



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

June 2018

Prayer Diary

*Thank you for supporting the people of St Mary's, its parish and the wider community through prayer. Please use these prayers as you wish. There are extra copies, and large-print versions, 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).*

Fri 1

All-embracing God, we thank you for the caring commitment of those who provide the monthly **First-Friday Afternoon Teas** at St Mary Immaculate, and for the fellowship shared by those who attend. We pray that the new publicity campaign will successfully reach all who would enjoy the gatherings: may they hear your welcoming voice in the invitation and accept.

Sat 2

In **Cherishing Churchyards Week** we give thanks for the rich diversity of wildlife, history and heritage they can contain, and the sanctuary and solitude they can provide. We bring before you people who visit churchyards to remember or reflect and we pray for all who are celebrating their churchyards and seeking ways to share them as a resource for their community. Inspire and guide us all in the stewardship of our churchyards.

Sun 3

**First Sunday
after Trinity**

We pray for Eden Project's **The Big Lunch** events around the UK today, that as people get together with neighbours they'll build their confidence to grow and share their talents, and strengthen communities. At St Mary's, please bless the food and fellowship at Sausage Sunday, raising funds for Warwick Poppies.

Mon 4

We lift before you everyone taking exams at this time, asking you to calm nerves, keep minds alert and memories sharp so students can tackle the tasks before them to the best of their ability. Ground them with a reassurance that you will always walk with them, whatever the direction their results lead.

Tue 5

Lord of creation, on **World Environment Day** we ask for your forgiveness, hope and strength as we are all challenged to consider the ways our actions and decisions affect your world. We pray that the message 'If you can't reuse it, refuse it' will not only change attitudes to plastics, but will also help people reflect on the way all resources are used and shared.

Wed 6

We pray for tonight's PCC meeting. Give members wisdom and support as they consider each aspect of church life, that all they do may begin with your inspiration and continue with your help.

Thu 7

As we continue to consider the **ACTS of prayer** (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication), help us recognise our own weakness and sin. Show us clearly where our choices were for ourselves rather than our neighbour. Hold us tenderly as we acknowledge each thought, word and action before you with humble hearts and ask you for forgiveness and healing.

Fri 8

We pray for the Friends of Cathedral Music visiting St Mary's today, that through words and music you'll continue to deepen your friendship with them, filling their hearts with a new song.

Sat 9

On the Queen's official birthday, we ask you to continue your loving purposes in her, and as people gather to celebrate, unite us also in love and service to one another. We pray too for the organisers and runners in tomorrow's Two Castles Run, that you will strengthen each as they need it. We bring before you the compassion of those running to support or remember loved ones, the causes of those raising funds, and the personal challenges each runner will face on the route.

Sun 10

**Second Sunday
after Trinity**

Heavenly Father, guide our prayers as we consider today's Gospel reading: *Jesus looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."* (Mark 3.34-35) We pray too for the Freemasons of Warwickshire's annual service this afternoon. While they sit within the walls that many hands have made, may the light of your eternal truth stream through the windows of their souls and inspire them to build your Kingdom on earth.

Mon 11

Thank you that all Scripture is inspired by you, continuously, not as a done deal sealed when the books of the Bible were bound. We pray for the Arden Valley Benefice **Bible Readathon** starting today at St James's Snitterfield. As the words are carried onto the air by voices of all ages, breathe your life-giving spirit into all who read and listen, that they will carry your message of redeeming love out with them and share it with the world.

Tue 12

A year on from our last 8EQs survey, we give thanks that in every situation you give us opportunity to see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly. Lord, please help us do just that – with perseverance, passion and praise.

Wed 13

We remember all attending tomorrow night's vocations event 'What is God asking of me?' at St Mark's, praying that through the discernment process you'll gently guide them to the answer. Give us all too the courage to ask you this same question. Then grant us the patience to listen to your answer, and the faith to do your will, trusting you to provide the resources we need.

Thu 14

At the opening of the Warwick Schools Art Exhibition we give thanks for all who teach and encourage others to explore their creativity, considering the world through a variety of lenses. Open our minds too to fresh approaches and different points of view.

Fri 15

As the congregation at **St Nicholas** prepares to serve weekend afternoon teas to the many summer visitors to the area, we pray with them for opportunities for conversation and for people to encounter your love there in relaxing surroundings.

