

Walking the Way

Prayer Handbook 2022



Walking the Way

a daily devotion

Walking the Way Prayer handbook

Introduction

Welcome to your new Walking the Way Prayer handbook.

The handbook is made up of 31 days. When you get to the end of the month just start again. Each day will have a Bible Verse, an area to pray about and a written prayer to guide your prayers. There is also a second historical prayer for you to pray if You choose to.

The prayers are drawn from a wide range of traditions and denominations and the Bible readings are from the New International Version of the Bible, for a list of sources please see the bibliography at the back of this handbook.

Please use this booklet as a guide to help you focus your thoughts and prayers as we continue to pray for and be a witness to those around our Church.

Rev Ray Borrett

Day 1	Pray for your local Church	
<p><u>1 Corinthians 1:10</u></p> <p>I appeal to You, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of You agree with one another in what You say and that there be no divisions among You, but that You be perfectly united in mind and thought.</p>	<p>Loving God, Eternal and unchanging Yet in all ways part of our transformation; You call us to share with You in the changing of the world. Your love calls us to discipleship. Sisters and brothers in Christ. Called to share Your love so that the world is transformed.</p> <p>We pray for our church. The thin place where You meet our communities. Make us good neighbours to everyone we meet, eager to serve You, proclaiming Your Kingdom's love through all that we do.</p> <p>Help us to cope with change, no matter how hard that change may be. We know You will guide us down the right road. Open our eyes to Your vision for our church. Give us a glimpse of Your Kingdom here. We ask this in Jesus' name Amen</p>	
<p><u>Prayer of St Francis of Assisi</u></p> <p><i>Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

<h1>Day 2</h1>	<h2>Pray for your Church young people</h2>	
<p><u>1 Timothy 4:12</u></p> <p>Don't let anyone look down on You because You are Young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.</p>	<p>Dear heavenly Father, how we thank and praise You for our Young people. We ask that You work in the lives of all Young people.</p> <p>Draw ever closer to those who want to know You and we pray that they would grow in grace and in a knowledge of the Lord Jesus in the days that lie ahead. May they learn to walk in spirit and truth and to trust in Your word, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for all their needs and requirements.</p> <p>Keep them from being influenced by the tempting things of the world and protect them from an enemy who would seek to disrupt their walk with You and fellowship with the Father,</p> <p>Give them grace and wisdom as they face the challenges of life, and keep them humble in heart and teachable in spirit and may they learn to look to Jesus</p> <p>Amen</p>	
<p><u>St Patricks Breastplate</u></p> <p><i>I arise today Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, Through the belief in the threeness, Through confession of the oneness Of the Creator of Creation.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

<h1>Day 3</h1>	<p>Pray for your Church's leadership team</p>	
<p><u>2 Timothy 2:15</u></p> <p>Do Your best to present Yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.</p>	<p>Dear Lord, Your word says many things about faithfulness, we pray now for our leadership team that they will continue to be faithful to You and to Your church. Help them to always seek Your direction in their lives and the life of Your church.</p> <p>We pray that they are faithful in all that they do, to their commitments, but most of all we pray that they are always faithful to You in what You would have for them to do to accomplish Your plan.</p> <p>Lord help them to be faithful to proclaim Your name in all the earth. I praise You for this time that I have to offer up my prayer for faithfulness Lord and ask that You grant it in the name of Jesus, Amen.</p>	
<p><u>Prayer of St Richard</u></p> <p><i>Thanks be to You, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which You have given us, for all the pains and insults which You have borne for us.</i></p> <p><i>Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly, day by day. Amen.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

<p>Day 4</p>	<p>Pray for all those who visit the sick or the housebound</p>	
<p><u>Colossians 3:12-14</u> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven You, so You also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.</p>	<p>You have blessed us, O God, with the gift of friendship, the bonding of persons in a circle of love.</p> <p>We thank You for such a blessing: for friends who love us, who share our sorrows, who laugh with us in celebration, who bear our pain, who need us as we need them, who weep as we weep, who hold us when words fail, and who give us the freedom to be ourselves.</p> <p>Bless our friends with health, wholeness, life, and love. Amen.</p>	
<p><u>Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola</u></p> <p><i>Dearest Lord, teach me to be generous; Teach me to serve thee as thou deservest; To give and not to count the cost, To fight and not to seek for rest, To labour and not to seek reward, Save that of knowing that I do thy will.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

