

Thank you for using this diary to support our local, national and global communities through prayer, and thank you to everyone who has shared suggestions and prayers this month. Feel free to use the diary as flexibly as you like to respond to the needs of others. The **green country names** remind us of countries at various stages of their journey with Covid-19. You are warmly invited to send ideas for May's diary, ideally by 10th April, to 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, or you know anyone who would like a paper copy but can't print one out, please contact the prayer team (see above).

Thu 1

Maunder Thursday

...Saudi Arabia

Panama

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you (Jn. 15.12). As we approach your table, Lord, give us the humility to be washed in your love and the ears to listen for the loving message that meets us there. And when we leave your table, Lord, expand our hearts so that we carry this love of the new covenant out into a hungry world.

Fri 2

Good Friday

Uruguay

Pause today. For a moment let the noisy, rushing world leave us be. We cannot understand all that this day means, yet let us strive to embrace the events wherein Christ has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Sat 3

Holy Saturday

Norway

On this threshold day we stand, remembering the place of death, but waiting, attentive, listening for the voice which calls each of us by name and gives us hope. Hold and bless us in this liminal space, Lord, and guide us to support and give solace to each other when we feel overwhelmed with grief and consumed by the anguish of loss.

Sun 4

Easter Sunday

Sri Lanka

God of new life, as your Son strides into the light from the darkness of his tomb, we are swept up and carried with him. As love conquers death forever, we rejoice that we too are released into his resurrection. Give us grace to turn our joy into praise and action, for the fulfilment of all that you promise.

Mon 5

We give thanks for the WCC Holiday Activities and Food programme being rolled out across the county with new government money and for partners administering this locally.

Tue 6

Ghana

In our prayers we walk with Baabzi Miah, who is walking and cycling 363km to raise funds for **Mencap** in memory of his baby son, who was born with Down Syndrome. We thank you for the work of our local Mencap group, who offer families tailored programmes and support.

Wed 7

Montenegro
Zambia

As we long for the time when we can meet and embrace one another, we give thanks for Leek Wooten VI's initiative of providing 'A Hug in a Bag'. As the contents are assembled, may the warmth of the hot chocolate gift be a reminder of friendships waiting to be renewed and the good times that lie ahead.

Thu 8

Uzbekistan
Finland
Cuba
Mozambique

Lord Jesus, may our daily prayers light a candle on behalf of all who have been to our churches but found the doors closed. Let the candlelight burn brightly, bringing your love and hope into their lives. As careful plans are made to reopen church buildings, keep us from being dragged down by the darkness of what we can't do and give us imagination and courage to accept your invitation to do what you enable us to as we seek to follow you and feed your sheep.

Fri 9

El Salvador
Luxembourg
Singapore
Afghanistan

Loving Father, with tears in our eyes, we remember all who have died as a result of violence on our streets. In our hearts we join with the Prayer Movement supporting those who are working to Reclaim These Streets. As current rules continue to impact on our daily lives, we pray that the police and all in authority will exercise their power with integrity and wisdom, following your example of justice tempered with compassion.

Sat 10

Cameroon
Cyprus
Namibia

Lord Jesus, who knew well the joys and frustrations of sibling relationships, guide our prayers today as we reflect on the ups and downs of sibling dynamics and pray for those who are or have been a brother or sister to us. We remember especially any who are mourning the death of a sibling, asking you to bring them comfort.

Sun 11

Second Sunday
of Easter

Risen Lord Jesus, breathe on us anew today, inspiring us through scripture and worship, that we may share the faith and fervour of the early church described in today's readings. Give us unity of heart and soul, generosity of spirit and a passion to share with others our testimony to your presence in our lives.

Mon 12

Ivory Coast
Uganda
Botswana

Sixty years after Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit Earth in a space capsule, in wonder we give thanks for the cooperation between countries who have worked together peacefully to develop technology to enter and explore space. Lord, as humankind reaches out to the stars, we ask you to bless all who have dreams and hopes for the future.

Tue 13

Senegal
Jamaica
Zimbabwe

As lockdown easing continues, we pray for the safe unfurling of each sector, that the precautions taken combined with the vaccination programme will enable us to avoid a third wave. Please bless those who work in local shops, hairdressers, beauty therapists, hospitality venues, tourist attractions, cafés and pubs, people preparing to return from furlough, and new businesses.

Wed 14

Malawi
Sudan

As April showers bring plants to life, we give thanks for the beauty of springtime and your life-giving word. We thank you too for the Environment Agency grant enabling Warwickshire Wildlife Trust to work with local farmers and volunteers to improve natural flood management by planting trees. Lord of life, please bless all involved.

Thu 15

Australia
Malta
Thailand
Democratic
Republic of Congo

75 year after British soldiers liberated Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, witnessing the results of human inhumanity, we give heartfelt thanks that they found the strength within themselves to feed and tend thousands who were hungry and sick and to bury the dead on a horrifying scale. Before it's too late, let us take time to listen to the stories of those who were there, whilst we continue to pray that one day your peace will come on earth and goodwill to all people.

