

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 like. 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 any suggestions for prayer with her too (kirsteen@gmail.com or 07799 682872).

Tue 1

As the trees and flowers blossom and bloom we praise you for the joy and abundance in your creation. Help us to cherish that which you've placed into our care and guide us each day to new ways to live more simply, that others may simply live.

Wed 2

We pray for all starting this term's **Spiritual Formation course** tomorrow. Feed their minds, hearts and souls as they explore various spiritual approaches, that they may live more Christ-centred lives, and know you, themselves and their calling more clearly.

Thu 3

50 years after the first UK heart transplant we thank you for working through researchers and surgeons to improve the survival rates of transplant patients. Inspire ongoing research into organ rejection, as well as into understanding, preventing and managing conditions that lead to the need for transplant. Give hope to all awaiting transplant surgery, courage to living donors, and comfort to families when donation is post mortem.

Fri 4

We pray for all who have been affected by the closure of the Royal Naval Association club building in Leamington. Bless the members of the RNA Leamington branch and other groups and clubs that met there, that they may thrive in new venues.

Sat 5

This holiday weekend we give thanks for our town's pleasant places and open spaces and for the hard work and dedication of the idverde and Veolia teams who tend them. Refresh all who visit them, bringing them closer to you through your creation.

Sun 6

**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**

We give thanks for all those being confirmed today and pray for them as they publicly profess their faith. Bless and reassure them with a sense of your loving presence in the weeks and months ahead. And please guide us, their family and friends in supporting and encouraging them as we all journey on together.

Mon 7

O God, by the power of your Spirit, please help us hear what you'd have us hear today and see what you'd have us see; help us do what you'd have us do today and be who you'd have us be.

Tue 8

We thank you for inspiring trustees of **The Well Christian Healing Centre** to move forward in faith with their building project. As the doors of its new home at Augusta Place open today to all comers, we ask you to keep drawing in those who need your help, that they may encounter your love and healing. Bless the “Come and See” open house Saturdays in May, that people are inspired to use or support the centre.

Wed 9

As we consider the **ACTS** of prayer – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication – we pray for all who find it hard to adore and praise you, who feel their heart’s efforts are weak and their warmest thoughts cold. Help us all to recognise your Invisible made visible: through creation, through acts of love, forgiveness and reconciliation, and through Jesus our shepherd, brother, friend, prophet, priest and king. And may we know each moment of recognition as worthy praise.

Thu 10

Ascension Day

Ascended Lord, as we pray **Thy Kingdom Come** today we join in a global wave of prayer. Bless all who **#pledge2pray** daily until Pentecost, inspire them through the rich **resources** and fill them with new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ. May they deepen their friendship with Jesus, **bring others** to know him or know him better, and come to know that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer.

Fri 11

Thank you for the vision and vigour that has led to the launch of **Messy Church Woodloes** today. May what is planted in you flourish, that through fun and fellowship you will draw many families to follow the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

Sat 12

On **World Fair Trade Day** we pray that your love and justice will transform the rules and practices of trade. Give hope and help to those who are suffering because of unfair trade, inspire those who are developing new ways of trading, and guide those who decide what to sell, as well as all who choose what to buy.

Sun 13

**Seventh Sunday
of Easter**

Lord God, as **Christian Aid Week** begins we ask you to give us a vision of your Kingdom as your love desires it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry; a world where life is shared, and enjoyed by all; a world where all races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Inspire and encourage us to build your Kingdom here and now.

Mon 14

This **Mental Health Awareness Week** we bring before you those who feel overwhelmed by stress at work. Bless efforts to help employees and employers create mentally healthy workplaces where everyone feels valued and supported.

Tue 15

On **International Day of Families** we pray for families who feel excluded from society for whatever reason. Help us to break down barriers and prejudice, that healing can begin.

Wed 16

In **Dying Matters Awareness Week** we pray for all events being held to help people consider what they can do in schools, the workplace, hospices and community groups to ease conversations about death and dying, and to support people who are bereaved. In Warwick, we pray especially for the listeners being trained for a new bereavement support group, and for the ongoing development of Good Grief projects.

Thu 17

Guide our prayers today for homes and businesses in Wallwin Place, Ansell Way, Saltisford, Turberville Place, Deerpark Drive and Sharpe Close. Bless all who live and work there, strengthen and deepen their relationships with each other, and with you.

