



Prayer Diary

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 June's diary, ideally by 10th May, 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).

Sat 1 ...Mongolia Curaçao	As we breathe fresh air, drink in sunshine and imagine bright ribbons weaving around maypoles, we pray for the rebirth and strengthening of bonds of friendship between individuals, communities and countries. May this be a time for hope, unity, thanksgiving and meaningful action for life on and of our planet.
Sun 2 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Djibouti	Lord God, as we worship together but remain physically apart, we pray that your love will fill the space between us. While we scatter after the service, may this brief time of non-mingling be enough to look behind the masks for unshed tears and personal stories that need to be told. In our efforts to live within the rules, enable each of us to fulfil our responsibility to love and care for one another.
Mon 3 Papua New Guinea Cambodia Trinidad and Tobago Iceland	We pray today for those among us who caught a different virus in another time, asking for your blessing on Sue and the Post-polio Rehab Team as they undertake a 100,000 step challenge, each step remembering a person in the UK living with the effects of polio. We give thanks for the continuing specialist care offered by the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham and the Lane Fox Respiratory Unit at St Thomas' Hospital.
Tue 4 Seychelles Niger Chad St Lucia	Father God, we pray for the CMM Sisters in Tanzania and Zambia, with gratitude that Cyclone Jobo weakened so rapidly before making landfall that its predicted effects were not felt. We give thanks that the Sisters have joined us in spirit at their celebration of the resurrection of our Lord this Eastertide and for their continued prayerful support, especially over the long periods of lockdown and WFH (worshipping from home!).
Wed 5 Sierra Leone Burundi	As Tommy's Race to Victory Relay passes through Leamington with the Royal British Legion's iconic Tommy figure, we give thanks for their efforts to raise funds to provide crucial support to injured veterans and people with disabilities and ask for your blessing on them and those they seek to help.

Thu 6	Lord, we pray for the work of the Global Alliance for Maternal Mental Health and its commitment to nurture child development by preventing the avoidable, and often tragic, suffering experienced by women and their families during and after pregnancy. We pray that sufficient funding will be available to improve services and research into this neglected area, particularly in low-income countries, for the sake of all your precious children, Lord.
Fri 7	We continue to pray for families who are struggling financially at this time, asking that you would bless them with hope and help and give them reassurance that you hear their prayers.
Sat 8	O God, on VE Day we ask you to help us acknowledge our duty of care to our armed forces veterans. We thank you for organisations and individuals who have been looking after them during the pandemic, lifting up especially Help for Heroes.
Sun 9 The Sixth Sunday of Easter	Lord you speak to us, urging us to follow the example of your Son, and to fulfil your word. We give thanks for those who were called to be followers of Christ in this world. May their example inspire us to be loving in our relationships with others and filled with your grace, so that we may show ourselves to be amongst those whom Christ called his friends.
Mon 10 Rogation Day	On Mental Health Awareness Day we pray for all with troubled minds and heavy souls, knowing that many more will need help and comfort following this time of lockdown. For those suffering from anxiety, or in despair, Lord, we pray that you would lead them beside still waters and that they would come to know the peace which passeth all understanding.
Tue 11 Rogation Day	In Rogationtide we give thanks for the nourishment of the rich soil, for the clarity of light and for the refreshing rains which provide our food in abundance. Bless the hands of those who work and care for the land. Forgive us, Lord, when we take more than we need and neglect our duties to be good stewards, or good neighbours, depriving others of their daily bread.
Wed 12 Rogation Day	On International Nurses' Day, we think of all caregivers around the world in some words taken from the Nurses' Prayer: "Lord, please help me to bring comfort where there is pain, courage where there is fear, hope where there is despair, acceptance when the end is near, and a gentle touch with tenderness, patience and love."
Thu 13 Ascension Day	Father, your Son has ascended into the heavens, and through the Holy Spirit continues to dwell within us, and in the fullness of time will come again. We pray that we may live each day aware of the joys of his presence and alert to his return.
Fri 14 Mauritius	Faithful God, help us to understand ourselves, so that even in the most difficult times we may know your presence with us and may sing your praises, defiantly praising your goodness even when there is so much that is wrong. And today, help us show others the good things we receive in Christ and show the world his way. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)

