

SUNDAY PRAYERS

29th 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

O gracious and holy Father,
give us wisdom to perceive you,
diligence to seek you,
patience to wait for you,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
and a life to proclaim you,
through the power of the spirit
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ISAIAH 43:1-3

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you,
O Jacob, he who formed you,
O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

1 JOHN 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

HEBREWS 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(There are alternative prayer activities on page 5 of this booklet)

Living God,

In our hour of need we turn again to you, for we have nowhere else to turn.
We put our faith in you, because you have proved your faithfulness time and again.
We reaffirm our love for you because you have never let us go.
We thank you that you are not distant from us.
but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
He has shared our life, tasted our death and defeated it;
He understands our worries and our fears.

Help us to respond as your children now.
We pray for this pandemic spreading across our world,
remembering all who have lost loved ones,
and praying for those seriously ill at this time.
We uphold the National Health Service,
and pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring professions.
We uphold others trying to understand this virus better,
working to create an effective remedy.

We pray for our Government in Westminster and leaders across the world,
as they work with the best medical advice,
to guide us on how we should respond.
May this crisis bring out the best in us, not the worst.

As the virus spreads we pray for the disruption it causes to normal life,
bringing new fears and anxieties.
We pray for those who have been laid off as their work disappears,
for financial hardship for individuals and businesses.
We remember those who cannot visit loved ones in locked-down care homes,
for the elderly and those living alone whose social contacts have been severely curtailed.

We hold before you refugees and those living with war and persecution,
those whose lives were in danger before the virus struck.
We pray that your light will shine in the darkness,
that they will know your loving arms around them.

Help us to live by faith and not by fear; to build bridges not barriers.
So may our worship be heartfelt, our fellowship deepen,
and our service increase through this time where we are scattered.

God of grace and God of mercy, hear our prayers at this time.
Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that we may
bring encouragement, hope and peace,
always trusting in you our Rock and our Redeemer.
These prayers we bring to you in Jesus' name.
Amen.

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.

ALTERNATIVE PRAYER ACTIVITIES

1: Look back over the last week and think about where you have seen God at work amidst the turmoil. If you started a prayer journal last week (or if you've been using one for longer), then record these things. Write a list, write a poem, draw pictures – be as creative as you want to be!

Remember, it's OK to record your struggles, too – there are plenty of laments in the Bible!

2: Take some sheets of A4 paper and use the template below to create a chain of people. You can make as many as you like! Think about people you know who are in particular need of prayer at this time. Write their names on one of the people you have created.

Use the shape of the person to record what you pray for and any words you may feel would be of encouragement to them. Share these encouragements in whatever ways you are able – over the phone, through the post, or send a photo.

