



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

April 2018

Prayer Diary

Thank you for supporting the people of St Mary's, its parish and the wider community through prayer and to prayer. Please use these prayers as you wish. There are extra copies at the back of church, and on the newsletters area of St Mary's Church website. The online edition has **links** to further material that may be of use or interest. If you don't have internet access and would like particular information, contact Kirsteen Robson. Please share your suggestions for prayer with Kirsteen (kirsteenr@gmail.com or 07799 682872).

Sun 1

Easter Sunday

Christ is risen! We are risen! Alleluia! Living Lord, stand lovingly before us today as we consider our own response to the question you asked Mary: "Who is it you are looking for?" Call each of us by name that we may truly recognise you, and in recognising you may love you, and in loving you, may serve you with passion, perseverance and praise, to your glory.

Mon 2

Easter Monday

Heavenly Father, as we turn our backs on Lent for another year to walk with the risen Christ, help us to reflect on and carry forward any lessons learned, insights received or spiritual disciplines practised during this time of preparation, that we may be better equipped for challenges on the journey ahead.

Tue 3

As the Electoral Roll receives its yearly revision, we thank you for each person on it and all the ways they support the work and life of St Mary's, whose full extent is known only to you.

Wed 4

In this centenary month of the forming of the **RAF**, we thank you for all who serve and have served in it, risking or giving their lives in the process. Alongside parishioners of St Mary's Melton Mowbray, in their monthly **Litany for Heroes**, we commend to your gracious care and keeping the men and women in our armed forces and those who watch and wait.

Thu 5

We pray for all who are preparing to affirm their Christian faith next month. Uphold them as they explore their beliefs, that on their Confirmation Day they may be ready to confirm their baptismal promises and commit their lives to following Jesus. And bless Vaughan, Alycia and Alice as they guide them.

Fri 6

At the turning of the financial year, grant us discernment, individually and collectively, as we examine our relationship with money and possessions. Where we have more than we need, guide us to use this sacred trust for the highest good, wisely investing or joyfully sharing our abundance through generous giving. Where we have too little, may our true financial needs be fully met, along with the true needs of all people.

Sat 7

On **World Health Day** in the World Health Organization's 70th anniversary year, we give thanks for all that WHO has done so far to promote #HealthforAll. Inspire world leaders to honour the pledges they've made and commit to concrete steps so everyone, everywhere can access essential quality health services without facing financial hardship. We also pray for Joanna and Owen on their wedding day. May their love, blessed by you, continue to grow, and overflow to bless others.

Sun 8

**Second Sunday
after Easter**

Three in One God, we thank you for the diversity, unity and uplifting values that define the **Commonwealth**. We pray for ever closer collaboration as the heads of government of its 53 member countries meet next week to address global challenges. Lead them forwards as they work to create a better future for all citizens through sustainability, safety, prosperity and fairness.

Mon 9

As **St Paul's Church's** TANGO team (Together as Neighbours Giving Out) celebrates the project's first anniversary, we give thanks for the growing number of people they've helped, and for the good relationships and sense of community they are building up with their regular visitors. Thank you for providing always enough donations and volunteers to keep things running and we pray for more regular helpers to set out and clear up.

Tue 10

Thank you for the commitment, enthusiasm and knowledge of our church Guiding Team and for the friendly welcome they extend to thousands of visitors each year. Please bless their efforts to attract the new recruits they need to share their task.

Wed 11

On **World Parkinson's Day** we pray for all living with the fears and frustrations of this disease. Comfort and encourage them and fill them with your peace. We pray that more people than ever will **#UniteForParkinsons**, supporting sufferers and their families by raising awareness and changing attitudes.

Thu 12

Faithful Lord, who promises that all who seek will find, bless St Mary's Bible study group members as they embark on 'The Bible Course' tonight. Open their hearts and inspire minds to a deeper understanding of the Bible and how it applies to their lives, and direct them as they seek to put this into practice.

Fri 13

Enfold in your unfailing love all who are affected by prostate, testicular or penile cancer: those awaiting results, coming to terms with a diagnosis, undergoing treatment, adjusting to life after cancer or nearing their journey's end, and their families, friends and carers. May **Orchid Male Cancer Week** successfully raise awareness and provide practical advice, support and information on all aspects of the diseases to those who need it.

Sat 14

Bless the performers and audience at the **St James's Singers** concert tonight and through the music guide their thoughts to meditate on the meaning of communion in life and in death.

