

Suicide Prevention Program: Partners in Prayer

Mary Glen

"Creator and loving God, you walk with us in this life and do not abandon us in death. Hear our prayer for those in despair, when days are full of darkness and the future empty of hope. Renew in them your sustaining spirit. For we believe that there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen"

(Prayer composed for the Healing Gathering of the Parishes of Moosonee-Moose Factory, Sept. 2010)

Our Parish partnership with the Suicide Prevention Program of the Council of the North and its Coordinator, Cynthia Patterson, is supported by at least three prayer initiatives at St. Matthew's: the Prayer Chain offers daily petitions on behalf of the Program; the weekly Prayers of the People include a petition concerning the Program; and the Healing Team is aware of the pervasive and unending need for healing where despair and darkness may threaten to overcome any of us.

Through our prayers, we are connected in powerful ways with those in northern parishes who are so greatly afflicted by this pervasive and destructive reality. I was privileged to receive a personal note from the Rector of St Thomas's Church, Moose Factory, the Rev Nirmal Mendis, following a Healing gathering held there in September 2010. Enclosed with his letter was a book-mark designed by a parishioner, with prayers composed for that Gathering and set against the backdrop of a goose feather. Rev Mendis' message was one of thanks for the prayerful support of this community of St. Matthew's and the solidarity people at such a distance from us experience in our sharing with them in this way.

Please continue to hold all those affected by suicide in your prayers, and pray for our partnership with the Suicide Prevention Program, and for Cynthia.

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