<h1>Day 5</h1>	<p>Pray for those providing food and services to those in need</p>	
<p><u>Joshua 1:8</u></p> <p>This Book of the Law shall not depart from Your mouth, but You shall meditate on it day and night, so that You may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then You will make Your way prosperous, and then You will have good success.</p>	<p>Loving God,</p> <p>Jesus ate and while he ate, he taught. How many times did Your son sit at the table with tax collectors and ‘sinners’ and taught them about Your love and grace?</p> <p>We pray for those providing food. We pray that the food would be nourishing.</p> <p>Lord encourage those who are thinking about joining to sign up. Help those preparing and delivering food to seek Your will and Your guidance.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, where two or more are gathered together, You are there and so we ask that You teach those who are there, that they may become closer to You.</p> <p>We commit this time to You. We ask that You bless this time and use it for Your Kingdom.</p> <p>We ask this in Jesus name. Amen</p>	
<p><u>Prayer by Keith Green</u></p> <p><i>Oh Lord, You're beautiful Your face is all I see For when Your eyes are on this child Your grace abounds to me I want to take Your Word and shine it all around But first help me just to live it, Lord And when I'm doing well, help me to never seek a crown For my reward is giving glory to You.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

<h1>Day 6</h1>	<h2>Pray for your local outreach project</h2>	
<p><u>2 Corinthians 12:9</u></p> <p>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for You, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.</p>	<p>Gracious God draw us towards Yourself, that in our busyness we may find space to be still in Your presence, and in Your presence be touched and transformed by Your glory.</p> <p>Ever-present God, as we encounter others, grant that we may glimpse in them Your image and in so doing be changed so as to mirror You to them.</p> <p>Yearning God, stir up within us Your Spirit, that we may echo Your aching for the world and become agents of Your change.</p> <p>Midwife God, deliver us from our self-centredness so as to be liberated as the children of God, bearing witness to Your kingdom breaking forth.</p> <p>Holy God stop us in our tracks to gaze upon Your glory, that we may be changed from one degree of glory to another and be lost in wonder, love and praise.</p>	
<p><u>Prayer by Dionysius of Alexandria</u></p> <p><i>God of all grace, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair and loving beyond all that is loving; grant us to be of one mind in our faith, of one hope in our calling, and of one heart in our loving; through Christ our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	<p><u>Notes</u></p>	

Day 7

Pray for the Bible Study and Fellowship Groups in Church

1 Corinthians 1:10

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Lord,
Thank You for this time You've given us to open Your Word and discover who You are.

Thank You that You don't leave us in the dark about who You are and what You are doing in the world, but that You have revealed Yourself and Your will through the Bible, Your sacred words to us. Lord, we need wisdom as we read Your Word.

You promise us that we only have to ask for wisdom to receive it. Lord, please give us Your wisdom now as we approach Your word. Help us discern the truth of Your Word. Help us not to rely on our own understanding.

Thank You, God, for the clarity, encouragement and hope Your Word brings.

In Jesus' Name we pray,
Amen.

Prayer by William Temple

May the God of love who is the source of all our affection for each other formed here on earth take our friendships into his keeping, that they may continue and increase throughout life and beyond it, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notes

Day 8

Pray for a new Vision

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to You, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of You agree with one another in what You say and that there be no divisions among You, but that You be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Lord,

May Your words be like a lamp that lights our way.

May Your love be like a compass that gives us direction.

May Your truth be like a signpost bringing clarity.

May Your peace be like a measure that guides our decisions.

May Your hope be like a flag that declares we walk with You.

May Your words be in our minds,

Your love guide our feet,

Your truth be a sign,

Your peace be a measure,

And Your hope be a flag,

As we walk close to You. Amen.

Traditional Hymn of Irish Origin

Be Thou my Vision, Oh Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that
Thou art
Thou my best Thought by day or by
night
Waking or sleeping Thy presence my
light

Notes

Day 9

Pray for your local schools

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Almighty God,

We come to You today and give thanks for all our teachers. Thank You for the way in which they give of themselves each day in the classroom, serving and instructing the next generation of this land. We thank You for them all now.

