



St. Mary's
Warwick's Church of Treasures

March 2021

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. **Highlighted words** are links to Bible readings or other material. The **green country names** remind us of countries at various stages of their Covid journey. Please share your ideas for April's diary, ideally by 10th March: prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk or 07799 682872. If you know anyone who would like a paper copy but can't get one, or if you would like to receive the diary by email, please contact Kirsteen Robson (details above).

Mon 1

St David,
Patron of Wales

On St David's Day we pray for the people of Wales and remember families living on either side of the Welsh border who have not seen each other this past year. May St David's example inspire us all as we carry his final words in our hearts today: 'Be cheerful and keep your faith and belief, and do the little things that you have heard and seen through me.'

Tue 2

...UAE
Lebanon
Slovakia

Lord Jesus, we pray for people living with eating disorders. Encourage those who are afraid to ask for help or reluctant to accept it; bring healing to those who have taken that step, and reassurance to their families and friends. In Eating Disorders Awareness Week 2021 we remember especially those with binge-eating disorders and pray that through the sharing of people's life experiences the condition may better be understood.

Wed 3

Malaysia
Belarus

As the incomes of many fall and costs increase, we pray for all who are now struggling financially. Along with Church Action on Poverty, we pray that our government will listen to their plea to **#Reset the Debt**, enabling relationships to be healed and dignity restored in our communities.

Thu 4

Ecuador
Nepal

We give thanks for the Charity of Thomas Oken and Nicholas Eyffler, who have given a grant to the local Citizens Advice Bureau, enabling them to roll out their Reach Out and Help project and a new debt support scheme. We thank you for all who give their time to work for the CAB and pray for those who turn to them for advice.

Fri 5

Georgia
Bolivia
Bulgaria
Croatia
Dominican Republic

We pray for the success and spreading influence of the **Women's World Day of Prayer** movement; the programme written this year by the committee of women in Vanuatu, and inspired by the theme 'Build on a strong foundation' (*Matthew 7.24-27*). May we learn from their knowledge and respect for the natural world and appreciate ever more our inter-connectedness and dependency: 'Land to a Ni-Vanuatu is what a mother is to a baby.' Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have done, and still do, to ravage and despoil your beautiful creation.

Sat 6

Azerbaijan
Tunisia
Ireland

As the doors to churches open and close, we pray for members of congregations who've been unable to physically worship with others during the last year. Thank you that the spirit of your church lies not within the walls but lives with and in your people. Lord Jesus, in a world still bound by restrictions, help us follow in your steps wherever we are, obeying your commandment to love one another.

Sun 7

**The Third
Sunday of Lent**

I am the Lord your God... do not worship any other gods besides me. (Exodus 20.2-3) Lord, examine our hearts and direct us away from the false gods which take too much of our time: money, status, work, selfish pleasures. We pray that you would reside in our hearts and take the central place in our lives, so that all our pursuits are kept in healthy balance and all our achievements reflect your glory.

Mon 8

Father in heaven, please bless and protect our school communities as teachers and pupils are reunited in their classrooms and bring peace and reassurance to any who feel or anxious about the return.

Tue 9

Kazakhstan
Denmark
Costa Rica

As the C-19 vaccine rollout continues, we give thanks for adding daily to the number of those who have been vaccinated, and pray that initiatives such as Christian Aid's **Pay it Forward** and the **Twin my vaccine** fundraising campaign for UNICEF will help deliver vaccines to the world's poorest communities and protect them in the meantime until these become available.

Wed 10

Lithuania

On the 145th anniversary of the first telephone call, we thank you for this means of keeping in touch at a distance. As the use of text and email rises, help us not forget the joy and connection that hearing the voice of a loved one or friend can bring.

Thu 11

Kuwait
Slovenia

Lord God, during this Lent help us take time to rest awhile in your loving arms. We give thanks for Warwick Methodists' project encouraging people to carry out **40 Acts of Kindness and Wellbeing**. As people's spirit is replenished, help them pass on your message of joy and comfort to those around.

Fri 12

Egypt

In prayer today we walk alongside Patrick, who walked 14 miles on crutches, in all weathers, raising awareness and support for **Nerve Tumours UK**. May others be inspired by his efforts, offering hope and encouragement to young people living with the same condition.

Sat 13

Greece
Moldova

Hear our prayer, O Lord, for all who live and work in Back Lane, Jury Street, The Butts, Priory Road, Northgate and Northgate Street. Grant them a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. (*St. Thomas Aquinas*)

Sun 14

**The Fourth
Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday**

Today we celebrate motherhood, and give thanks for all who strive, selflessly, to create safe and nurturing family environments. We bring before you, Lord, the person we each know, or knew as mother and thank you for the one who showed us the meaning of unconditional love. Where relationships have been difficult or broken, we entrust those bruised hearts into your healing hands.

Mon 15

Palestine
Guatemala
Armenia

O God, we thank you that each one of us is made, fearfully and wonderfully, in your image. As we consider the sheer variety of people shown in the Bible – dreamers, poets, pioneers, straight-talkers, change-makers, leaders, trailblazers, adventurers – help us create a society that recognises, celebrates and nurtures the strengths and talents of all who are considered neurodiverse.

