



St. Mary's  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# August 2020

## Prayer Diary

Thank you for using these prayers to support our local, national and global communities, and thank you to everyone who has contributed prayers and ideas this month. Please use the diary as you like to respond to the needs of others as countries follow advice aimed to protect people's health and the economy. The **green country names** remind us of countries at other stages of their Covid journey. You are invited to share ideas for September's diary with Kirsteen Robson ([prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) or 07799 682872) ideally by the earlier date of **10<sup>th</sup> August**. **Highlighted words** contain links to Bible readings and other material. If you would like to receive the diary by email, please contact Kirsteen.

### Sat 1

Israel  
Panama  
Guatemala  
Romania

On this notable day for the 22,000 people in Warwickshire who have been shielding, we give thanks for all the local support that has been offered and ask you to walk with those who are now able to see friends and family, go shopping and go back to work. As churches, may we unreservedly welcome everyone to come and join us in all that we offer, trusting that as we follow Covid-19 Secure guidance, you will help us keep each other safe.

### Sun 2

The Eighth Sunday  
after Trinity

Lord, we thank you that where there's your will, there is always your way, and so when we bring our loaves and fishes in faith, by your grace many are fed. Whether service sheets are simple or elaborate, delivered by hand, post or email, and whether our liturgies are pre-recorded or live, on Zoom or in church, we thank you that your word will not return to you empty.

### Mon 3

Nigeria  
Bahrain  
Honduras

In World Breast-feeding Week we pray for the **World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action**, as they work towards their goal of giving everyone a fair start in life and laying the foundations of good health. We also pray for mothers who have found breast-feeding difficult or impossible, and ask that you grant them peace of mind and sure knowledge of your love and protection.

### Tue 4

Armenia  
Kyrgyzstan  
Ghana

We give thanks and pray for all who support and encourage us in faith. Thank you too for inspiring Coventry Diocese to put anyone who asks in touch with a trained **spiritual director** to accompany them in the faith journey. Bless all who volunteer in this way, and all who are thinking of seeking spiritual direction.

### Wed 5

Azerbaijan  
Japan  
Algeria  
Ireland

Father of all, as **National Play Day 2020** encourages families to celebrate children's right to play at home, we ask you to bless the work of **Adoption UK**, who are inviting families to hold a Teddy Bears' Picnic in their garden, a park or online. May children and families enjoy the pleasure of being together in a social setting as well as raising funds. Thank you for the local branch of Adoption UK who've been supporting families in these far-from-normal times.

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## Thu 6

The Transfiguration  
Serbia

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to seek your voice and to heed your command: *This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him.*

## Fri 7

Moldova  
Uzbekistan

God of years, God of tears, 75 summers after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima (6<sup>th</sup>) and Nagasaki (9<sup>th</sup>) we join hands with people from all over the world remembering and praying for peace and healing for the cities, asking that the deep and sometimes unseen wounds of war may be healed.

## Sat 8

Austria  
Morocco  
Nepal

As the holiday season continues and accommodation and visitor attractions do their best to reopen and stay open, we thank you for those who have put in so much work to make places safer for us all. As many of us take time to relax by the sea or in the country – wherever we are help us to rest in your presence and appreciate the beauty of your wonderful world.

## Sun 9

The Ninth Sunday  
after Trinity

We celebrate the work of the **Mothers' Union** bringing your good news as they work alongside families and helping them to bring up children in the spirit of the Christian faith. Bless our **local group** as they seek to work in the community, supporting visitors, schools, young people, prisoners and refugees, and as they support each other in lockdown and during illness.

## Mon 10

Cameroon  
Kenya

Today we pray for **The Armed Forces Covenant Trust**, giving thanks for their donation to **Galanos House** to cover the cost of PPE and to pay for extras to improve residents' quality of life. Thank you that care homes may now reopen (after assessments), and we pray for residents as they are reunited with loved ones.

## Tue 11

Guide our reflections today, Lord, as we spend time sitting in your presence with the words of Clare of Assisi: 'We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become...'

## Wed 12

Ivory Coast  
Czechia  
Costa Rica  
Venezuela  
El Salvador

God of creation, we pray for all who will be celebrating the joys and achievements of 'growing your own' this summer. In National Allotments Week, we thank you for the abundance of life created on small but much-loved plots, especially this year, where seeds and plants have been difficult to source due to Covid-19. The soil brings forth sustenance for body and mind, especially in such challenging times. For these special places, we offer our gratitude and praise.

## Thu 13

Lord, we pray for farmers and producers in a year that has seen flooding, a hot dry spring, and all kinds of practical challenges caused by Covid-19. Bless them and their workers and keep them safe.

## Fri 14

Australia  
South Korea

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of VJ Day we honour and remember our veterans and Allies who gave so much as they strived for peace in the Far East and Pacific. We remember those who did not come home, those who were injured and those whose memories haunted them for the rest of their lives.

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## Sat 15

Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God, on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary we reflect on how you use the meek and lowly for your greater purposes. We give thanks for her life of obedience and acceptance – even through suffering – and pray that we may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom.

