



## FROM THE CHURCH LEADERS OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LANCASHIRE

*The Rt Revd Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster (Catholic), The Rt Revd John Arnold, Bishop of Salford (Catholic), Fr Peter Hopkinson VG Diocese of Salford (Catholic), Canon Peter Stanley (Archdiocese of Liverpool), The Rt Revd Julian Henderson (Diocese of Blackburn), The Rt Revd John Fenwick (Free Church of England), The Revd Brian Drury (North West Baptist Association), Fr Jonathan Hemmings (The Orthodox Church), The Revd Paul Davis (Lancashire Methodist District), Pastor Josh Wright (Crossgate Church for the Independent Free Churches), Major David Taylor (The Salvation Army), Rex Ambler (Lancashire Quakers), Derek Estill (Pastoral Convenor United Reformed Church),*

To all clergy and lay leaders in Lancashire

You may well be aware that “Thy Kingdom Come” is a global initiative, started seven years ago, to encourage ten days of intense prayer annually around the world. The prayers are specifically that people might come to new faith in Jesus Christ. It runs each year between Ascension Day and Pentecost – already a significant season in the Christian calendar – during which the disciples in the gospels are told to pray, and to wait for the Holy Spirit who brings the necessary gifts for evangelisation.

We, who together lead the various churches in this County, ask you now to promote “Thy Kingdom Come” this year, 26th May - 5th June, within your local meetings and congregations. At its heart, the idea is for every single member of our churches to identify *five* people – may be from amongst their circle of friends, neighbours, colleagues, family, or lapsed members – for whom they want to pray. They do this in preparation for the ten days, and then undertake each day, may be several times each day, to pray intentionally for those people by name.

We commend the encouragement and support of one another, holding that the different branches and traditions of Christian worship are ultimately expressions of God’s Pentecostal generosity rather than divisions that separate us from taking part in evangelisation together. As someone once said, “Evangelism without ecumenism is just recruitment”.

The website [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) offers a great range of downloadable resources and videos – including printed resources which can be ordered at minimal cost – for sharing with young children, youth, workplace colleagues, schools and churches, or for personal use. Additionally, a free app for phones or tablets is available alongside the website, which can be downloaded and personalised with the user’s five particular names. Daily prayer reminders can be set to help keep up the momentum through the ten days, and there are plenty of ideas to help open up conversations – along with lots of stories and words of encouragement!

Thy Kingdom Come is an invitation for all of us to pray for the conversion of the world. Although it begins formally on 26th May, anytime from now on is a good time to start promoting and preparing. Pray that what we do may be used by God and carry His blessings to so many people who are in aching need of joy and hope in Jesus Christ.