Sun 15

**Third Sunday
after Easter**

On **Microvolunteering Day** we praise you for spreading the message of hope that small actions really can change the world. Lord, we never know the full impact of our actions, so make us mindful, that each pebble we drop into the water may be one that produces positive ripples. We pray for Alice and Allysia-Faith on their baptism day, that as they grow they will walk and work with you beside them and in their hearts.

Mon 16

Lord of love and mercy, help us make time today for failure and failures. Please give us pause in any disappointment, frustration or anger and enable us to choose to be gentle with ourselves and others when expectations are not met.

Tue 17

Today we thank and praise you for Warwick District Council's recent decision to provide significant funding to support the renovation costs of premises for use by **LWS Night Shelter**.

Wed 18

We give thanks for all who live in Spring Pool, Victoria Street, Edward Street and Albert Street, and for those who work in Cattell Road and Dongan Road serving and employing local people. Bless each person according to their needs. Increase their knowledge of your love and understanding of your will that they may flourish in the life you've planned for them.

Thu 19

On the day of its AGM we thank you for the work of **Warwick District Foodbank**, its volunteers and all who give food and money to support local people in crisis. We pray that all who receive help also find further support they need to improve their situations. Bless the Club 50 appeal, that the van's running costs can be fully met without reducing the charity's resources.

Fri 20

We give thanks for the steady increase of patients coming to the **CMM Sisters'** remote Health Station in Sayuni, in the SW Highlands of Tanzania, to receive loving attention for their medical problems. Thank you too that funds have been donated for the Sisters to order a much-needed ambulance.

Sat 21

On the Queen's 92nd birthday we give thanks for a long life lived even now in service to you through her service to the people of this country and the Commonwealth. Continue to help her keep the vows she made on her 21st birthday, and at her coronation. Grant her strength, wisdom and good health in the coming year, and inspire us to follow her example and your will as we serve each other in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sun 22

**Fourth Sunday
after Easter**

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, on **Earth Day**, keep us conscious that you made us in your image to care for the earth and all that is in it. Forgive us if we forget this, putting our own comfort and convenience first. We pray for progress in the daunting task of ending plastic pollution. Bless the work to change attitudes and behaviour about sustainability so it is a healthy planet that we pass into the trust of future generations.

Mon 23

St George

Almighty God, who gave to your servant George boldness to confess the Name of our Saviour Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world, and courage to die for this faith: grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tue 24

In **Allergy Awareness Week** we lift up to you in prayer all whose immune systems react over-zealously to normally harmless substances and ask you to guide researchers to a deeper understanding of allergic disease, its treatments and prevention. We thank you for the medicines that reduce or relieve symptoms and pray for your strength and comfort for people who are weary, and imprisoned by their suffering still.

Wed 25

Mark the Evangelist

We thank you for the immediacy of Mark's Gospel, for the message of hope it offers to all. We pray today for those in prison of any kind who've been following the readings from Mark in *40 Stories of Hope*. May the seeds of hope take root in fertile ground, may they flourish and bear fruit to be shared. Send your light and liberating Spirit into the darkest situations.

Thu 26

Merciful and ever-loving God, we are sorry for any times when compassion fatigue sets in, for times when we are weary of worrying, tired of giving and numbed to the experiences of our brothers and sisters. Help us to recognise this as a sign that our focus has drifted from you, and to bring our hardening hearts to you for forgiveness and healing. Restore our inner sight we pray, that we might see others as you see them, and serve them gladly with love and in truth.

Fri 27

Heavenly Father, open wide the windows of our spirits and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain Thee with all our powers of adoration. (Christina Rossetti)

Sat 28

Lord, we thank you that 'the voice of prayer is never silent', that adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication roll wave upon wave onto your farthest shore. Teach us also to listen, to venture into the silent land and there to wait upon you. And when this feels hard, remind us that then the meaning is in the waiting.

Sun 29

Fifth Sunday
after Easter

Please bless the church's Annual meetings this morning. Guide our quest and our questions as we give thanks for year past of the church's life, for growth in spirit and community, for new projects and people, for friends departed, and for all who serve day to day in your name. Lead us on in unity and love.

Mon 30

As people are encouraged to share their passion for plants in this year's **National Gardening Week** we give thanks, King Jesus, for all the 'divers flowers' that you have planted in your own garden. In our encounters today reveal to us, or remind us of, the beauty of each person, that seeing thus through your eyes, we may tend each other with a loving gardener's care.