## Sun 16

The Tenth Sunday  
after Trinity

Lord, we give thanks for all who seek to maintain justice and do what is right. Today we pray with thanks for **Your Farmer**, who formed their company to produce high welfare farm produce and to show your love by helping those in food poverty. Bless local families given a YF hamper through Northgate Methodist this month.

## Mon 17

Ethiopia  
Denmark  
Sudan  
Palestine  
Bulgaria

Dear Lord, we pray as the number of children around the world receiving life-saving vaccinations declines due to disruptions caused by the current pandemic. In your mercy, please help those involved in delivering routine immunization services to discover ways to do so safely; help health-workers and care-givers communicate effectively to fully restore services and rectify gaps in immunity coverage; and may routine services be expanded to reach missed communities, where some of the most vulnerable children live.

## Tue 18

North Macedonia  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina  
Senegal  
Madagascar

We remember all whose lives are affected by cystic fibrosis and the added threat to their health of Covid-19. We ask that you would renew their strength and hope each day so they may live life to the full, and that the precautions taken by them and those around them will protect them from the virus. We rejoice in the new, life-changing drugs which are now available and ask for your blessing on the work of the **Cystic Fibrosis Trust** supporting, campaigning and carrying out CF research.

## Wed 19

Norway

On **World Humanitarian Day** we remember humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work, and we ask you to protect all aid and health workers who continue to provide life-saving support and protection to people most in need.

## Thu 20

Malaysia  
Democratic  
Republic of Congo  
Finland

We give thanks for seasonal farm workers and all they do to maintain our food supply. Thank you for increased efforts to protect their welfare post-Brexit. Please bless **The Farm Work Welfare App** as it seeks (in 8 languages) to inform farmers and growers, support farm workers, and raise awareness of labour exploitation among people who live or work in rural areas.

## Fri 21

French Guiana

As wearing face coverings becomes a greater part of everyday life for most, we remember the groups of people who are exempt but have no easy way to prove it. We pray people will pause to think before judging, and treat each other with tolerance and respect.

## Sat 22

Haiti  
Tajikistan

We pray for **Team Ethan** and other local charities who were planning to hold Summer Balls or other large fundraising events this year and have had to postpone or cancel them. In our hearts we remember the joy of summer evenings and pray that 'Tomorrow (or indeed next year) shall be their dancing day'.

**Sun 23**

The Eleventh  
Sunday after  
Trinity

Generous God, we thank you that you give each of us gifts to share for the benefit of the communities in which we live, work and worship. Help us recognise and share what we have, and notice and appreciate the gifts of others, especially any who we take for granted or find it difficult to like. We give thanks for new ways in which you have inspired people to serve each other during lockdown, and pray this may continue long after.

**Mon 24**

Gabon  
Guinea

We give thanks for the Covid-19 recovery fund, offering grants for projects which improve community safety and to voluntary groups who are helping to support vulnerable adults and children. We pray for all the groups that apply, that each may receive the funding they need to continue your work in the world.

**Tue 25**

Luxembourg

We pray for all who live and work in Lyttelton Road, Ladbroke Park, Oken Road, Lock Lane, Millers Road and St Mary's Close. Bless them and draw each one to the love and life you offer.

**Wed 26**

With all at **Helping Hands** we ask you to bless Johanna Flaherty as she starts as part-time Operations Support Manager for a year.

**Thu 27**

Mauritania  
Djibouti

We thank you for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia and for your faithful provision for them year after year. Please continue to sustain them and their local communities as they face large increases in the prices of staple foods as a result of Covid-19 and exacerbated by a poor harvest.

**Fri 28**

Croatia  
Albania

As the end of what would usually be a busy month for staff and volunteers welcoming visitors to churches and cathedrals, we pray for all whose jobs are affected by restrictions on church opening. At St Mary's we especially hold Caroline, Denise, John, Martin, Rita and Sally in our prayers, following the mothballing of the shop.

**Sat 29**

Today we give thanks for the Scarecrow Festival taking place on Woodloes Park and ask for your blessing on it. May it be a time when communities can meet together safely and have fun.

**Sun 30**

The Twelfth  
Sunday after  
Trinity

Zambia

Father God, who hates to see any of your children treated badly, we pray for those who have deliberately turned away from you, using 'disappearance of people' for temporal gain. May they see the error of their ways and turn to a path of righteousness. Lord, you know the names and whereabouts of all those taken from their families and you have assigned them a place with the saints and angels. May their loved ones take comfort in your mercy that they will meet again at the end of days.

**Mon 31**

Aidan, Bishop  
of Lindisfarne  
Central African  
Republic

O God, on the feast of St Aidan, the great seventh-century northern apostle and evangelist, we pray for your blessing on the mission of **Stephen Cottrell**, our new Archbishop of York, as he seeks to gather and inspire passionate discipleship to realise an expansive Gospel vision: *Where everyone has a place; where no one is discarded or put down; and where, together, we work on a big canvas of inclusion, welcome, hospitality and diversity.*