Father, please fill their hearts with the courage of Your mighty Spirit. Fill them with Your strength, so they may rise to every challenge and not grow weary. Fill them with Your wisdom, so that they may be able to make good judgement when guiding and helping others.

Fill them with Your peace, so that when stress and anxiety come it would not overwhelm them. Fill them with Your joy, so that the passion they have for their subject may become an infectious passion that spreads.

We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayer by Lauchlan Maclean Watt

O Father guide thou our guides and keep them worthy of the place whereunto thou hast called them. Keep them lowly and true, as followers of Christ Jesus, that by life, word and example they may lead souls nearer to him whom here they serve.

Notes

Day 10

Pray for the Young people in your local town

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey Your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour Your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with You and that You may live long in the land

We pray for this new generation, the Young men and women of today. Shine Your truth into their hearts. May they hear You in music, see You in art and experience You through the love and care of family, friends and teachers. Build Your hope into their lives. May they sense this hope rise in their hearts as they encounter the power of nature, the majesty of the oceans and the beauty in creation.

Come sow Your wisdom into their minds. May they discover wisdom as they read their bibles, discuss deeper issues of life or encounter hardships or difficulties.

Come weave Your love into their dreams. May they find vision in their interests, opportunities for their talents and aspirations for their abilities.

May this new generation of Your men and women know You.

Amen.

Prayer by Clement of Rome

*We beseech thee, Master, to be our helper and protector.
Save the afflicted among us; have mercy on the lowly;
raise up the fallen; appear to the needy; heal the ungodly;
restore the wanderers of thy people;
feed the hungry; ransom our prisoners;
raise up the sick; comfort the faint-hearted.*

Notes

Day 11

Pray for Christian Unity in your location

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to You, that You love one another: just as I have loved You, You also are to love one another. By this all people will know that You are my disciples, if You have love for one another.”

Lord Jesus Christ forgive Your church for the times she has tarnished Your image, confused Your message and distracted from Your love through her disunity.

Lord Jesus Christ restore Your church For we would be known again by the way we love each other, And the way we love You, Rather than perceived as a house divided against itself Crumbling where it stands.

Lord Jesus Christ break our hearts for Your church for we would build Your house again here in our land.

It is our desire that You would restore Your body here, so we kneel in repentance before You, and submit to You.

Humble us to serve each other so that Your name may again be raised high in our nation. Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us, restore us, reunite us and revive Your church today so, all may see that You are Love.

Early Scottish Prayer

*Deep peace of the running wave to You,
Deep peace of the flowing air to You,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to You,
Deep peace of the shining stars to You,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to You, for ever.*

Notes

Day 12

Pray for the local businesses in your town

Exodus 35:35

He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as engravers, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them skilled workers and designers.

Dear Heavenly Father,
As people enter workplaces today, we invite You to join them so that everyone there will sense Your presence.
May they convey Your peace, just as we are aware of Your comforting proximity at all times. Fill them with Your grace, mercy, and power to serve You and others in this place. Lord Jesus, we want You to be glorified in those lives and in places of business. We pray You will be Lord over everything that is said and done there. May they bring honour to Your name and spread joy to others.

Holy Spirit help them to depend on You wholly today. Renew their strength. Fill them with physical and spiritual energy so that they will be the best employer they can be.
Lord, guide them with Your wisdom. Help them through every challenge and conflict. Let them be a beacon for You and a blessing to their employees.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Prayer by St Jerome

O good shepherd, seek me out, and bring me home to thy fold again. Deal favourably with me according to thy good pleasure, till I may dwell in thy house all the days of my life, and praise thee for ever and ever with them that are there.

Notes

Day 13

Pray for your civic leaders, both local and nationally

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

King of kings and leader of leaders, we thank You for our government and especially for those seeking to lead with righteousness, courage and compassion.

We thank You for men and women of vision and dedication wherever we see them and wherever they are working hard beyond our sight or knowledge.

But Lord, we long for more for the UK than what we see now.

Lord of lords and our only Saviour, we dare to pray for a vision that reflects You and Your priorities to become the vision of our nation's leaders.

