

## **PRAYING THE WAY (WEBSITE)**

May 2020

At these difficult and unprecedented times we feel that prayer is vitally important and that we need to continually to seek the Lord to petition him and seek his guidance, comfort, protection and assurance. At the time of writing it is mid April so as things change daily we are not sure what it will be like in May.

The prayers will reflect our situation rather than for individual parishes as we are aware that many activities and events that have been planned will not be able to take place. The prayers we hope will reflect the needs of the times and the world. (They are not in any particular order.)

**May God in His mercy lead us through these times but above all may He lead us to Himself.**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer.**

Father God we give thanks that you have promised that you will never leave us nor forsake us and that you will always be with us.

We thank you that you are in control and that you know the bigger picture at these times of uncertainty help us to trust in you, to place our hands into yours knowing that you will lead us and guide us through these times of darkness and sorrow to that place of rest, light and hope.

**A collect for our time:**

**'Heavenly Father, our ever-present help in trouble, our fortress and our God: calm the anxious fears of all who turn to you; give strength and healing to those who are sick and courage and skill to those who care for them; grant wisdom and clarity to those in authority; and humble us all to call upon you that we may be saved not only in this life but also for that which is to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'**

**A prayer for the Book of Common Prayer:**

**'We most humbly beseech you, O Lord, to comfort and strengthen all those who in this life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity.**

**And we bless your holy name for all your servants who have died in your faith and fear.**

**Give us grace to follow their good examples so that with them we may inherit your eternal kingdom. Grant this O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. Amen'**

Give thanks for modern technology which has enabled people to remain connected to families and friends; for people to be able to work from home and access many of online shopping at this time of lock down against the COVID 19 virus.

Give thanks that through programmes like zoom, Facebook and Youtube the church is able to stream services and the Word of God is proclaimed to those through the internet.

Give thanks that the services over the Easter season were seen and listened to by many thousands of people. Pray that through it many will come to know the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour and reach out to those who may never enter a church building.

Give thanks that the church of our Lord is alive and active showing the light and love of our Lord Jesus.

Give thanks for the unstinting work of our frontline NHS workers as they strive to battle against the COVID 19 virus. Give thanks for the many who have sacrificed their lives for the good of others. Continue to pray for them, for God's protection in all that they do.

Give thanks for the many volunteers who are helping in their communities, reaching out the elderly, the lonely, those in isolation; that through this crisis the strong sense of community, which has been lost over the years, has been rediscovered.

Give thanks for all key workers who are helping to keep the country supplied in the many various ways; for the police, and emergency services, for the electricity, gas, water suppliers, for those in education, for all transport and others who can think of not mentioned.

Pray for all these 'Front line workers' that they will be kept safe from COVID 19.

Bless all these people and their families as they work for our communities.

Pray for all those struggling physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally from 'isolation' from families, friends and church.

Pray for protection for those who may be in relationships or situations where they may be abused or open to abuse, ask the Lord to pour his protective loving spirit upon them and guide them to where they may seek help and comfort.

Pray for all the Pastoral Teams and more mobile members for all our church families who are maintaining contact with the most isolated members of the church families and communities.

Pray for all the Communications Teams who are increasing the input they have with the more technologically minded members of the church families through You Tube, Twitter, Zoom, Facetime/book and website to enable people and communities to stay in touch and to be spiritually fed.

Pray for all who are responsible for preparing and leading virtual services through modern technology, pray that those who may never enter a church building will be drawn into the services online.

Pray that through this we would learn how to make the most of the new ways of worshipping necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic for all our parish missions.

Father we are very conscious that as a world we have been going our own way

neglecting you and your precious creation, pray that through this the eyes of all those in authority whether in business, government, terrorists etc will be opened to the ways of the injustices and greed and that we will turn back to you Father God

'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal the land' 2 Chronicles 7: 14

We pray that as a country we will continue to abide by the guidelines given by the government to help us stop the spread of the virus.

Pray against those selfish people who seem to think that they can flout the directions and so not only putting their lives in danger but those of others and the NHS.

Pray for the government; give wisdom to them and their advisors that they will be guided as to the right course of action for what is best for the common good of the country. Give them your strength and may they know that they are being upheld in prayer.

Pray for those who are suffering from the COVID 19 virus, for those in hospital isolated from their families for the Lord's healing touch; for those who are at home and those who are self-isolating.....(name those you may know)

Pray for those who have lost love ones due to the pandemic or other illnesses, who may not have been able to say goodbye and are struggling in their grief, be close to them and surround them with your peace and comfort.....(name those you may know)

Pray for those who are struggling financially with the lock down, especially those who are self-employed, pray that the systems put in place to help will not take long to implement. Pray that as the church we are will be able to help and support those struggling. Pray for a generous spirit within our land. Pray for all Food Banks and agencies helping those in need.

Pray for the scientists and virologists as they seek to find a vaccine and ways to battle the COVID 19, give them your wisdom and insight and that you will direct them into the right ways.

Pray for all who are anxious about their loved ones having the virus and that the Lord in his gracious mercy will allow this virus to pass, that a vaccine will soon be discovered and that all will have a full recovery.

Pray for plans to lift the lock-down, give guidance to the government and medical advisors as to the best way to do this.

Pray for Thy Kingdom come prayer initiative for 21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May. Although we may still not be able to meet and churches may not be open pray that you will give creative and inspiring ways to enable us all to pray for those we know who do not know the Lord Jesus yet.

Pray for all charities that will be struggling for their finances at this time and especially Christian Aid who is blessed each year with their door-to-door collections, which may

not be able to take place. Please prompt people to give as they can to the charities they support so that vital and important work can still continue.

Pray for the elderly and vulnerable who may not have skills and access the internet and for whom may have been isolating for several weeks, pray that people will come along side them and help. Pray against an increase in mental health issues and loss of mobility.

Pray for all other countries in the world as they seek to fight against the COVID 19 virus.

Lift especially those areas of the world where there is poverty, over-crowding, lack of medical facilities, for all those in refugee and displaced persons camps where the virus would spread so quickly, for the migrant camps and those areas suffering badly from climate change.

As we are thankful for our NHS please cry out to the Lord for these areas of the world who are not as fortunate as we are. Allow the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any area on your heart.

Pray that through this time all those areas of the world where there is conflict that they will cease and join together to fight the battle against the CIVID 19 virus.

Pray for all the Care Homes in our Diocese and all those who work there that they may be kept safe and for the residents especially those with dementia and those who are unable to see their families. Pray for those homes where we have had contact but unable to visit, for the work and ministry of Anna Chaplains and Friends.

Pray that the light of Christ would shine brightly as we show God's love one-to-one in new ways and that many will be drawn to Christ.

Pray for all church leaders, that they may continue to pastor, teach and guide their congregations, uphold and protect them and continue to give them all that they need to care for their flocks and the communities in which they serve.

Pray for all the parishes in our Diocese that are in an interregnum at present, for help and guidance to the leaders and that the God will be preparing the hearts of those he wants to fill the vacancies: Chevening St Botolph, Otford, St Bartholomew, Riverhead, St Mary; Riverhead with Dunton Green, St Mary; Sevenoaks St Luke; Crockenhill All Saints and any others known to you.

Pray for our link Dioceses in Tanzania and Zimbabwe and others that the Lord will provide for all their needs

These prayers are a guide, please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you and to seek the Lord's face at this difficult time rejoicing and giving thanks that He is God and He hears our prayers and will answer them in His way and in His time.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.