



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

July 2020

Prayer Diary

Thank you for using this diary to support our local, national and global communities through prayer, and thank you to those who have written prayers and contributed ideas this month. Feel free to use the diary as flexibly as you like to respond to the needs of others as we continue the complex process of emerging from lockdown. The **green country names** offer an opportunity to pray for countries at other stages of their Covid journey. You are invited to share ideas for August's diary with Kirsteen Robson, ideally by 15th July (prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk or 07799 682872). **Highlighted words** contain links to Bible readings and other related material. If you would like to receive future editions of the diary directly by email, please contact Kirsteen (see above).

Wed 1

South Sudan
Angola

Give confidence and courage, O Lord, to all those who have given up hope during lockdown and are too frightened to go out. Increase our awareness of others' needs that we may offer appropriate support, whether sitting or walking outside with them, going on a bus together or accompanying them to the shops.

Thu 2

Mongolia
Montenegro

As more shops and services reopen we pray that they will be supported in safety by local people... and we remember the owners and staff of places that will not be reopening for whatever reason. After these months of retail restriction, guide us, Lord, as we prayerfully choose what to buy and where to buy it.

Fri 3

St Thomas, Apostle
Suriname
Gambia

Lord, on the feast of St Thomas the Apostle, we thank you that we can bring before you our honest doubts. Reassure us in the knowledge that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty, because faith must grow and change. Guide and shape us, Lord, so that with a refined and renewed vocation we too want to fall to our knees and proclaim, 'My Lord and my God'.

Sat 4

St Martin
Turks and Caicos
Lesotho
Namibia

As this much-anticipated date arrives, we pray for the next phase of restriction easing. May consideration for others outweigh self-interest as people decide where to go and what to do, to tread as best as possible the narrow line between protecting physical and economic health. Lord Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, guide all who follow you, and draw others onto your path.

Sun 5

The Fourth
Sunday after
Trinity
Seychelles
USA

Lord, we thank you for the many ways you have inspired churches to respond to the challenges of lockdown and ask for wisdom in the complex whats, hows and whens of reopening buildings for prayer and worship... Greet with gladness those who come to you today with joy, in churches, online or in private prayer, and receive with compassion all who come weary, and carrying heavy burdens – give them rest. We pray for all attending socially distanced Sunday Worship At St Mary's in person or from afar.

Mon 6

Heavenly Father, you did not create people to be alone, and we give thanks that those who have been isolated may now form a support bubble with others. Bless and protect all who do so.

Tue 7

Brazil
Russia
India
Spain

Lord, we give thanks for advances in technology that enable so much to be done by so many from so far, and for all who have been able to continue their work or education during isolation. We remember those who are disadvantaged by inequalities in access to technology: children who haven't been able to keep up with their studies because they don't have a computer and adults who have struggled to get online to work from home.

Wed 8

Peru
Chile
Italy

As our VE75 commemorations continue, we remember the war brides who came over to this country after the war, or went from the UK to live abroad. We celebrate the fulfilling lives enjoyed by many, and we reflect on the experiences of spouses who were greeted in their new countries by hostility and mistrust. Bless all who were war brides or in whose story war brides play an important part.

Thu 9

Iran

We thank you for the **Warwickshire 4x4 Volunteer Drivers Group**, who have been conveying staff and patients between hospitals, as well as transporting protective equipment. Please bless them as they contribute to the local response to C-19.

Fri 10

Mexico
Pakistan

We give thanks for the **Cleft Palate and Hair Lip Association** (Sunday's planned Outward Giving charity at St Mary's), working to support, connect and empower everyone affected by cleft in the UK. As they vow to continue operating for as long as funds allow, please bless their fundraising and help secure their future.

Sat 11

Turkey
Germany
Saudi Arabia

As government guidance concerning weddings and blessings evolves, we continue to pray for couples and their families. May their love be strengthened and trust deepened as they consider plans and review expectations. At St Mary's we remember Joe and Mayuri whose marriage blessing was to have taken place today, and Megan and Maxwell who had planned to marry later this month.

Sun 12

**The Fifth
Sunday after
Trinity**
France

On **Sea Sunday** we pray for the hundreds of seafarers stranded aboard ships around the world's coastlines, unable to leave their ships because of Covid-19. Sustain them and their loved ones in this prolonged period of uncertainty. Bless the **Flying Angel Campaign** launched by **The Mission for Seafarers**, offering technical support, an advocacy service and chaplains to talk to, and preparing safe centres for when the seafarers can come ashore.

Mon 13

Lord of Creation, we give thanks for animals and all who look after them, remembering especially today **SPEAR**, a local charity that looks after horses, ponies and rescued animals.

Tue 14

South Africa

We pray for members of Radford Road Church and give thanks for their Add a Ribbon project to remind the community that the church is there for everyone. Bless all who tie a ribbon to the railings to remember people or leave a prayer. Lord, hear them.

Wed 15

Bangladesh

Loving God, we pray today for people of all ages who have a difficult relationship with food, remembering especially those whose condition has been exacerbated by lockdown. Sustain them and their families and bring them the help they need.