Soften their hearts to the vulnerable and open their eyes to creative, third-way solutions so Britain and Ireland might become great by Your definition and its people might have hope for their future and the chance to be a blessing to the whole world.

We pray for George Eustice our MP and all the Councillors in the Camborne Town Council.

Prayer by Origen

Jesus, my feet are dirty. Come even as a slave to me, pour water into Your bowl, come and wash my feet. In asking such a thing I know I am overbold, but I dread what was threatened when You said to me, "If I do not wash Your feet, I have no fellowship with You." Wash my feet then, because I long for Your companionship.

Notes

Day 14

Pray for those outside groups that use your church if you have them

1 Peter 3:15-16

But sanctify Christ as Lord in Your hearts, always being ready to make a defence to everyone who asks You to give an account for the hope that is in You, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Do they know it's church Lord?
When they come through the door and sit in their groups, do they know it's a church?

A place where people have worshipped for decades.

Where families have been made, joined and separated?

Where Your name has been praised and Your life, death and resurrection remembered and celebrated?

Lord, help them to learn that the place they come into week after week isn't simply a community centre.

Lord, help them to know You;

That Your Spirit will give them a sense of Your love and grace, simply by being in this place.

We ask this in Your holy name

Amen

Prayer by the De La Selle Brothers

*God our Father,
extend our horizons, widen our vision,
and remind us how inter-connected we are as Your sons and daughters.
Breathe Your Spirit into us that we may live more truly as brothers and sisters of one another. Amen.*

Notes

Day 15

Pray for your neighbours

1 John 1:2-3

This life was revealed to us, and we have seen it and testify about it. We declare to You this eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us. What we have seen and heard we declare to You so that You, too, can have fellowship with us. Now this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus, the Messiah

Lord Jesus we come to You not as individuals but as Your whole people to worship You.

Help us to be aware of each other as an unbroken circle stretching right round this church.

May we in spirit, hands joined, look to You the centre of our circle and feel Your love pulsing through us to reach out to our neighbours about us.

Help us to worship You not selfishly and individually, but with a deep awareness of each other and those around us.

Amen

Prayer by St Æthelwold

*May God the Father bless us;
may Christ take care of us;
the Holy Ghost enlighten us all the
days of our life.
The Lord be our defender and keeper
of body and soul,
both now and for ever, to the ages of
ages.*

Notes

Day 16

Pray for the people in your street

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us continue to consider how to motivate one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another even more as You see the day of the Lord coming nearer.

People of Camborne
Come from Your homes,
places of tension and relaxation,
of squabbles and arguments, of games and laughter.

Come to celebrate God's world-wide family.
Come from Your places of work,
leaving behind deadlines and pressures
the tedium of creativity of daily tasks.

Come to celebrate God's world-wide work.
Come to join this community of faith,
In this place of prayer and praise,
struggling to witness and serve,
Come to celebrate God's world-wide people.

Prayer by Søren Kierkegaard

*God our heavenly Father,
when the thought of You
wakes in our hearts,
let its awakening
not be like a startled bird
that flies about in fear.
Instead, let it be like a child
waking from sleep
with a heavenly smile.*

Notes

Day 17

Pray for the people in your suburb

Isaiah 12:4

In that day You will say:

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.”

Blessed are the dog-walkers,
for they shall discover the kingdom’s streets.

Blessed are the asylum seekers,
for they shall be a home for others.

Blessed are those who read to children,
for they shall plant seeds of wonder.

Blessed are those who weep for the homeless,
for they shall be shawled in God’s grace.

Blessed are those who stock food pantries,
for they shall taste God’s hope.

Blessed are those who bring in the marginalised,
for they shall be called bridge-builders.

Blessed are the faith-full foolish,
for they shall be called the clowns of God.

Prayer by Charity Hamilton

*May the God of all things
Bless You in Your brokenness that
You may reach out,
Bless You in Your shame that You
may be compassionate,
Bless You as the outcast,
Bless You with his touch.
Amen*

Notes

Day 18

Pray for the people in your town

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.

Gracious friend and God of compassion, we reach out to You for understanding whilst hardly understanding ourselves.

We turn to You for eternal truths yet can barely look ourselves in the eye when our words are less than honest.