Sat 16

Lord, the source of all true love, we pray for David and Emma on their wedding day as they make their vows before you. Bless their marriage by your presence and grace, that their union gives each the comfort and confidence to be their better self.

Sun 17

**Third Sunday
after Trinity**

On this day that celebrates fathers and fatherhood we explore in prayer the vast range of emotions that this occasion can arouse... Abba, Father, bless all who undertake the task of fathering: guide them to be good role models to their children, helping them to father like you do, with grace, patience and love.

Mon 18

We thank you for all who are involved in children's ministry in our area and ask your Spirit to work powerfully through them. At St Mary's we pray for Catherine our Sunday School Leader, and Oliver and Mark, directing our choirs. We lift up the work of Thrive Children's Work Hub, asking you to bless tonight's workshop at Leamington Baptist Church. Inspire all who attend as they share ideas about identifying children's gifts and creating ways for children to use them so they grow and gain confidence in serving you.

Tue 19

In **Rheumatoid Arthritis Awareness Week** we pray for the success of the #ReframeRA campaign to deepen society's understanding of the way this often invisible illness affects people's lifestyle, work and relationships. We pray for all who live with RA, that you will comfort and sustain them through flare-ups and rejoice with them in times of remission. Inspire researchers to develop ever-better medicines to control symptoms, limit damage, and if you will it, to discover a cure.

Wed 20

Thank you for the work of **Dogs for Good**, exploring ways that dogs can help people overcome specific challenges and enrich and improve lives of individuals and communities. Bless its staff, volunteers and fundraisers, and all whom they support.

Thu 21

We pray for the ongoing plans for the 'Warwick Passion Play 2019' and for its Leadership Team. May they be guided by your Spirit as they strive to find the significant funds necessary to make this remarkable event a reality and proclaim your glory in our community in a most moving and memorable way.

Fri 22

On the 70th anniversary of the arrival in the UK of the ship HMT *Empire Windrush*, we remember with thanksgiving all that its passengers, their families and many from other countries have done, and still do, to defend this country and enrich its life... Guide our prayers as we reflect on racism, rejection and injustice... on healing, restoration and reconciliation... on what **Windrush** means today... and on what it means for us...

Sat 23

We pray for all taking part in Home for Good's national '**A mile for every child**' walk this morning at the Warwickshire Golf & Country Club. May they help highlight the needs of the 35,000 children entering the UK care system each year and raise vital funds to support the work of **Home for Good**, which seeks to find a loving long-term home for every child who needs one.

Sun 24

**Fourth Sunday
after Trinity**

Lord who stilled the storm, we pray for all who are struggling through tough times at the moment. As the waves break over their boat, let them hear the message through the wind and waters that you *do* care if they drown, and you will not let any perish who put trust in you. We pray, "Peace... Be still...!"

Mon 25

Guide us in prayer today for the people who live and work in Trueman Close, Wathen Road, Newburgh Crescent, Vine Lane, Percy Road, Wednock Green and Tatnall Grove. You know their hopes, fears and needs, which we lift up to you in faith.

Tue 26

We pray for all in prison who discover that the locked doors and windows are not all that hold them captive. We think of those living in fear of physical or psychological assault; those gripped by drug addiction, and at the mercy of any who can satisfy their cravings; those debilitated by anger, racked with guilt, or tormented by worry for loved ones, and all who are paralysed by anxiety for the future. Lighten their darkness, Lord we pray, with your hope, your love and the freedom they bring.

Wed 27

Creator God, as work begins on the infrastructure of **Myton Green**, we ask you to bless the whole development project. Guide designers and decision-makers, construction workers and the local community, that together in the years ahead we may create a welcoming, well-integrated and well-built district where people will make homes, raise families, and flourish as members of our vibrant community. We pray for creative and sensitive solutions to congestion and other issues that arise.

Thu 28

In our prayers today we bring before you the members of St Mary's Standing Committee and the business of this evening's meeting. Guide them in wisdom and in faith as they seek to discern your will and steward the resources held in trust.

Fri 29

We give thanks for the new St Mary's website, and the time and skills of Ollie and others who designed and built it. Bless it for our use in your service, that through it we may minister more effectively to our congregations, community and visitors.

Sat 30

We thank you for the work of the **CMM Sisters** in Zambia and rejoice with them today as their newly built convent in Chalata is officially opened. Thank you that they are already settled there and have been able to harvest enough rainwater to live since they moved in. Bless them with enough water to keep them until, if you will it, they can one day drill a well.