

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. The **green country names** remind us of countries at various stages of their Covid-19 journey. **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 below). Please send requests and ideas for October's diary, ideally by **10th September**, to prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk or 07799 682872.

Wed 1

...Somalia
Antigua & Barbuda

O God, as the air is filled with the joyous sound of church bells, we pray for the Warwick Band beginning a new term. We are thankful for their skills, lifting spirits and reminding all who hear them of the communities of Christian faith at the heart of our town.

Thu 2

Brunei
Greenland
USA

Loving Father, as schools prepare for the start of the new academic year, we pray that all children will feel safe, valued, and enthusiastic to learn. Inspire and guide all special needs teams who seek to ensure that every child's needs are met within nurturing and inclusive learning environments. May peace and mental well-being be restored where there has been fear and stress after the tribulations of lockdown.

Fri 3

Brazil
Russia
France

As the night clubs reopen and Leamington streets are filled with the joy of young people, we pray for The Street Pastors offering help, without judgement, in any situation. As the team sit quietly with individuals on the kerbside, handing out bottles of water, flip-flops or arranging taxis home, may your love shine brightly with the starlight on all who are on our streets during the early hours of the morning.

Sat 4

UK
Turkey

As Warwick Castle's Biggest Summer in History draws to a close, we give thanks for the castle team and all they do to entertain and educate visitors, to preserve stories of the past and, through local community projects and Merlin's Magic Wand charity, to rewrite the present and future of children and families facing adversity.

Sun 5

14th after Trinity

Faithful God, we give thanks that you are present in the rhythm and seasons of our lives, the significant events and the day to day. Bless Anastasia, Lottie and George as they are baptized at St Mary's, gently drawing them to know you for themselves.

Mon 6

Argentina
Colombia
Spain

"Feed my sheep." (Jn 21.17) As Coventry Diocese launches **EquipHub** today, we give thanks for all involved in its development. We pray for the mentors and leaders who will be telling the Good News through various growing faith initiatives and pray that many lay people will feel curious and inspired to open the windows, and open their hearts, into a renewed relationship with you, our living God.

Tue 7

Italy

Most loving God, grant comfort and healing to all who struggle with mental health difficulties. Especially at this time, help the many young people in need – to speak out and be heard, to access the help they need, and not feel stigmatised.

Wed 8

Birth of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

On the commemoration of the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we remember the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia as they celebrate their 75th anniversary on their Community Day. We pray for Sisters making Vows, and for all Sisters as they rededicate themselves to your service: Lord, give them joy and purpose in the work you have called them to do.

Thu 9

Iran
Germany
Slovakia

Lord Jesus, who taught your followers wherever they were, from synagogues to supper tables, we pray for all who accept your invitation to sit with them at your feet, remembering especially those starting a new term of **Spiritual Formation**, and members of St Mary's Bible Study Group. May they renew their life in you and grow in intimacy with God and each other.

Fri 10

Indonesia
Mexico

Generous God, we give you thanks for the beauty of Warwickshire, with its wonderful historical buildings that attract visitors from all over the world. We pray for all who will be opening their doors for Heritage Open Days: bless and protect them as they share with all the structures and the stories they hold in trust.

Sat 11

Poland
South Africa
Ukraine
Peru
Netherlands
Iraq

20 years since Al-Qaeda mounted terrorist attacks on key targets in the USA, we remember the 2,996 people killed, and pray for the 6,000 who were injured and thousands more worldwide whose lives have been reshaped indirectly by the repercussions. As the Imperial War Museum mounts exhibitions to mark the 20th anniversary, and many born since 9/11 now hear of its events for the first time, we renew our prayer for compassion, peace and reconciliation. During the moments of silence observed today, Lord, hear our prayer.

Sun 12

15th Sunday
after Trinity

Living Lord, who walks beside us all, we pray for those taking part in the Sky Walk raising funds for the orthopaedic team at Warwick Hospital. As they all Walk A Mile With A Smile, we give thanks for the team who mend broken bones and give patients with new hips and knees a new lease of life.

Mon 13

Czechia
Philippines
Chile
Canada

O God, our help in ages past, while people visit The National Memorial Arboretum's Greek Gardens this summer, we pray with veterans and families who attended Saturday's service to mark the 80th anniversary of the 1941 Greek Campaign. We remember the people of Kalamata and veterans from the UK, Australia and New Zealand who fought that Greece might be free. May they always be remembered with honour, pride and gratitude.

Tue 14

Holy Cross Day

Father, may we always hold the Holy Cross deep in our hearts, as more than a mere symbol of our faith. We praise you, knowing that the faithful cross, as it bore Christ's body from life to death, became the means by which the world might be brought from death to life.

Wed 15

Bangladesh
Malaysia
Belgium

We pray for all who have suffered when surgery goes wrong and give thanks for those who persevere in their efforts to get things put right. We especially remember the women who have suffered from complications of pelvic mesh surgery: ease their pain as they are offered procedures to remove the mesh and may they be cared for with tenderness and understanding.