Fri 16

Madagascar
Maldives

Loving Lord, as we celebrate World Voice Day, we think of how we can use our voices to be a blessing to one another. Help us to be mindful of how we communicate and speak to others, always trying to choose words that encourage and affirm.

Sat 17

Angola
Rwanda
Guinea
Mayotte

God of healing and comfort, we pray this month for people living with bowel cancer. May they know your hope and your presence with them every step of their journey. Bless **Bowel Cancer UK's** campaign to raise awareness of all aspects of the disease as well as funds to support their work. We pray that through early symptom recognition, fully funded research, effective treatment and the right support, many people's experiences and outcomes will be improved.

Sun 18

**Third Sunday
of Easter**

Risen Lord, we give thanks today for all who live and work in Theatre Street, Barrack Street, Joyce Pool, Priory Mews, Edward Street and Victoria Mews. As the light of your face shone on Mary in the garden, so may it shine on them, and may they, recognising your voice, hear your words they need to hear.

Mon 19

Gabon
French Polynesia
Syria

Spirit of refuge and renewal, be alongside all who are called to work in prisons. Give daily strength to serve courageously and faithfully through the continuing constraints of lockdown. Be present in the bringing of order, compassion, food, comfort, and humanity to all held in custody. Sustain and enable them in times of exhaustion and weariness through the sureness of your love and power. (*Prisons Week prayers*)

Tue 20

Mauritania
Eswatini
Cabo Verde

In World Immunization Week we pray that concerns about the content, supply and distribution of Covid vaccines in the UK and EU will increase sympathy for individuals and countries who struggle to access immunization. Bring people together to work for greater vaccine trust and acceptance, funding of routine immunization programmes and sharing of resources to save lives and protect health.

Wed 21

St Anselm

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that so desiring we may seek and find you; and so finding you we may love you; and loving you we may hate those sins from which you have redeemed us; for the sake of Jesus Christ. (*St Anselm*)

Thu 22

French Guiana
Réunion
Tajikistan

As countries negotiate trade deals, we remember the 500,000 merchant seamen who deliver food and supplies to our shores who, since the outbreak of C-19, have virtually become prisoners on their ships, many remaining unpaid, and most not yet able to step ashore or go home. Please, Lord, keep them safe, and bless the Seafarers' Charities who are working together to support them.

Fri 23

St George

As we celebrate St George's Day, we give thanks for all that is good in this land in which we live, rejoicing in our nation's spirit of hospitality, decency and fair play. We ask you too to help us reflect honestly before you on our national shortcomings.

Sat 24

Haiti
Burkina Faso
Belize
Andorra

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia, as they seek daily to live out your gospel of love. We remember especially the Sisters in Tanzania and their local communities as Samia Suluhu Hassan settles into the role of President. May she lead with wisdom, courage and compassion, accepting the reality of the Covid pandemic and tackling it scientifically to reduce the spread, and protect the population.

Sun 25

Fourth Sunday
of Easter
Hong Kong

Faithful God, as St Mary's reviews the last year of church life at the Annual Meeting, we give thanks for the good things you have given us... we acknowledge our feelings about the things that have been taken away... we ask for your strength, guidance and inspiration as we face the huge challenges and opportunities ahead, praying that in all things your will be done.

Mon 26

Mark, Evangelist
(transferred)

On this feast of St Mark, we give thanks for the inspired witness of all the evangelists and pray that, as we read and re-read the Gospel, we become firmly grounded in its truth and faithful to its teaching in word and deed. We give thanks for the lives of all the saints and scholars over centuries who have recorded and spread the Good News.

Tue 27

Guadeloupe
Somalia
Lesotho
South Sudan
Guyana

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the babies who have been born during this last year and ask you to bless them and their families. We remember new parents who have missed out on much of the practical loving support of wider family and friends and give thanks for the National Childbirth Trust, who have set up Walk and Talk groups in local parks. We pray for volunteers who are helping and ask that families taking part will find welcome, reassurance and friendship in the time spent together.

Wed 28

Mali

God of all, help us to safeguard the integrity of creation, and do all we can to sustain and renew the life of the earth. In an age when one third of all food produced is lost or wasted, help us to feed the hungry, beginning with our actions at home.

Thu 29

Congo
Togo
Aruba

At a time when internet access has taken over much of life for many, we remember families who have no means to pay for things needed to keep up in our modern world. We give thanks for Cool Breeze Technology Services, Warwick & Leamington Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group and Warwick Lions, working to donate redundant laptops and tablets to schools.

Fri 30

Suriname
Bahamas...

Our Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of prayer that brings us closer to you, to each other, to those we pray for and to the world we are a part of. Bless the whole praying community of Warwick, encouraging and enabling us to continue to serve you and others in this way until your Kingdom come.