so that the pillars of injustice crumble  
and those now crushed are set free.  
Amen.





Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October



Tim Hughes: God of Justice (5 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NeIRb1LY4>

Loving God,

Help us to see that we are all made in Your image. We pray  
for equality among people from different races and  
between men and women.

Amen.

# Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

We remember in our prayers today, young people of colour who have been killed because of the colour of their skin.



**Stephen Lawrence** (13 September 1974 – 22 April 1993) was a black British teenager from Plumstead, southeast London, who was murdered in a racially motivated attack while waiting for a bus in Well Hall, Eltham on the evening of 22 April 1993.



**Anthony Walker** (21 February 1987 – 30 July 2005) was a Black British student of Jamaican descent who was murdered with an ice axe by Michael Barton and Barton's cousin Paul Taylor, in an unprovoked, racially motivated attack on the night of 29 July 2005 in Huyton, Merseyside





# Thursday 22nd October



Today is the Feast Day of St John Paul II. John Paul II was pope from 1978-2005.

In 1981 Mehmet Ali Agca shot Pope John Paul, critically wounding him, 2 years later the pope visited Agca to personally convey his forgiveness. The Holy Father did not intervene in the justice system and Agca served 20 years in prison. In his life Pope John Paul, taught about forgiveness but also gave us an example to follow.

*"Only in Christ can men and women find answers to the ultimate questions that trouble them. Only in Christ can they fully understand their dignity as persons created and loved by God. Jesus Christ is "the only Son from the Father...full of grace and truth."  
(St Pope John Paul II)*

St Pope John Paul II  
**Pray for Us**



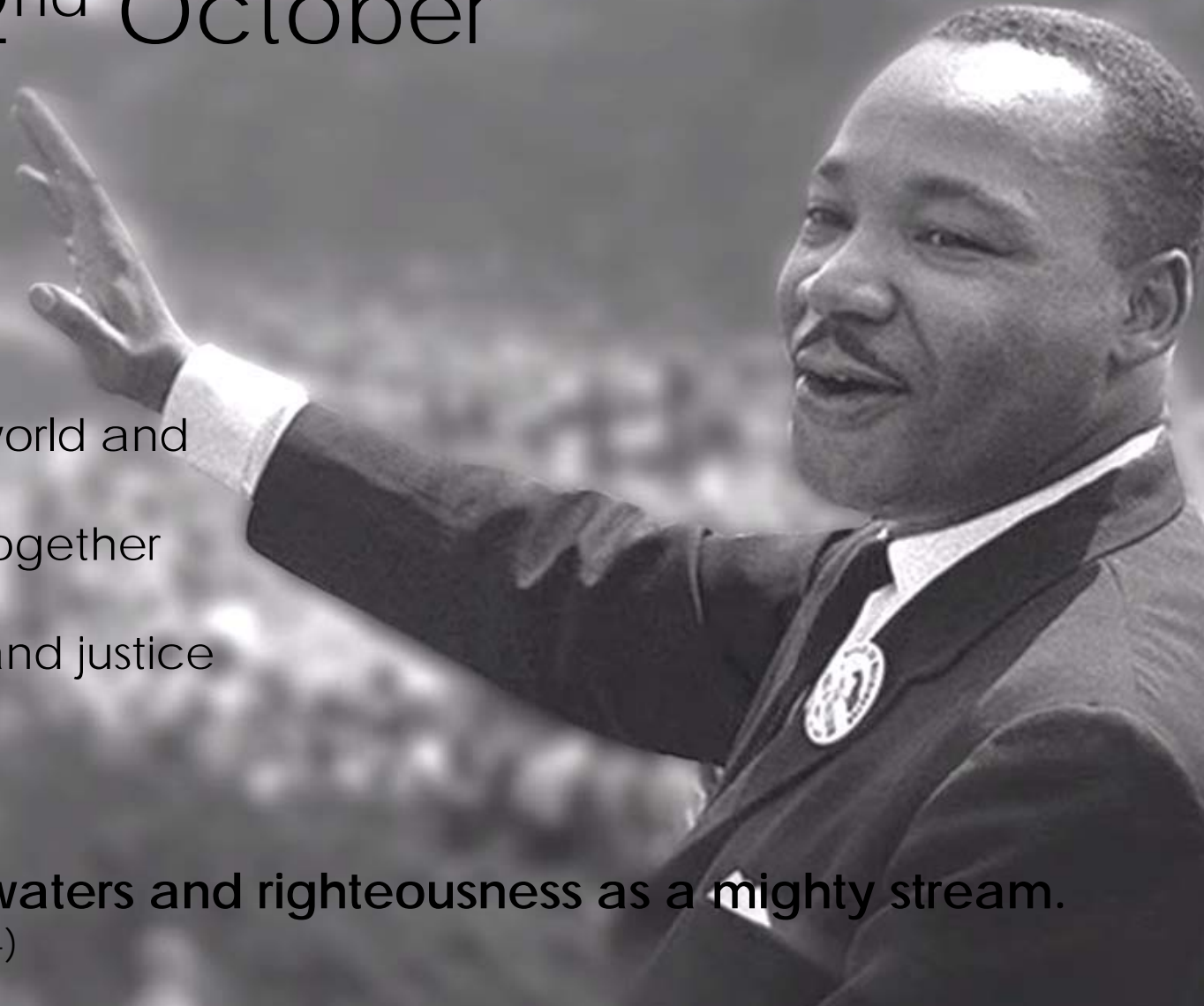
A circular logo with the text 'BIM' over '2020' in a bold, sans-serif font.

**BIM**  
**2020**

# Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Lord,  
lead us from death to life,  
from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope,  
from fear to trust.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world and  
our universe.  
Let us dream together, pray together  
and work together,  
to build one world of peace and justice  
for all.  
Amen.

**“But let justice roll down as waters and righteousness as a mighty stream.**  
(Martin Luther King quoting Amos 2:24)



# Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

## Prayer for Justice

Lord Jesus,  
you were angry and indignant  
when you saw people hurt by injustice.  
We share your anger  
with those systems of injustice  
and hatred in the world.  
Thank you that you offer us  
a new way of acting  
that overcomes injustice – a way of love.  
Help each of us to live out  
the determination we share,  
so that, with your Holy Spirit,  
we might be able  
to transform the world around us. Amen.



Friday 23rd October

Examen



Think about the times this week you have felt loved and accepted for who you are? Take a moment to thank God for these times.

Have you faced prejudice this week? Have you felt powerless? What has challenged you? Ask God to help you with this.

In this Black History Month, what would you like to see achieved? Ask God for the courage to act.