Thu 16

Sweden
Romania

Faithful God, as **Jeans for Genes Week** continues, help us climb mountains in prayer alongside seven-year-old Chloe and her dad, who are climbing Mount Snowdon to raise funds for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust, supporting others who are living like she is, with this life-limiting condition. Bless their endeavours to reach the summit and raise their target.

Fri 17

Hildegard of
Bingen
Pakistan

Today we pray for people who live, work and worship in Cape Court, Saltisford, St Christopher's Close, Upper Cape, Lower Cape and Sir Thomas White Close. Bless them, Lord, as they go about their daily tasks, and on this feast day of medieval mystic, musician and polymath Hildegard of Bingen, we pray that they too may discover the music of Heaven in all things.

Sat 18

Japan
Portugal

As choristers and supporters past and present gather to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of St Mary's Girls' Choir, we give thanks for the vision and determination that started and has sustained it, for worship enriched, services sung, faith grounded, friendships formed and futures shaped.

Sun 19

The 16th Sunday
after Trinity
Israel

At a time when many people are still unable to come to church, we give thanks for 100 years of the Mothers' Union Indoor Members Prayer Circle, that enables members to pray together apart with shared intentions. Guide the MU team who are exploring ways to better serve and support these faithful, stoical, caring Indoor Members as they stand firm in one spirit to pray for the continuing work of the MU in all its many guises.

Mon 20

Hungary
Jordan

Loving God, Healer and Comforter, we pray for those who live with the anxiety, ambiguity and confusion of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Look with mercy upon their distress, confusion or isolation. Shelter them where dignity and peace abound. Grant them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help.

Tue 21

Thailand
Switzerland

As HS2 continues to progress through the countryside we remember the loss of vital buildings as well as the impact on wildlife habitats. We pray that **Helping Hands** may be successful in their quest to find new storage units for the larger items donated for its Home 2 Home Project.

Wed 22

Serbia
Nepal

We give thanks for all who accept the invitation to become trustees of organisations and charities, sharing their time, skills and knowledge to support and shape a shared mission. We lift up to you all church PCCs, and especially St Mary's PCC meeting tonight. Guide their deliberations and their decisions.

Thu 23

Morocco
UAE

Steadfast God, may all those married around this time, especially Maria and Alex, know enduring joy and faithfulness in each other, comforted by your own faithfulness during the recent delays and postponements. May the world resound to the love they share, which is a sign of your grace.

Fri 24

Austria

God With Us, we remember today all who are journeying with cancer and ask you to give them reassurance that they do not travel alone. We give thanks especially for Macmillan Cancer Support as they strive to do whatever it takes to help.

Sat 25

Kazakhstan
Tunisia
Lebanon
Saudi Arabia
Greece

As Armonico Consort performs its 20th Birthday concert in St Mary's, we give thanks for the organisation and its long association with this place. We praise you for the pleasure their concerts have brought and rejoice in their outreach work with children's choirs, encouraging young singers and establishing workplace choirs. Bless their latest project to share the healing power of music with people living with dementia, remembering especially residents of Park View, Woodside Care Village and members of the new Warwick Memory Choir.

Sun 26

The 17th Sunday
after Trinity

Ecuador
Bolivia

This harvest-tide we pray with gratitude for farmers everywhere, who work so hard to produce the food we eat. Guide and sustain them through the ever-changing scenes of rural life – weather patterns, subsidy structures and the search for sustainability. We pray for all who, after a long life in farming, are facing the greatest change of accepting government incentives to pass on farms to the next generation. Bless them as they adjust to new homes and ways of life and grant them fulfilment in whatever their future brings.

Mon 27

Cuba
Paraguay

Inspire with the love of learning, dear Lord, all those involved in Further and Higher Education, especially students and staff at our University of Warwick. Give clear minds and confident hearts to the new students beginning their courses, making it a time of integrity, connection and respectful discovering.

Tue 28

Belarus
Georgia
Panama

"I will make you fishers of men." (Mt. 4.19) Transforming God, we thank you for all those who have been attentive to your call to study for ordination. Bless them, guide them, sustain and inspire them, that they might grow in love and wisdom to become your faithful servants. We pray especially for our own Nick Edwards as he starts his training at Ripon College.

Wed 29

Michael & All Angels

Father in heaven, who gives your angels charge over those who trust in you, to guard them in all their ways, we pray that the government's new national strategy to ensure that women and girls can feel safe wherever they are may work far and deep.

Thu 30

Bulgaria
Costa Rica
Kuwait...

Lord, as they make their commitment to each other today, we pray for your rich blessings on Grace and Stuart for all the years of their marriage. May their love for each other flourish and mature, inspired and strengthened by the Love Divine. May their loving relationship bring comfort and happiness to their families, friends and community.