

Week five: Monday 2 October

**Prayers for those working with manual, retail and catering
and hospitality workers**

From East Midlands Synod

Monday: Thinking of those in manual work

Living God, we thank you for the opportunity to work with our hands and our minds. We thank you for the example of your Son Jesus, whose early life was shaped by manual work as a carpenter. We pray for all those in the manual trades in our country. We pray for their safety on site and care and pride in the work they do each day building and enabling others to have comfort, heat and light. Help us to remember them and thank God for them. In Jesus name. Amen.

Tuesday: Thinking of those working for justice in the workplace

Loving God, we bring before you all those seeking justice for those in work, and those seeking permanent work without the fear generated by zero-hour contracts and unfair employers. May your justice be shown as you lift the humble and feed the hungry with good things. Help us to work for justice in our workplaces and our country each day. In Jesus name. Amen.

Wednesday: Thinking of those in the Retail trades

Caring God, we pray for all those who serve us in our shops and stores. Give them strength and enthusiasm to fulfil their tasks each day. We ask for patience and generosity of spirit for those customers who may be difficult to deal with and care for those who may need extra time to decide. Give them the skills to work as a team and the humility to ask for help when its needed. In Jesus name. Amen.

Thursday: Thinking of management, HR and chaplains

Understanding God, we pray for all those in authority in our workplaces and for those who work to help the workforce cope with life and all it throws at them. For management and the decisions, they must make, the Human Resources team who make sure the staff are looked after and those workplace Chaplains working to assist when life gets tough and workers need spiritual help. In Jesu name. Amen.

Friday: Thinking of those in the catering trades

Generous God, you give us all we need to live our lives. We pray and thank you for all catering trades those who work preparing the food we buy in supermarkets and cooking and serving us in cafés and restaurants. We thank you that their skills and knowledge are used to turn ordinary ingredients into tasty, nourishing meals and snacks. May they feel appreciated and valued as we move through their workplaces eating and drinking alongside so many other customers each day. In Jesus name. Amen.

Saturday: Thinking of rest from work

Creator God, thank you for your example of a day of rest each week. Help all those who are tired after a week's work to relax and have recreation time whether they have a 9-to-5 job or work shifts. May they take time to break away from the working week and take time to just be themselves, recovering and gaining strength from time off. May they return to their work refreshed and ready to do their job efficiently and with pride. In Jesus name. Amen.

Sunday: Thinking of those in Hospitality, out of hours and shift work

Provider God, we know that there are people working in the Hospitality industry, Hotels and Holiday Villages, Service Stations, Airports and other places where 24-hour service is required. We thank you for all those who must work shifts, night workers, drivers and others and we ask you to give them strength to do it and enjoyment in doing it. We pray for their health and their safety in the night hours bringing them home safe each morning. In Jesus name. Amen.

Suggestions for use:

For use by individuals: Use the above prayers to pray at home, and with family

For use in small church groups: A local prayer walk, or if walking is an issue, a virtual prayer walk where photos of the areas work places and/or shops are projected and prayers said for the street or company seen. You may like to send those you have prayed for 'We prayed for you' card to let them know that the church/small group has been praying for them.

For use in community groups who use church premises: Put together an image board of pictures of workplaces, shops, hotels, restaurants, building sites etc., with a general prayer (see below) for all those in, or out of work in the area.

Father God, we thank you for all those who work in, and for, our community here in We ask that you give them the strength and enthusiasm to work with, and serve our community, in all the many ways they do. We also pray for those looking for work to help and improve their lives and those who help them as well. In Jesus name. Amen.

For use in worship: Any of the above ideas can be shaped to fit any worship time or service.

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