Tue 16

Honduras
Qatar
Ethiopia

We pray for all who seek to soak their lives in your word, O God... Bless all taking part in the **Deeper 2021** conference run by Castle Hill Baptist Church from tonight on Zoom. Fill them with your Holy Spirit as they study the book of Philemon and reflect on the freedom of forgiveness... Help them find this freedom in their own lives and share their experience with others.

Wed 17

St Patrick, Patron
of Ireland

On St Patrick's Day we pray for the people of Ireland and the continuing stability of the Good Friday Agreement. We pray also that border issues may be quickly resolved to ensure fair and fruitful trading arrangements and bridge-building with our near neighbours. May your hand, O God, protect us, may your word, O God, direct us. May your Salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and for evermore.

Thu 18

Paraguay
Nigeria

As the communal recycling banks at supermarkets and local shops are removed, we pray that people will continue to recycle through domestic and commercial collections. With grateful hearts we pray for your blessing and protection on our town's refuse and recycling teams, who have continued to work throughout the pandemic.

Fri 19

Joseph of Nazareth

Lord, following the humble example of Joseph, make us faithful and trusting, even in times of challenge, confusion and doubt. Teach us to love courageously with a heart that is free and just. Teach us to protect the weak and the vulnerable. Teach us to be gentle with our power and strong in our tenderness.

Sat 20

Myanmar
Oman
Venezuela

As the Equinox marks the beginning of Spring in the northern hemisphere, along with people of other faiths and none we give thanks for the renewal of the earth and our lives together on our planet. We pray for the **WCC Green Shoots** project as it receives applications for community projects to mitigate against and adapt to the impact of climate change.

Sun 21

The Fifth Sunday
of Lent
Passiontide begins

O God, how we need you! The Bible is full of metaphor and parable, from the prophet Jeremiah to the gospel of John. The message that the son of God learned to obey the Father and become the source of worldly eternal salvation to all people. We give thanks for continuing to supply us and coaxing us forward with tenderness and affection in the new covenant. O God, how we need you!

Mon 22

Libya
Bosnia and
Herzegovina

We pray for all who care for loved ones at home and remember those who are struggling. We give thanks for the **WCC Carers Wellbeing Service**, working in partnership with The Heart of England Carers Trust. May their offer of emotional and practical support give peace of mind to those who are most in need but who are reluctant to ask for help.

Tue 23

Bahrain
Algeria

65 years after the Queen laid the foundation stone of the new Coventry Cathedral, we give thanks for all the foundation stones for peace and reconciliation laid by the **Community of the Cross of Nails** in countries, regions, communities and individuals across the world. Bless this healing work as it continues.

Wed 24

Kenya
Albania
North Macedonia

Spirit of God, who dwells within people and places, help us magnify your kindness and goodness to overcome ignorance, alienation and hostility, to be able to see each other as people created and connected in God's image. Humble us by your power that we might have the courage to come together, physically distanced but united in purpose, called by name to serve God and our neighbours.

Thu 25

**The Annunciation
of our Lord to the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Free to accept or to refuse Gabriel's message, Mary answered Yes. Dear Lord, her Yes enabled your divine presence to enter into the flesh and blood of this material world. Strengthen our faith and conviction, so that, like Mary, we would have the ears to hear your promptings, the humility to trust in you, and the hearts of courage to say Yes, without heeding the personal cost.

Fri 26

China
South Korea

We give thanks for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia and for the prayer and service that shape their life, in chapel and clinic, classroom and kitchen, field and cowshed. We pray for the Sisters working hard to tend their crops and ask you to bless the harvest they are soon to gather in after months of irregular weather.

Sat 27

Kyrgyzstan...

We give thanks for all who take time to fight for justice both for themselves and on behalf of others. We ask for your blessing on our veterans who were dismissed because of their sexuality but now have their honour restored, along with their medals.

Sun 28

Palm Sunday

Heavenly Father, as Palm Sunday marks the occasion when your Son Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, not waging war, but bringing peace, we pray for your peace in our hearts that we may reflect on the tumultuous events commemorated in Holy Week, culminating in the resurrection of Christ and his triumph over death.

Mon 29

**Monday of
Holy Week**

Father, as we join with Jesus on his journey towards the Cross, keep our attention on fulfilling your hopes for us. Jesus cleared the Temple declaring, 'My house will be called a house of prayer.' Clear our thoughts and actions of all that separates us from you, to make us temples of the Holy Spirit.

Tue 30

**Tuesday of
Holy Week**

Almighty God, today we hear your Son Jesus Christ announce that, with faith, we can move mountains. Grant us a willing eagerness to trust you fully, so that we truly believe we will receive whatever we ask for when we pray.

Wed 31

**Wednesday of
Holy Week**

Lord Jesus, who spent time with friends and companions in Bethany as the shadow of the cross loomed, we pray with thanks for all who have comforted and supported us and look forward to being able to celebrate friendships safely face to face.