

*Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting the people of this church and wider community through prayer, and thank you to all who have contributed ideas this month. Please use the Prayer Diary as you find most helpful. If you feel God calling you to share a prayer with someone who might be encouraged or comforted by it, you will find extra copies at the back of church as well as a digital version on St Mary's Church website. If you would like to receive the diary electronically, please email Kirsteen Robson (see below). The digital edition also has **links** to related material. Everyone is invited to share suggestions for February's diary (by 15<sup>th</sup> January if possible, please) with Kirsteen ([prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) or 07799 682872).*

### Wed 1

Naming and  
Circumcision  
of Jesus

Lord of all, as our thoughts are drawn to fresh starts and new beginnings, we thank you that in your immeasurable love you give us the ultimate new life in you through Jesus. Help us to see your priorities for our lives, that, sustained and strengthened by the rhythm of prayer and worship, we may love and serve you.

### Thu 2

We pray for all attending today's craft and activity morning on the theme of The Wise Men at **Radford Road Church**. Continue to richly bless these termly community outreach events, that children and families from a wide variety of backgrounds can enjoy meeting each other, making new friends, and learning about Jesus and your love for all.

### Fri 3

Bless all who live, work, and worship you in Old Square, Market Place, Market Street, New Street, Swan Street and Brook Street. Strengthen the sense of community engendered by everyday encounters in these places, that through giving and receiving of loving service people in Warwick may experience your love. As wintry weather makes paths and pavements slippery underfoot, we pray for people's safety out and about as well as at home.

### Sat 4

As the pantomime and skating season nears its end, we thank you for the good times folk have enjoyed with family and friends, relationships strengthened and precious memories made. We remember all whose experiences were less positive, praying for reconciliation and healing where these are needed. As we dismantle decorations and recycle cards, keep the joy of the Christmas message, and promises of contact made, alive in our hearts.

### Sun 5

Epiphany  
readings

Lord Jesus, as we reflect on the offerings of the wise ones of old, show us how we can worship you as God and honour you as King today. Guide us as we meditate on the meaning of the myrrh in your story, and the part it has to play in our own.

---

**Mon 6**

The Epiphany

As the **Big Schools Birdwatch** gets under way we pray that all children may be encouraged to engage with local wildlife, learn about it, protect it and share the pleasure with others.

**Tue 7**

We give thanks for **Fisher House**, which provides homely accommodation for the families of service personnel receiving treatment at the QE. Bless staff, patients and their families. We pray especially for those with serious injuries who are affected by treatment provision disagreements between the MOD and the NHS. Thank you for the efforts of pupils from North Leamington School, the Southam Air Cadets and others who raised funds recently for Fisher House by a sponsored swim.

**Wed 8**

80 years after the British Government introduced temporary food rationing, we reflect on the variety and quantity of food available today. Forgive us when we take our food for granted and help us end food inequality – locally, nationally and globally.

**Thu 9**

Alongside all who are in prison at this time we pray: Holy God of all creation, you see inside each one of us, knowing us better than we know ourselves. You see the hurt and harm, the brokenness and sin. You know the truth about our past and our present, all that traps and imprisons us. Unlock our hearts to let Christ in, so that his love and strength can help overcome all that imprisons us, and lead us to the freedom he promised in life, in death and in eternity. Holy God, set us free. Amen.

**Fri 10**

We thank you for the work of **Helping Hands**. With the team at the **Gateway Café**, we ask you to bless all involved in today's Telling Stories event. May the testimonies shared help promote the work of the charity, giving hope and help to those in need.

**Sat 11**

As Mothercare prepares to close its stores, we pray for the 2,500 people who will lose their jobs as a result. Locally, we lift up all affected by the closure of the Leamington branch. Reassure them with a sense of your presence as they face their future.

**Sun 12**

The Baptism  
of Christ

Lord, we give thanks for **Zaidi Ya Dreams Children's Family** in Kenya, and pray for its work providing abandoned, abused and neglected children with a safe and loving environment with the support they need to flourish. May today's Outward Giving Collection help them make a vital difference to **these children**.

**Mon 13**

We remember all who find themselves disadvantaged by the requirements of an increasingly digitally oriented world. We pray for members of the recently dissolved Warwick Daytime WI, giving thanks for 25 years of fun and fulfilment their activities have brought. Comfort all who miss their monthly meetings.

**Tue 14**

We pray for all who live with eating disorders, that they may receive the support and treatment they need. We give thanks for Warwick Hospital's Aspen Centre, and pray for patients, staff and families, especially those who have to travel far for specialist care.

---

**Wed 15**

As we pray the Lord's Prayer today – lead us not into temptation – show us how our current experiences might test our faith... Lord, you know us through and through: strengthen us, we pray.