We ask that our open hearts be blessed by You yet dither and deny when Your existence is questioned and challenged.

We ask that poverty ends here, ends now, yet look over our shoulder in horror when a hand is held out in desperation.

God of our understanding, help us see the real face: ours and Yours. Help us see the real needs, ours and theirs, and help us catch a glimpse of a world that can be.
Amen

Prayer by Terry Oakley

In the darkness, God, source of strength, be present with us to guard and protect, rest and encourage. In the dawn, God, spring of truth, reveal Yourself to us to inspire and guide refresh and renew. In the daylight, God, spirit of love, show us the way to justice and peace, unity and joy.

Notes

Day 19

Pray for those living in Care facilities

Ecclesiastes

12:1,6-7

So remember Your Creator while You are still Young, before those dismal days and years come when You will say, "I don't enjoy life." The silver chain will snap, and the golden lamp will fall and break; the rope at the well will break, and the water jar will be shattered. 7 Our bodies will return to the dust of the earth, and the breath of life will go back to God, who gave it to us.

Lord Jesus, I ask for comfort and hope for those who are in nursing homes
May they feel Your presence and know You see them as precious and having Your love in their hearts.
May they be treated with dignity

I also pray for the caregivers
They have such a hard job and many times don't receive acknowledgement for what they do
May they know the importance and beauty of their job and realize they are bringing You to the people they are serving
Please give them strength when they become tired and when the job becomes very stressful

May the people who make decisions regarding the money that nursing homes receive know they too will be older one day and to be sensitive to the needs and challenges of these wonderful people
Amen

Prayer by Bede the Venerable

*O Christ, our Morning Star,
Splendour of Light Eternal,
shining with the glory of the rainbow,
come and waken us
from the greyness of our apathy,
and renew in us Your gift of hope.
Amen.*

Notes

Day 20

Pray for your local doctors and nurses

1 Corinthians
6:19-20

“Do You not know that Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in You, whom You have received from God? You are not Your own; You were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with Your bodies.”

Dear heavenly Father, how we thank You for those men and women who have dedicated themselves to healing the sick and dying, and we pray for You would give them strength and grace as they tend to the ailments, injuries and sicknesses of so many people in their care.

We pray that You give them the strength and courage to be able to face the many hurts and health problems of those that come into their clinics or hospital, and we ask that You would give them wisdom and patience to tend to the sick with kindness – and to be able to minister graciously to those that are facing problems or severe illnesses.

Father we pray that You would bestow on them the strength, dedication and skill that’s needed to face the many challenges to their training and skills – especially when they are weary or tired. And we pray that You would use those doctors and nurses that are Your children to be a true witness to You love and grace in Jesus name we pray,

Amen

Prayer by the De La Salle Brothers

*God our Father,
You call each of us by name,
and You treasure each of us
individually
as though no-one else exists.
Inspire us
to respect and value
each person who comes into our lives
this day.
Amen.*

Notes

Day 21

Pray for your local hospital, those who work in it and its patients

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed

Creator God, who knits each person together in their mother's womb:
it is You who reveal knowledge to scientists and doctors. We thank You for the heritage of medical breakthrough, expertise and welfare we enjoy in our nation, freely available to us because of Your revelation, and the faithfulness of previous generations. Renew thanksgiving in our hearts for what we have received because of others' work and sacrifice.

Healer of nations,
You provide insight to all who seek You, and defend those in need. We thank You for the gift of our local hospital, freely available to everyone no matter their background, income level or need.
Give Your wisdom our health professionals, and advisers as they seek the right treatments. Bless our health service to thrive, to prosper, and to heal.

Bless our doctors and nurses to care, to excel, and to bring healing.
For everything that is good comes from You.
Amen

Prayer by Donald Coggan

*Lord, still me,
Let my mind be enquiring, searching,
Let my heart be open,
Save me from mental rust.
Keep me alive and alert.*

Notes

Day 22

Pray for your local Police department

1 Peter 2:13-16

Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. Live as people who are free, not using Your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

We thank God for the positive relationship that the police have in many communities. Lord we pray for relationships with communities and groups who find it hard to trust the police.

We pray that You would bring down barriers and build bridges. We pray that You would create opportunities for relationships to be built and for police and local communities to get alongside each other.

