

SUNDAY PRAYERS

22nd March 2020



St Nicolas
NEWBURY

Being Good News. Bringing Good News.

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.
Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- ³ though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.
- ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.

⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.
⁸ Come and see what the LORD has done,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
⁹ He makes wars cease
to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
¹⁰ He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.'
¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

HEBREWS 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings,

having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Joy Mawdesley's sermon on this passage can be found [here](#).

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION adapted from a prayer by Pete Greig & 24-7 Prayer
(There is an alternative prayer activity on page 6 of this booklet)

Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to protect us from the spread of the coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful let this be our prayer –

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. Psalm 57:1

Lord of Peace, we remember those living in coronavirus hotspots and those currently in isolation. May they know your presence in their isolation, your peace in their turmoil and your patience in their waiting. Prince of Peace, you are powerful and merciful; let this be their prayer –

May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. Psalm 79:8

God of all Comfort and Counsel, we pray for those who are grieving, reeling from the sudden loss of loved ones. May they find your fellowship in their suffering, your comfort in their loss, and your hope in their despair. We name before you those known to us who are vulnerable and scared - the frail, the sick and the elderly.....
God of all Comfort, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. 2 Corinthians 1:10

God who heals, we pray for all medical professionals dealing daily with the intense pressures of this crisis. Grant them resilience in weariness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion upon compassion as they care. We thank you for the army of researchers working steadily and quietly towards a cure - give them clarity, serendipity and unexpected breakthrough today. Would you rise above this present

darkness as the Sun of Righteousness with healing in your rays. May this be our prayer –

Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. Jeremiah 32:17

God of all Wisdom, we pray for our leaders: the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders too - heads of schools, hospitals and other institutions. Since you have positioned these people in public service for this hour, we ask you to grant them wisdom beyond their own wisdom to contain this virus, faith beyond their own faith to fight this fear, and strength beyond their own strength to sustain vital institutions through this time of turmoil. God of all Wisdom and Counsel, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer –

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. Psalm 46:1-2

Bless us with the words of Psalm 91: “Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.” (Psalm. 91:3-7)

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. Psalm 4:1

May the Lord God Almighty who loves us protect us. May Jesus Christ, His Son who died for us save us. And may the Holy Spirit who broods over the chaos and fills us with his presence, intercede for us and in us for others at this time.

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4:18

And whilst the coronavirus is on the top of everyone’s minds, Lord help us not to forget other troubles and needs around the world.

Loving Father, we pray for all refugees in and around Syria, the Middle East, and Sub-Saharan Africa. You see refugees’ needs with a tender heart. Just as You sustained the Israelites in the desert and fed the 5,000 with just a few loaves and fish, bring the displaced exactly what they need each day to survive. Comfort them as they struggle,

and nourish their souls with renewed hope each morning. Guide them to places where they can find help and rest.

We also pray for children affected by conflict or abuse. Each child is precious to You. Protect their little bodies from danger and bring healing to those already sick. Keep them away predatory adults who are looking to harm or profit from them. Bring loving adults to watch and nurture them as they survive the harsh realities in which they live. Lord, our hearts ache for these little ones who, because of displacement, can't go to school. Provide resources to refugee families in miraculous ways so children can get an education and place Your hand of protection over them as they try to learn.

We lift to You our brothers and sisters in Christ suffering persecution, wherever in the world they live. Strengthen them with power through the Spirit and help them to endure and remain faithful, knowing that nothing can separate them from Your love. You are powerful and merciful, let this be our prayer -

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave or free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE GRACE

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

AN ALTERNATIVE PRAYER ACTIVITY

Why not use this time to think differently about how you pray? Consider starting a prayer journal and take time each day to see what God is doing through this difficult and challenging time. Then look back from time to time to see how God has been at work, fulfilling his promises to be with his people throughout all time.

Start by drawing around your hand, and on each finger write something you want to pray for:



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- praise God for who he is
- thank God for something good in your life
- ask for God's help with something
- say sorry to God about something
- ask God to prompt you about something you can do to spread his love and build his kingdom