**Thu 16**

O God who journeys with us always and everywhere, we ask for your blessing on Revd Sheila Bridge, Bishop John and the 45 diocesan parishioners preparing for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (20-29 January). May they travel safely and be drawn closer to you by their experiences. Bless the charities they'll visit, that they may be encouraged as they work in your name.

**Fri 17**

Lord, may this **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** help to strengthen the Church as one body through your Spirit, regardless of denomination, country or culture. Bless all who will pray and praise together at Sunday's 6.30pm United Service at St Mary Immaculate.

**Sat 18**

**Week of Prayer  
for Christian Unity**

Reconciling God, as we feel the pain of past mistakes, and shy away or retreat to individual strongholds; help us surrender a false sense of who we are, all that tethers us, and all that we hold precious. Bind us to humility and compassion, as we learn together to receive from You, abide in You and Your love. Amen.

**Sun 19**

**Second Sunday  
after the  
Epiphany**

Father, Your precious word illumines our steps and without You we remain lost and disorientated. Holy Spirit, teach us through Your word and each other to travel our Father's path together, walking gently on Creation. May each gathering of Your people in churches everywhere crave Your guiding, consoling and transforming presence. Give us the honesty we need to recognise when we lose or obscure Your light for others. Give us grace to hold onto You, ready and able to share Your light. We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus, who calls us His followers to be light to the world. Amen.

**Mon 20**

God of mercy, lost and disheartened we turn to You. Instil in us Your hope and courage. May our churches strive for the unity for which Your Son prayed on the eve of His passion. We ask this through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

**Tue 21**

Almighty God, our personal suffering leads us to cry out in pain and we shrink in fear when we experience sickness, anxiety or the death of loved ones. Teach us to trust You. May the churches we belong to be signs of Your providential care. Make us true disciples of Your Son who taught us to listen to Your word and to serve one another. In confidence we ask this in the name of Your Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Wed 22**

Loving God, Your Son Jesus Christ broke bread and shared the cup with His friends. May we grow in closer communion when we share our pain and suffering. Encouraged by St Paul and the early Christians, give us strength to build bridges of compassion, solidarity and harmony. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we ask this in the name of Your Son, who gives His life that we might live. Amen.

**Thu 23**

God of the orphan, the widow and the stranger, instil in our hearts a deep sense of hospitality. We pray that when You ask us to feed You, to clothe You and to visit You those with ears to hear, listen, those with eyes to see, look. May our churches participate in the ending of hunger, thirst and isolation and in overcoming barriers that prevent the welcoming of all people. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus, who is present in the least of our sisters and brothers. Amen.

**Fri 24**

Almighty God, we turn to You with repentant hearts. In our sincere quest for Your truth, purify us from our unjust opinions of others and lead the churches to grow in communion. Help us let go of our fears, and so better understand each other and the stranger in our midst, and dare to love the rejected. We ask this in the name of the Just One, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Sat 25**

Conversion  
of Paul

God, giver of life, we thank You for the gift of Your compassionate love which soothes and strengthens us. We pray that our churches may be always open to receive Your gifts from one another. Grant us a spirit of generosity to all as we journey together in the path of Christian unity. We ask this in the name of Your Son who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Sun 26**

Third Sunday  
after Epiphany

50 years after Simon and Garfunkel released 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' we pray that (perhaps even through this Prayer Diary) we can all play a part in building bridges in our churches, families, the community and the wider world. Hasten the day when there are no divisions, but a people united in your mind and purpose.

**Mon 27**

Prayer (abridged)  
by ++Justin, Chief  
Rabbi Ephraim  
Mirvis and Senior  
Imam Qari Asim

Loving God, we pray with heavy hearts, remembering the six million Jewish souls murdered during the Holocaust, and millions from other groups slaughtered under Nazi persecution and genocides which followed. Forgive us when we give space to fear, negativity and hatred of others, because they are different from us. Through our prayers and actions, help us **stand together** with those who are suffering, that love will prevail over hate. Amen.

**Tue 28**

With the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania, we pray for the orphans and clergy widows they support in the surrounding area, and give thanks that the love the Sisters share shows the women and children that they are not forgotten. We remember especially teenagers in their care who have lost several family members.

**Wed 29**

We remember with gratitude all who serve on church PCCs and committees and pray for them as they meet. Inspire them with your vision, guide their discussions and direct their decisions.

**Thu 30**

We pray for young carers. Bless the Carers Trust **Count Me In!** campaign, calling on education providers to do more to identify young carers and ensure they receive recognition and support.

**Fri 31**

As the annual Service and Feast of Thomas Oken take place, we thank you for his generous spirit, and that of Nicholas Eyffler, which together still benefit people in Warwick over 400 years later.