



**St. Mary's**  
Warwick's Church of Treasures

# August 2021

## 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 flexibly as you pray and to share prayer(s) with others. The **blue country names** remind us of countries at various stages of their Covid-19 journey. You're warmly invited to send ideas for September's diary, ideally by **5<sup>th</sup> August**, to [prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto: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 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).

### Sun 1

**The Ninth Sunday  
after Trinity**

...Fiji

Lord God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we give thanks for our local parks and green spaces, which have been a life-line for so many during the pandemic, and ask you to bless all who tend and tidy them. We pray for Matt Western and other members of the Parks and Green Spaces All-Party Parliamentary Group as they look to address issues such as funding, access, climate change and biodiversity: may their voices be heard.

### Mon 2

Seychelles  
Martinique  
Taiwan  
Togo  
Tajikistan

As the remaining NATO allied forces withdraw from Afghanistan, we pray for a country that has been torn apart by conflict. Wrap your loving arms around all who have lost loved ones and surround with your healing wings those who have suffered life-changing injuries. As they leave their Homeland, we pray for the safety of the 1800 Afghans who worked as interpreters for the British Army. Open the heart of our nation, that all who need it may receive a warm welcome in the UK.

### Tue 3

Mali  
Andorra  
Belize  
Bahamas

Heavenly Father, as we receive our daily bread, we remember the Make Lunch holiday projects cautiously resuming at Chase Meadow Community Centre (Tuesdays) and St Paul's Church (Fridays), and thank you for the hard work of the volunteers who are making this possible. We pray for pre-pandemic families returning, and ask that families who received food parcels in lockdown will be bold enough to come, and 'taste and see' that you are good.

### Wed 4

Burkina Faso

We pray for all who are returning to workplace life after months working from home. May it be a time of reconnection, affirmation and compassion as people adjust to a new dynamic.

### Thu 5

Curaçao  
Congo  
Lesotho  
Hong Kong

On National Play Day, we remember the children with additional needs who are sometimes left on the side-lines. We give thanks for the grant from Children in Need, enabling ILEAP and Racing Club Warwick to join forces, to teach children with additional needs to play football. May all taking part have fun while they exercise and enjoy making new friends as their confidence grows.

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**Fri 6**

Djibouti  
Aruba  
South Sudan

75 years after the introduction of Family Allowance and the Nursery Milk Scheme to help ensure that children could be looked after properly, we pray for all families and children who do not have enough to eat. Strengthen and bless John Wilcock as he roller skates 90 laps of the courtyard where he lives to raise £50,000 for FareShare before his 90th birthday in January.

**Sat 7**

Timor-Leste  
Nicaragua

As Marks & Spencer prepares to leave premises in Warwick and Leamington town centres, we ask for your blessing on the staff moving with them and those who are retiring. We remember customers who were able to walk to the store or travel there by bus and pray that they will find a convenient alternative.

**Sun 8**

The Tenth Sunday  
after Trinity

On their wedding day at St Mary's, we give thanks for your gift of love between Ben and Bethany. Bless their marriage, that through your grace they may be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as you in Christ have forgiven us all. And, seeking always to build each other up, may they live in love from this day forward.

**Mon 9**

Mary Sumner  
Equatorial Guinea

With Mothers' Union members around the world, we celebrate A Summer of Hope to mark 145 years of the movement's activity. As members locally pick up 145 pieces of litter, may each pound raised boost the funds of Away From It All, to provide breaks and outings for families in need. May these breaks from the stresses and strains of life bring love and laughter into their midst.

**Tue 10**

Channel Islands  
Benin

Father God, we pray for all students receiving grades this month from courses and exams taken and assessments made in very challenging circumstances. Help them ride above any unhelpful media commentary and, whether celebrating or sorrowing, take their next steps along the roads you have planned for them.

**Wed 11**

Gambia  
Central African  
Republic

Lord of all creation, as National Allotments Week continues, we give you thanks for the sanctuary, companionship, purpose and healing that allotments have offered to many this last year. We remember especially the satisfaction experienced by those who have started to grow food, and the sense of community strengthened by those who have shared their produce.

**Thu 12**

Yemen

On International Youth Day, we pray for our young people whose lives have been so disrupted during the last year. We remember especially those who have lost their way and are finding it difficult to get back on track: be their compass and guide.

**Fri 13**

Florence Nightingale

Lord of Life, with thankful hearts we pray for all who lift high the lantern of your love as they tend those who are suffering. Fill us with your spirit of compassion, that we too may be bringers of your light to those you entrust to our care each day.

**Sat 14**

Eritrea

On the eve of VJ Day, we remember with gratitude the courage of our Allied Forces and reflect in sorrow on all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace. Lord, let bitter memories be healed and let our hearts be filled with a longing for the unity of all nations.

