

Thank you for using these daily prayers to support our local, national and global communities through prayer, and thank you to everyone who has shared suggestions or written prayers this month. The **blue 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 January's diary, ideally by **5<sup>th</sup> December**, to [prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk](mailto:prayerdiary@stmaryswarwick.org.uk) or 07799 682872.

### Wed 1

...USA  
Russia  
UK  
Germany  
Ukraine

On **World AIDS Day**, we remember the 38 million people worldwide who are living with HIV and the 35 million people who have died from AIDS or HIV-related illnesses. We thank you for friends, families and individuals who overcame fear and ignorance to offer support to those who were shunned by society. 40 years after the first reported cases of HIV-related illnesses and deaths, we give thanks for a greater understanding and for new treatments giving hope for the future. Bless all efforts to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

### Thu 2

Netherlands  
Poland

Loving God, we ask for your blessing on the **St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival**. May it bring your joy into the hearts and lives of the schoolchildren, teachers, carers and care home residents who are visiting it today. As each tree shines with many lights, so may your light fill us with love this Christmas.

### Fri 3

Turkey  
Mexico  
Belgium

On the **International Day of People with Disabilities**, we give thanks for the changes that have occurred since the Disability Discrimination Act was passed 20 years ago. As the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower scheme opens our eyes to the needs of those around us, we remember with thanks all our local support groups and pray that positive change will come to those who live in places where children with disabilities are still rejected by families and local communities.

### Sat 4

France  
Honduras

God of hospitality, as The Gap welcomes the local community to their Christmas Fayre, we give thanks for happy times. As St Mary's seasonal Café pops up once again, we pray that visitors enjoying tea, cake and fellowship amid the twinkling trees will experience a foretaste of the nourishment and communion to be found in you.

### Sun 5

**The Second  
Sunday in Advent**

On **International Volunteer Day**, we give thanks for the Warwick Lions Club, which has been serving the community for 60 years. As they collect food for Christmas parcels, we pray that these will bring tidings of joy to all who receive them. We pray too for new volunteers to come forward to continue the long-held traditions.

## Mon 6

Czechia

Heavenly Father, whose mansion has many rooms, as the doors on Advent calendars are eagerly opened, we remember all whose current life experience is of closed doors, and we pray especially for people who are living on the streets.

## Tue 7

Vietnam

Brazil

Norway

On the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, we stand in prayer alongside those gathering to remember the 2,403 people who died and those who were injured. May the chosen themes of Valour, Sacrifice and Peace reach the hearts of younger generations, inspiring us all to move forward to a time of reconciliation, where war is no more.

## Wed 8

Italy

O God, who gave us music as one of many languages in which to worship and honour you, we pray for all musicians preparing to share the Christmas message both in church and outside it. Keep them healthy in body, sharp in mind and attentive in spirit.

## Thu 9

Hungary

Austria

Lord God, whose son addressed multitudes yet whose words held a personal message for each heart, we pray for all attending school carol services and concerts in churches across the land. Meet each person where they are on their journey, drawing them further into the Christmas mystery, heaven touching earth.

## Fri 10

Iran

In this busiest season, we offer thanks and pray for all involved in church ministry and for their families. Fill them each morning with your strength and purpose and each evening with your peace, for in you 'we live and move and have our being'. (Acts 17.28)

## Sat 11

Finland

India

Spain

As The Quilt of Hope, stitched by many local sewers, is displayed in Radford Church, we give thanks that even in the darkest hour there is always the promise of hope for the future. We thank you for the many ways people continue to find comfort in these difficult times, and pray that the Quilt will itself be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all who see it.

## Sun 12

Third Sunday  
in Advent

While red-suited runners pound the pavements of Warwick to raise money for the Myton Hospices, we give thanks for all the seasonal acts inspired by the generosity of St Nicholas. May all who give of their time, skills, energy and money discover your true freedom to be found in a generous heart.

## Mon 13

Ireland

Switzerland

*'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'* (Luke 3.11) Lord God, as we have freely received, help us to freely give. Show us where we can work day by day for justice and equality, nationally and globally, to hasten the day when each person has everything they need and nothing from greed.

## Tue 14

Bulgaria

Slovakia

Thailand

At a time of year when the cost of seasonal celebrations adds to the financial pressure faced by many, we pray for all who are struggling to make ends meet and do not have money to spare for presents or festive fare. We remember especially those who are in debt, and those who feel unable to trust and use allowances they are entitled to and have been given.

## Wed 15

Greece  
Malaysia

As we enjoy Advent and Christmas music at concerts, carol services and on the radio, open our ears and our hearts to hear the voices of angels. We pray for all who listen to the shortlisted Radio 3 Christmas Carol Competition settings of 'Love Came Down at Christmas': may the music carry Rossetti's words of hope and comfort deep within.