We pray that police officers would show compassion, even in very difficult situations. And we pray for protection over the police, physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally as they engage with people who do not respond positively.

We pray that You would work out Your plan to bring love and hope into the lives of all who work in the Police Service. We give thanks for the Chaplaincy schemes throughout the service.

Prayer by Thomas Ken

*“O God, make the door of this house wide enough
to receive all who need human love and fellowship;
narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and strife...”*

Notes

Day 23

We pray for the Emergency Services

Philippians 2:3-5

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above Yourself, and not looking to Your own interests but each of You to the interests of the others. In Your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

Rescuing God, You left the safety of heaven to come and save us. You gave Your very life to deliver us from death forever, and to bring us into fullness of life.

We thank You for all who take risks and make sacrifices for others in their daily work, and especially for the men and women who work in our emergency services. Help us to honour and appreciate the fire-service, Coast Guard and paramedics and to bless them through our interactions with them. Be with those who put to sea in RNLI. Be with them all today, enabling them to rescue all they seek to help. May we be quick to thank and slow to criticise those who risk so much for our safety. Safeguard and release resources to all areas of our emergency services and lead all those involved in reform – whether in Government or service management – in wisdom, humility and creativity.

We bless our fire service to experience Your protection and to be filled with courage. And we bless our paramedics with clear minds to make quick, accurate decisions, so that through their skills and gentle care, they may bring Your healing and comfort to all. Amen.

Prayer by Huldrych Zwingli

“Almighty, eternal and merciful God, whose Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path, open and illuminate our minds, that we may purely and perfectly understand Your Word and that our lives may be conformed to what we have rightly understood, that in nothing we may be displeasing unto Your majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Notes

Day 24

Pray for those struggling

James 2:15-16

Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in Your saying to them, "God bless You! Keep warm and eat well!" – if You don't give them the necessities of life?

Lord Jesus,

We sit here this morning with a heart that is breaking, knowing that many of Your people are struggling this day.

We know we are not alone in our own personal struggles. But we find a very real centre of Your peace falling around us, and we pray that same peace for our struggling brothers and sisters.

We know that hardship and struggle are a part of this fallen world in which we live.

We know that until the day of Your return there will continue to be hardship. But we also know that in the midst of that suffering, we see the extended hands of our Saviour reaching out from His heavenly place, calling to us, and to all who struggle.

Our prayer is for anyone who is at this very moment struggling with things beyond their own control. Whatever their struggle this day, Lord, we ask You to comfort and sustain the weak ones who are the most susceptible.

Amen

An Irish Blessing

*May the road rise to meet You,
May the wind be always at Your back,
May the sunshine warm upon Your face,
The rains fall soft upon Your fields
and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold You in the palm of His hand.*

Notes

Day 25

Pray for those struggling financially

2 Corinthians
12:9-10

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for You, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Thank You Lord that You are our refuge and our strength in hard times and an ever-present helper in times of trouble. Help us to cling to You and this truth from the Bible, that You keep bringing to our minds.

We know that You are the only, all-powerful God and that there is nothing that is too difficult in people’s lives for You to deal with – nor are there any obstacles in their path that is so insurmountable that they cannot cross – knowing that You are by their side.

Give them we pray Your strength to face today’s hard and troubled times with the confidence of knowing that Your strength is made perfect in their weakness. Thank You that their strength comes from You and that Your grace is sufficient for all the tasks and duties that will cross their daily path – not only for today but for the rest of their journey through life.

Thank You, Father, that Your grace is sufficient – help us to meditate on this truth every day,

Amen

Prayer by Martin Luther King Jr.

Eternal God, out of whose mind this great cosmic universe, we bless You. Help us to seek that which is high, noble and good. Help us in the moment of difficult decision. Help us to work with renewed vigour for a warless world, a better distribution of wealth, and a brother/sisterhood that transcends race or colour.

Notes

Day 26

Pray for those businesses that support projects in your community

Luke 6:20-21

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are You who are poor, for Yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are You who are hungry now, for You shall be satisfied. "Blessed are You who weep now, for You shall laugh.

Lord we look in one direction and we see so much hunger and need. We look in another and we see so much food being thrown away and wasted. 17 million tonnes of food in the UK alone Lord! 17 million tonnes thrown away. How many people could be fed with all the food thrown away?