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**Sun 15**

Blessed Virgin Mary  
**The 11th Sunday  
after Trinity**

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that all who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Mon 16**

Sierra Leone

God of healing, we thank you for the recently opened Priory Medical Centre and for all whose labours funded, designed, built, decorated and furnished it. Bless its staff and patients as they offer and benefit from services made possible by the new premises.

**Tue 17**

Burundi  
Niger  
Saint Lucia  
Liberia

As many enjoy messing about on the river or taking a slower journey along the canals, we give thanks for The Canal & River Trust, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and Surfers Against Sewage, who are working together to keep our waters clean. Locally we pray for Warwick Boats in St Nick's Park and those who work at Hatton Locks, remembering the new volunteers who give their time to help the Lock Keepers and canal users.

**Wed 18**

San Marino  
Chad  
Gibraltar

While we offer thanks and praise for the many blessings that we receive, we remember that Scripture is also interwoven with the language of lament and that just as Jesus himself wept, so too he is willing to accept our tears and comfort us. Lord God, give us eyes that see those whose hearts are full of sadness, ears to listen to them and arms to reach out to console them.

**Thu 19**

Laos  
Barbados  
Guinea-Bissau  
Isle of Man

On **World Humanitarian Day**, we give thanks for those who have committed their lives to helping others, whatever challenges they face. Among the #RealLifeHeroes we pray for those treating and preventing Covid-19, providing food to vulnerable people in need, providing safe spaces for women and girls in lockdown; delivering babies; fighting locusts and running refugee camps, all amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Fri 20**

Comoros

As the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill makes its way through Parliament, we pray that it will receive discerning and impartial scrutiny, that freedoms may be upheld and withheld appropriately, protecting human rights in accordance with your will.

**Sat 21**

Mauritius

Faithful God, we pray for all marrying this month, remembering especially Jess and Ian whose wedding is at St Mary's today. May your everlasting love shine on and through them, that their marriage may be long, strong and full of joy.

**Sun 22**

**The 12th Sunday  
after Trinity**

Iceland

Heavenly Father, we give thanks that baptism ceremonies can be celebrated once more, and remember all who have had to wait for this sacrament for their children or themselves. At St Mary's we ask for your blessing on Finn, who is being christened today and pray that as he continues on his journey he will grow closer to you and go from strength to strength.

## Mon 23

New Zealand  
Monaco

Lord God, who gives us voices to praise your name and to encourage others, we give thanks for St Mary's choirs' voice camp 'staycation' this week. Bless and inspire the choristers as they reconnect with each other personally and socially, reunite with singers on the back row, review formerly familiar repertoire and rehearse new music together, for your greater glory.

## Tue 24

Sint Maarten

Although far away, we raise a loud cheer for all involved in the 2021 Paralympics, praying that they may remain Covid-free and that athletes may be able to compete in the events they have trained so hard for and in such challenging times.

## Wed 25

We pray for all who live and work in Lyttelton Road, Ladbroke Park, Oken Road, Lock Lane, Millers Road and St Mary's Close. You know all their needs, Lord: give them this day their daily bread.

## Thu 26

Bhutan  
Saint Martin  
Tanzania

As we pray for the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia we thank you for their vocation and pray for Sisters from all the Houses as they make arrangements for their annual Chapter, to make decisions about their future work. Bless the preparations for their 75th anniversary celebrations on their Patronal Festival next month, as the Sisters get ready for this big event.

## Fri 27

São Tomé and  
Príncipe  
Turks and Calcos

Lord, who gives us voices to proclaim your good news from generation to generation, we remember with thanks St Mary's choirs as they prepare and sing services at St Mary Immaculate today and Coventry Cathedral tomorrow. Deepen their sense of being part of a greater tradition of meaningful music ministry and develop an awareness of their essential missional role.

## Sat 28

Loving God, help us take time today to notice where you have been in our day, our week, our month and to give thanks...

## Sun 29

The 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
after Trinity

*My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. (Song of Songs 2.9)*  
As we reflect on today's reading, loving Lord, help us identify any walls or lattices in our lives that prevent us from seeing you clearly and recognising your voice as you call to us to come and follow you.

## Mon 30

British Virgin  
Islands

On the very last night of watching for Bats in Churches, we give thanks for all creatures great and small. Along with all who took part in the Churches Count on Nature initiative in June, help us treasure the wild areas in our churchyards. We pray that these will become quiet spaces where many are drawn to give thanks for creation and to encounter the Creator.

## Tue 31

St. Vincent  
Grenadines  
Bermuda...

As protective scaffolding is erected around the lower part of St Mary's tower, we pray for the safety of those carrying out the work. We give thanks for the support of County, District and Town Councils, as well as the Chamber of Trade and CJ's Events in helping keep disruption to a minimum and we remember all who will be inconvenienced by the road closures.