## Thu 16

Bosnia &  
Herzegovina  
Chile  
Mongolia

God of all, while Christmas cards are written and sent, we remember those who will not receive a card or greeting this year and pray they may know that they are never overlooked by you. We give thanks for local Amnesty groups sending cards to political prisoners and the Mothers' Union who are sending cards to prisoners and charities for the homeless, and encouraging us all to send a card to someone living on the street.

## Fri 17

Serbia  
Algeria

Loving God, we hold up to you all who have an empty place at the table and an ache in their hearts. We thank you for the comfort of cherished memories and bring before you the unhealed wounds, unfinished conversations and unfulfilled dreams, trusting that in you all things are perfected and made whole.

## Sat 18

Denmark

Loving Father, in a season that brings particular pleasure to the young, we pray for the many children who are in need, facing hunger, neglect, cruelty and abuse. May your love be made known to them through all who work to ease their distress.

## Sun 19

**The Fourth  
Sunday in Advent**

*'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.'* (Luke 1.38) Eternal Lord, in the season when the story of Jesus' birth is heard once more, we give thanks for all whose lives reflect the response of Mary. With special thanks we ask for your blessing on the **CMM Sisters** in Tanzania and Zambia. May we, like them, live each day as a willing 'yes' in your service.

## Mon 20

Romania  
Rwanda  
Portugal

At a time of year when some dreams really do come true, we give thanks for all who use whatever influence they have to help others. We think especially today of Triumph engineer Norman Hyde, who, with the support of sponsors at Triumph, crowd-funders and other donors, helped to make injured Gulf War veteran Simon Weston's dream of riding his own Triumph Trike become a reality.

## Tue 21

Ecuador  
Georgia  
Jordan

Ever-present God, we pray for all who are travelling to visit loved ones and friends this Christmas season, especially those who have been separated for a long time by the pandemic. Whether they are crossing the road or crossing the globe, watch over their journeys and bless their reunions. May this be a time of joy, thanksgiving and reconnection.

## Wed 22

Slovenia  
South Korea  
Egypt

We pray for all who are nearing the end of their journey, that as the familiar light of this world dims, the radiant light of your presence will shine like a beacon to guide them home. Gracious God, hear the whispered yearnings of the hardest hearts. Comfort all who call out to you. Ease their suffering, heal what needs to be healed and bring them into your eternal peace.

## Thu 23

Croatia  
Colombia  
Libya  
Sweden

Father God, as we contemplate the events surrounding Jesus' birth, we give thanks for our own Midwifery and Maternity services and pray for midwives and mothers affected by the shortage of staff and the availability of services. We remember especially mothers and babies with ongoing problems as a result of traumatic births and pray for physical and emotional healing. Draw close to all whose time is near, give them strength for the task ahead and bring joy into their arms and their hearts.

## Fri 24

**Christmas Eve**  
Azerbaijan

Holy God, bless all who are gathering in person, online, through broadcasts, or alone and in spirit to worship you and celebrate Jesus' birth. With thanks we pray for those whose celebrations will be arranged around their ministrations to others, in hospitals and care homes, prisons, shelters, shops and hospitality venues, as well as those in the emergency services and other essential roles.

## Sat 25

**Christmas Day**  
Uganda  
Lebanon  
Kazakhstan

The Word made flesh,  
Earth gave you a stable, the skies a star,  
Angels gave music of hope and praise.  
May we share the quiet joy of Mary  
and keep all these things  
and ponder them  
in our hearts.  
Amen.

## Sun 26

St Stephen

O God, we give thanks for the life and legacy of Stephen, deacon of the early church and its first martyr. We pray for our faith to be so strengthened and our hearts so expanded that we, too, can pray for forgiveness for those who cause hurt – to us, or to those we love.

## Mon 27

Be with us, Lord, as we meditate on the packaging of Christmas and the cost at which it comes. Draw us into deeper contemplation of our own packaging, its price and its effect on others and the treasure within.

## Tue 28

Holy Innocents  
Canada

Father of peace, in the still moments of today, when silence may recall loss and darkness summon tears, we remember the Holy Innocents. We pray for child victims of violence and for those affected by the death of a child. Welcome home your dearest treasures and help us protect those who are vulnerable and comfort those who are mourning.

## Wed 29

Bolivia

Loving Father, as the fifth cycle of virtual prayer walks around St Mary's parish draws to its conclusion, we pray for your blessing on all who live, work and travel in Harris Road, Haywood Road, Broxell Close, Wedgnock Lane, Banner Hill and Rouncil Lane.

## Thu 30

Faithful God, we pray for all couples solemnizing vows of union this month, remembering especially Lucy and Owen as they marry at St Mary's today. May their shared life be a source of strength and joy.

## Fri 31

Estonia  
South Africa...

Everlasting God, we lay before you all that we have been, done and experienced this past year. Thank you for being there in those difficult moments, and for the times you revealed the joyful possibilities of life. Sanctify our hopes and dreams for the coming year in the boundless blessings of your love.