Fri 18

We pray for Prince Harry and Meghan Merkle as they prepare for their marriage tomorrow and we ask you to bless their life together. May their love endure, and deepen as time passes. Help them balance the demands and expectations of their public duties with the need to nurture their private life. May they live with shared goals as well as shared affections; and may they experience your presence throughout their future.

Sat 19

With the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania we ask for your blessing on the four Novices in Sayuni taking their First Vows today. May their new clothing – the long-sleeved habit, new veil and girdle – help them in their vocation, reminding them that they have left behind their old life, are promised to you alone, and are following Jesus's example of obedience. Guide and uphold the new Sisters as they adjust to their role in the community.

Sun 20

Pentecost Sunday

Lord, as we meet together, and celebrate the memory of that first Pentecost, may it be for us as it was then a moment of empowerment, an awareness of your glory in this dark world, a life-changing experience. And may your Holy Spirit guard and guide Maxilian from this his baptism day for the rest of his life.

Mon 21

In **Dementia Action Week** we ask you to inspire many to action, big or small, to create a dementia-friendly society. Bless local initiatives, especially **Memory Café Plus** at All Saints', and the **Living Well with Dementia in Warwickshire** website.

Tue 22

With all at **Saltisford Church** we ask you to bless their church and their response to your call to introduce people to the Christian faith. We lift up to you each person on tonight's Alpha Course, praying that you'll inspire them to attend the full programme. May your Holy Spirit be at work through the church's new Healing Services and in their ministry with young families: Little Fishes toddler group, and monthly SPLATADAY.

Wed 23

Today we pray for the Chaplaincy Team at the **Warwickshire College Group** as they offer pastoral and spiritual support to students and staff of all faiths and none. May all who bring their concerns to them find the help and the hope they need.

Thu 24

On the day of the annual Mayor Making Ceremony we thank you for Cllr Stephen Cross's year in office, and for all he has done to serve and promote the town, and to support the youth of Warwick through the Mayor's charity. Bless Cllr Rich Eddy as he receives the chains of mayoral office, that he may perform his duties with dedication, energy and enthusiasm.

Fri 25

As James Druce gives the second of **St Mary's 2018 Recital Series**, we give thanks for all the musicians who are offering their talents for the enjoyment of others. May they and their audiences be uplifted as they share music in your presence.

Sat 26

We bring before you the people and places involved in the **Warwick Festival**, as residents and visitors join together in events and activities to celebrate the legend of Guy of Warwick. May the tours and banquets, workshops, exhibitions, stalls and parades strengthen a sense of community, that engaging together with our town's past may inspire us to work together to shape and share in its future, with care for people at its core.

Sun 27

Trinity Sunday

We pray today for all who seek you in or through silence, remembering especially the **Warwick Quakers**. In a time of quietness, we unite with them through this prayer in your presence: *We ask that each of us should be still and visualise a situation we know where reconciliation and harmony are needed, holding it in the Light. We trust that our Meeting for Worship is open, welcoming and a basis for a supportive community.* At St Mary's we ask you to bless Phoebe as she is baptised, leading her as she grows in and by the light of your love.

Mon 28

Living Bread, on **World Hunger Day** we ask you to bless the efforts to overcome the poverty and social inequities that cause hunger. Sustain the hope that with you all things are possible. And please help your people feed those whose hunger can't wait for the tides of policy or tradition to turn.

Tue 29

God of hope, generous and merciful, gracious and strong, we give thanks for all those who work to administer justice. Pour out your Holy Spirit on them, giving them your wisdom and discernment so that their decisions might be the best possible. Give them the energy and enthusiasm to press on and to meet the needs of offender, victim and society for justice and for restoration. Lord, in hope we turn to you.

Wed 30

Lord, when obstacles blocking social change seem too great to overcome, remind us that you and one person make a majority. When you work through us, give us reassurance that our action, however small it may seem, plays its sufficient part in your plan.

Thu 31

Corpus Christi

As we thank you for the sacrament of Holy Communion help us cherish the freedom we have to re-member Jesus, Bread of Life and True Vine, that by sharing in his body and blood we receive spiritual sustenance for our work as the living body of Christ.