Thu 16

Canada
Qatar

As the official end of term approaches after the most challenging school year for a generation we pray for children, young people, teachers and support staff 'breaking up' for the holidays. May they all find time for rest and refreshment. Bless and strengthen those who will struggle this summer, financially, logistically and emotionally.

Fri 17

Colombia
China
Egypt
Sweden

On this **World Day of Social Justice** help us pray boldly, with one voice, for your Kingdom to come. Lord, all things come from you, held by us in trust, not owned. Help us recognise our privilege and use our influence to turn the world turtle in your name, making the last first, listening out for voices that struggle to be heard, and removing support from those who would prosper at others' expense. And, Lord, have mercy on us...

Sat 18

Belarus
Belgium

We pray for all who are planning to visit Warwick Cemetery tomorrow afternoon to spend socially distanced time in Thanksgiving and Remembrance for a loved one who has died. Bless Fr Stewart as he speaks your words of comfort. May your presence create a place of healing and solace beneath the trees.

Sun 19

**The Sixth Sunday
after Trinity**
Argentina

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place – and I did not know it!' (*Genesis 28.16*) Lord, we thank you that you can be worshipped wherever people meet in your name. Today we pray for all at **Coffee Shop Sunday**, who gather to meet you 'in an ordinary place' (at Costa on Gallagher Retail Park and currently online). Bless their book **19 Prayers in Lockdown**, that it may bring inspiration and comfort to many.

Mon 20

Ecuador
Indonesia
Netherlands
UAE

God of healing, wholeness and restoration, we give thanks for the NHS Seacole Centre in Surrey, offering rehabilitation for patients with long-term effects of Covid-19. Bless all who give and receive care there, that it may be a place of hope and peace. We remember with gratitude the many nurses and healthcare workers from diverse backgrounds and from different countries who make up our NHS and pray they receive due recognition.

Tue 21

Iraq

We pray for all who have lost money postponing or cancelling holidays, flights and theatre trips or rearranging weddings. May matters be resolved in the near future to relieve the extra stress of not knowing. Guide those making decisions involving payment for future bookings that may or may not be fulfilled.

Wed 22

Mary Magdalene
Kuwait
Singapore

Living God, we give thanks for Mary Magdalene, as the first witness of the Resurrection and for her central role in the foundation of the Church. With the same depth of love that could not bear the separation when they crucified her Lord, we pray that, in the depth of our darkness and sorrows, we too will see Jesus coming to meet us and hear our name being called.

Thu 23

Ukraine
Portugal

Master Carpenter of Nazareth, we pray for all who are looking for work at this time; those who have lost jobs due to Covid-19, and those seeking to move from education to employment. Grant them hope, patience and courage. Draw them close to you and help them to entrust their future to your hands.

Fri 24

Holy Spirit, breathe life into our prayers as we meditate on the theme of 24/7... Guide our praise, confession, thanks and pleas.

Sat 25

Oman
Philippines

As daily life continues under the shadow of the coronavirus, we pray for all who live and work in Wathen Road, Wedgnoek Green, Newburgh Crescent, Percy Road, Tatnall Grove and Peel Road. May they be drawn by your love and seek your presence.

Sun 26

The Seventh
Sunday after
Trinity

With all who work at **Helping Hands** we pray for the continued success of the rough sleepers project as the charity works to furnish more permanent properties where rough sleepers can move to from hotels as lockdown lifts. We pray for the financial resources to furnish these, and for those who will move into them, receiving the hand up they need, not just the handout.

Mon 27

Poland

We pray for your blessing on all who are working to support families during the school holidays, especially Myton Church's holiday club (taking place this year online), and the local churches involved in 'Make Lunch', helping to fill the holiday hunger gap.

Tue 28

Switzerland
Dominican
Republic

We give thanks for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia and for your loving care and guidance. Bless the Sisters as they support efforts of the Anglican Church in Tanzania to protect citizens, visiting villages to teach people about Covid-19, making masks for people and demonstrating social distancing in short services. Watch over them and all they serve in your name.

Wed 29

Mary, Martha
and Lazarus
Afghanistan

Lord Jesus, as we remember your companions who shared their everyday, their highs and lows with you, teach us when to busy ourselves serving you by ministering to others and when to sit disciple-like at your feet, receiving our spiritual daily bread. We thank you that either of these are only possible because you have raised us from death to new life in you.

Thu 30

William Wilberforce,
Olauda Equiano &
Thomas Clarkson

Father God, who shows no partiality between his children, we pray for all who face discrimination, especially because of their racial or ethnic heritage. Give insight, humility and courage to all who seek to identify and address bias in themselves and the larger groups of which they are part. We pray for the Church, as we invite Christ's light to shine in. Open minds and hearts to healing, that all may more faithfully demonstrate your love.

Fri 31

Ignatius of Loyola
Bolivia

Dear Lord, teach us to be generous; teach us to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen. (*St Ignatius of Loyola*)