Sat 15	Generous God, fill our hearts with thanksgiving for all the blessing we receive in life. Expand our hearts and help us love, support and cherish those who serve us. And today, help us to live as sisters or brothers to all whom we meet. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Sun 16	Steadfast God, redirect our lives and redirect the life of the world. Help us to live in peace with each other and with the planet. And today, help us to tread lightly on the earth, praying for others that we may all find for ourselves the way of being human that you show us in Jesus. Give us the chance to start again. To turn around. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Mon 17	Generous God, pour your abundant life into our hearts. Help us to live differently. And today, may others see and receive this offer of life through us. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Tue 18	Transforming God, make us more like Jesus. And because we know our lives are not like that, show us Jesus today. And change our prayer from asking things for ourselves to asking you what you would like for us, so that our lives can be part of your story. And help us to pray for others, that they may know Christ for themselves. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Wed 19	Overcoming God, make us new in the Spirit of Jesus so that we can truly become the people we are meant to be. And today, may your Spirit help us help others, especially those who have drifted from your way, or who find it impossible to believe, or who are trapped by fear and guilt. Set us free, God. Set us free to be ourselves. Free to help others. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Thu 20	Quicken God, fan the embers of our little faith. Help us see that the love we feel for those we love is from you. It shows us that you are real, that you are love itself. Be our friend. And today, draw us back into the fellowship of your church and help others, who also long for love and acceptance, to find it in Jesus, the one who lays down his life for his friends. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Fri 21	Bountiful God, feed me with the bread of heaven, and give me today the things I need for today and save me from wanting more than my share. There are so many people who are hungry for love and thirsting for peace. Help me to help others find their place at your table. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Sat 22	Loving God, our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you. Hold us, for the storms are raging and the waves crash over. Be our rest and our security. And even though human touch and human love is so beautiful and so longed for, help us to know today that it comes from you and, like everything that is good and beautiful, will return to you in the silence of your eternal and never-changing love. Be with us as we hold ourselves and hold others in your embrace. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)

Sun 23	Overflowing God, breathe the spirit of Jesus into us and into all those who long for peace, especially those who have drifted from your way, got stuck in their faith, or who have not yet found a way to believe. You believe in them. Renew them by your Spirit. And today may your Church be filled with joy. (<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>)
Mon 24	We remember in our prayers today all who live or work in Victoria Street, Spring Pool, Cattell Road, Turberville Place, Albert Street and Wallwin Place. In this Pentecost season, may they feel the wind of your Holy Spirit blowing in their lives.
Tue 25	A public bench prayer: Loving God, we thank you for those who gave this bench for the convenience and enjoyment of others, and we pause to give thanks for those whose life stories and love stories are memorialized in this place. May weary folk find rest here, lonely souls company and troubled minds peace.
Wed 26	Spirit of wisdom and mercy, lead those responsible for exercising justice in the way of truth; bring discernment, fair-minded judgement and a willingness to confront injustice as they consider the lives of others. In every role and place of work through the whole criminal justice system, guide and empower people to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit. (<i>Prisons Week Prayer</i>)
Thu 27	Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the Rotary Club's Peace Project, and their desire for all children to have a tranquil area or garden within their school that will engage their senses, inspire creativity and give them space for quiet and reflection.
Fri 28	Lord, we rejoice with residents in care homes as visiting restrictions are gradually relaxed, this month remembering especially our young people and younger adults receiving residential care. Where changed patterns of contact have caused anxiety, pain and misunderstanding, bring your healing, Lord, we pray, that the visits of loved ones may bring joy, hope and reconnection.
Sat 29	As we go about our domestic tasks this week, cooking, cleaning, washing dishes and laundry, and perhaps singing along to music while we do so, we pause in gratitude for all we have that makes our lives easier and more enjoyable and remember those who live without the things it can be easy to take for granted.
Sun 30	God in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – we worship you. As we rejoice in your blessed mystery this Trinity Sunday, draw us deeper into your love so that we find ourselves truly united with you: to be your worthy children, your dedicated ambassadors, and inheritors of the promises of your Kingdom.
Mon 31	Father, this month traditionally belongs to St Mary our patron. May our hearts leap with joy and our spirits rejoice in you, O God our saviour, and like Our Lady, may we be channels of your grace. “Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth	