



**St. Mary's**  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# April 2017

## Prayer Diary

*5. This diary aims to give a starting point each day to help us support each other, our parish and the wider community through prayer. Do take it away and keep it where it will regularly catch your attention, so you can join members of St Mary's in this prayerful response to the needs of our town. To share ideas for prayers for May, or if you'd like a pdf copy, please contact Kirsteen Robson ([kirsteenr@gmail.com](mailto:kirsteenr@gmail.com) or 07799 682872).*

**Sat 1**

As media hoax and joke-shop trick prompt the cry of "April Fool!", remind us of the importance of being fools for Christ. In your kingdom of paradox where giving is gaining, having nothing is possessing all things and dying is living, give us confidence to be wrong in the eyes of others as we follow our consciences, led by your Holy Spirit. We ask you to draw something to our attention in this light today.

**Sun 2**

Fifth Sunday of Lent

We pray for all who have been attending the Lent Addresses, and for those catching up online. Keep our minds open to the challenges they offer, help us examine our own attitudes and actions, and grant us courage to change them if you ask us to.

**Mon 3**

Thank you for St Paul's TANGO (Together as Neighbours Giving Out) project to respond to the needs of people living nearby. We pray for the community shop, opening for the first time at 10.30 to sell for 50p items that people may struggle to afford. May those who come find not only items they need, but a warm welcome, and a sense of hope for the future.

**Tue 4**

We give thanks for our dedicated team of Guides, whose AGM is on Thursday; for their knowledge of our church's history and willingness to share it with visitors. Continue to inspire them as they work in this beautiful building, that they come away feeling refreshed by their experience of you and by conversations with people they have met.

**Wed 5**

Thank you for the work of Evelyn's Gift Charity, who today, with volunteers from JLR, are transforming the garden areas of St Michael's Hospital. May they provide patients, visitors and staff spaces to encounter clarity, healing and renewal.

**Thu 6**

As a new financial year begins, we thank you for the gift of work: anything we do with a sense of obligation to ourselves, others, our community and you. Walk alongside those unable to work due to disability or ill health, and give hope to those struggling to find work, whether to provide an income or a means to serve, or seeking a sense of purpose and self-worth.

**Fri 7**

Remembering the crowds gathering with Jesus on his way to Jerusalem, and their growing anticipation as the city came into view, we turn our eyes towards Holy Week. Bless all who are preparing for the services: Vaughan, Doreen and other service leaders, our musicians, vergers, servers, readers, intercessors, sidespeople, flower teams and congregations. Prepare our hearts to receive you, Lord, we pray.

**Sat 8**

We bring before you our project to raise money for a cow in calf for the girls at the CMM Sisters' Hostel in Masasi and thank you for the donations received so far. Continue to open hearts to their situation, our purses to share the gifts that you have given and our imaginations to find new ways to strengthen friendships and support the Sisters in your work.

**Sun 9**

Palm Sunday

*Hosanna! All glory, laud and honour to thee, Redeemer, King! Lift high the cross! Ride on in majesty!* As each phrase, familiar or new, crosses our lips and minds, help us reflect on its meaning in our lives now, today. How do we greet you? We pray too for the Annual Parish meetings after the morning service as we review the past year of church life, and ask you to help us follow you gladly wherever you lead us in the year ahead.

**Mon 10**

We ask forgiveness for times when we may be tempted to see inconvenience in placing you at the centre of our lives. Remind us to pay particular attention to our priorities this week, as we remember what your priorities were in that first Holy Week.

**Tue 11**

Today is World Parkinson's Day, marking 200 years since James Parkinson published his essay that established the disease as a recognised condition. We lift up before you all who are affected by Parkinson's today and for the efforts this week of Parkinson's UK to raise awareness of both its motor and non-motor symptoms. Please comfort and encourage all involved with the Parkinson's UK Leamington and District Branch.

**Wed 12**

Remind us if we ever show signs of forgetting that through the cross all reconciliation is possible. We pray for situations of conflict that you've laid on our hearts – personal, local, national or international. Reconcile, O Christ, by your cross.

**Thu 13**

Maundy Thursday

As we remember Jesus washing his disciples' dusty feet, we ask for the humility to allow others to help us when our lives are less perfect than perhaps we'd like to admit. Show us too where and how we can serve one other, today and every day.

**Fri 14**

Good Friday

Lord, let us not be too eager to hurry past the cross today, rolling hot-cross-bun-filled towards the Easter alleluias. Keep our hearts and minds at the foot of the cross long enough to see what you would particularly have us notice – forgiveness, acceptance, human responsibility, the agony of separation, physical suffering, victory, completion, or something else...?

## Sat 15

Holy Saturday

On this day of waiting we imagine the broken body of Jesus cocooned in the darkness of the tomb, and the despair of those who believed all to be lost and ended. Be with all who are desolate today, and reveal your light and love to them... We pray for your blessing on all who come to this evening's Service of Light. Especially, Lord, we bring before you our candidates who will be confirmed there. May your Holy Spirit guide, uphold and inspire them as they live and grow in you.

## Sun 16

Easter Sunday

*Do not be afraid... He is not here, for he has risen!* Remembering the angel's words to the Marys at the tomb, "Come and see" then "Go and tell", we ask for the courage to see and name the stones you have rolled away or are still rolling from our lives, and for the confidence to share our stories with others.

## Mon 17

At this holiday time we pray for all in our town who work to provide entertainment, education and refreshment for tourists. Help hosts and visitors see individual faces, so each exchange is a genuine connection and so a blessing to both.

## Tue 18

We pray for appointment process for a new Director of Music for our church. Please bring the vacancy to the attention of candidates with the combination of skills and personal qualities needed to lead our choirs forward to fulfil your vision for the music ministry of this place.

## Wed 19

As "For sale" signs spring up like mushrooms, we pray for all preparing to move house: for flourishing families in search of space, for those whose children have grown and flown, for new relationship knots being tied, for others being unravelled or mourned, for people with new jobs, or lost jobs, for first-time buyers and for those whose move will be their last. Father, whose mansion has many rooms, be with them all, that they (and we) may also make their eternal home in you.

## Thu 20

We pray for the congregation of Warwick Methodist Church and for the needs, which are known to you, of all who live in Edward, Albert and Victoria Streets, Victoria Mews, Spring Pool, and the businesses on Cape Industrial Estate in Cattell Road.

## Fri 21

On the Queen's birthday, we give thanks for her many years of loyal service to our country in obedience to her sacred coronation vows. Bless her with good health in the coming year, that she may continue to rule with dignity and integrity, providing constancy and consistency in these uncertain times.

## Sat 22

We give thanks for the work of the CMM Sisters in Tanzania and for the progress they've made in extending a dispensary to provide a health centre in a remote part of the country. We add our prayers to theirs that the government will soon grant it official Health Centre status, so patients needing a few days' nursing care can be treated there by the Sisters.

## Sun 23

The Third Sunday  
of Easter

St George's Day

Today we pray for the bravery of St George to stand up for the truth, and the strength to overcome in our lives and in the world all that's contrary to your rule of justice and love. We remember Chloe Cottrill and Vogue Bazeley whose service of Thanksgiving is this morning. Bless and protect them and may they, their parents, relations and friends be called to seek you and grow in your love.

## Mon 24

Fill our hearts with compassion for women and children who are abducted by force or deception to suffer violence, abuse and exploitation at the hands of those with power over them. Guide us in vigilance so we may recognise those who need help. Give grace, sensitivity and wisdom to all who minister to the victims and survivors of abuse. Strengthen those who have been abused with the certainty of your love for them.

## Tue 25

Mark the Evangelist

We give thanks for the Gospel of Mark and for all whom you call to share the Good News. We ask that your Church may be a prophetic voice of these times in re-introducing well-taught Christianity into schools. We pray for preparations to roll out *Understanding Christianity* materials in church schools from September, that the Good News will spread and other schools will be keen to develop it in their own settings.

## Wed 26

Creator of all, you have trusted us as stewards of your wondrous world. Show us new ways to respond to this honour and responsibility today, one piece of litter, battery, switch, unwanted item, mindful purchase, journey... at a time.

## Thu 27

We remember those who are nearing the end of this life's journey. Open the door of your house, that its welcoming glow may spill onto the path ahead of them; step out to meet them, that they may take their final steps on the winding uphill road without anxiety or fear; then, by your grace and mercy bring them into the everlasting radiance of your light.

## Fri 28

Thank you for Education for Health, based in Church Street, whose Graduation Service is in church today. Support them as they seek to transform the lives of people living with long-term conditions through education, research and advocacy.

## Sat 29

Thank you for the progress of the Helping Hands Charity website, enabled by the efforts of so many. Bless their fundraising for a new facility, urgently needed, to store household goods donated for people moving into accommodation with nothing.

## Sun 30

The Third Sunday  
of Easter

Risen Lord, forgive us for times when, like the disciples on the Emmaus road, we cease to look for you, are slow to believe, or fail to recognise you. Grant us the persistence to continue our search; reveal yourself through Scripture; show yourself in those we meet, and make our hearts burn within us when you take up your rightful place in our lives.