Loving God, we pray for the supermarkets. We ask that they would be good stewards of Your planet and not be driven by greed or pure profit. Father, we thank You for those supermarkets that are part of the Fareshare scheme, who give away food that is still good even if the arbitrary use by date says it isn't. We thank You for the forethought that new understandings of food hygiene have bought to the questions of waste and poverty. Father help us be advocates for the poor and stand up for those in need. Help us to be good stewards and redistribute that which we are given.

Amen

Prayer by Martin Luther

Dearest God and Lord, strengthen and uphold us in Your pure, precious Word through Jesus Christ our Lord, and help us to show and live our thanks with our fruits of faith to Your praise and thanks forever. Amen.

Notes

Day 27

Pray for your family

1 Corinthians

13:4-7

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Bless our families; mothers, fathers, daughters, sons.

Protect them from all that might harm. Prosper them in times of hardship. Instruct them in the ways of goodness. Prepare them for both joy and sorrow. Unite them within your arms of love.

Daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, bless our families Lord, we pray.

Prayer by Thomas Aquinas

Bestow upon me, O Lord my God, an understanding that knows thee, wisdom in finding thee, a way of life that is pleasing to thee, perseverance that faithfully waits for thee, and confidence that I shall embrace thee at the last.

Notes

Day 28

Pray for your own relationships

Romans 15:5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give You a spirit of unity among Yourselves as You follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth You may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Lord, please help my partner and I to bear the Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Let us be transformed by these qualities.

God, please give us the strength to make these qualities permanent habits. Let them be on our minds at all times, influencing all that we do and bringing healing to our relationship.

Lord, I realize that I must take ownership of my life and make changes necessary for a good relationship to happen. Please help me to change in the ways in which I must, and, just as importantly, to not change in the ways that I shouldn't.

I love you, God. Amen.

Prayer of St Teresa of Avila

*Let nothing disturb You,
let nothing frighten You,
all things will pass away.
God never changes;
patience obtains all things,
whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices. Amen.*

Notes

Day 29

Pray for your own children or your family's children

Psalm 127:3-5

Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

O Father of mankind, who hast given unto me these my children, and committed them to my charge to bring them up for Thee, and to prepare them for everlasting life: assist me with Thy heavenly grace, that I may be able to fulfil this most sacred duty and stewardship. Teach me both what to give and what to withhold; when to reprove and when to forbear; make me gentle, yet firm; considerate and watchful; and deliver me equally from the weakness of indulgence, and the excess of severity; and grant that, both by word and example, I may be careful to lead them in the ways of wisdom and true pity, so that at last I may, with them, be admitted to the unspeakable joys of our true home in heaven, Amen.

Prayer of St Albert

*God of Truth
May the pursuit of all human knowledge lead to a greater knowledge and love of You.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, You Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.
Amen.*

Notes

Day 30

We pray for a new move of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to You, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of You agree with one another in what You say and that there be no divisions among You, but that You be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Fall fresh, fall down on me
Fall fresh, fall down on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Fall, fall, fall, fall down on me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh, fall afresh, fall afresh on me

Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Spirit of the living God fall fresh on me
Fall fresh, fall down on me
Fall fresh, fall down on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me
Fall, fall, fall, fall down on me
Spirit of the living God
Fall afresh, fall afresh, fall afresh on me

Prayer by John Calvin

*Lord,
May we be so bound up in love
with those for whom we pray,
that we may feel their needs
as acutely as our own,
and interceded for them with
sensitivity, with understanding
and with imagination.*

Notes

Day 31

Pray for the Global Church

Ephesians 4:15-16

but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Living God,
We give You thanks for the life You entrust to us: for potential and possibility, for love and for laughter.

We praise You that in Jesus You come to us: comforting and challenging, bringing joy and bearing our pain.

Spirit of God, renew our life together that released from insecurity and grumbles and regrets Your Church might truly live and live truly for You.

Hear our prayer for your church:
Enfold all people through the work and mission of our local Churches.
Encourage Your Church in our developing partnerships.
Let Your life be seen in us and through us, we pray.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

"Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Let be employed by You or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. Amen."

Notes

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