



Fortnightly Prayer Diary

Monday 6th - Sunday 19th May, 2024

All our verses in this Prayer Diary are drawn from **Psalm 84**. We also include prayers for Bishop Rob's visit and our Confirmation Service.

Monday, 6th **MAY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**

'How lovely is your dwelling-place, O LORD Almighty!
(**Psalm 84: 1**)

"Loving and living Lord, we thank you and praise you for the fellowships to which we belong – churches and chapels across our nation. And we thank you and praise you that whenever two or three are gathered together in your Name you are there, in the midst. Today we pray that you will touch and inspire us all by your Holy Spirit and with your holy joy."

- Please pray for those taking part in "Beating the Bounds" today, as they raise money for our Schools and Families Project.
- Pray for funding for the Project, as we approach charitable trusts.
- Give thanks for Bishop Rob and all the support he gives to us.
- Please pray for Gorse Lane (Pamela Giltjes).

Tuesday, 7th

'My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.' (**Psalm 84: 2**)

"Just as the deer desires the water-brook, O Lord, so we pray that we may desire to stand in your presence, together with your people. We pray that you will deepen our love for all who worship with us. May we never cease to pray for them and ask for your blessing on them."

- Please pray today that evangelical leaders in the Church of England may work well across networks for the sake of a common witness and common goals, especially in responding to Living in Love and Faith.

P.T.O.

- Pray for the church school – there is a Governors Meeting today.
- Please pray as we put together the final plans for Bishop Rob’s visit on Sunday. Pray too as Rob prepares his teaching for us.
- Pray for your neighbours and our town – for a Great Awakening. Pray that people would reflect deeply on the last few years and all that has happened and turn to God for answers.
- Please pray for Gorse Lane (Alan and Bernadette Goody).

Wednesday, 8th

‘Even the sparrow has found her a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young – a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.’

(Psalm 84: 3)

“We praise you, O Lord, that our churches are places of worship not only for ourselves but also for our children and grand-children, our god-children, our nephews and our nieces. Use us, in our families, to witness to your love and grace and truth, and may many in future generations come to a living faith in you.”

- Pray for the Christian community in Gaza in these very traumatic and difficult days. Pray that they might be strengthened and sustained by the Lord and might be a good and godly witness to their Muslim neighbours.
- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshippers in St. Mark’s today. Pray for good numbers, good learning, encouraging praise and loving fellowship. Pray for Ti as he leads and speaks.
- Thank God for all the young people in the Ignite Youth Group that we run jointly with St Paul’s. Thank God that some are taking the step of being confirmed on Sunday. Pray that they will draw strength from the public profession of faith that they are making.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Mathias, the leader of the OT translation team in Uganda, as he recovers from two operations on his arm after a motorbike accident. Please pray for full healing and a return to work soon.
- Please pray for Risby Close (Roger and Janet Goody).

Thursday, 9th

'Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.' *(Psalm 84: 4)*

"Today, O Lord, we pray that you will fill our minds, our mouths and our lives with your praise. We pray that you will energize and empower our daily witness, so that many may see that you are our God and that we are your people."

- Pray that God's faithful people across our country might be energized and empowered to spread the Good News to all whom they meet.
- Please pray for Community Cuppa today - that more people in the community will join.
- Thank God for all our confirmation and affirmation candidates – give thanks that He has been at work in the lives of each one. Please pray that the service on Sunday would be a great encouragement to each one of them and their faith strengthened.
- Persecuted Church: Burkino Faso – in a population of 22.1 million there are 5.1 million Christians. Believers have been targeted and killed in villages, churches and workplaces, with thousands driven from their homes. Please pray:- that God will heal and comfort all those traumatised by jihadist attacks; for wisdom and provision for Open Doors local partners as they serve those facing persecution; for the protection of believers and local partners.
- Please pray for Imperial Court (Mary and Stan Grint).

Friday, 10th

'Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.' *(Psalm 84: 5)*

"Today we pray, O Lord, that your ways may be in our hearts and that our hearts may be in your ways. As we each continue on our earthly pilgrimage, so we pray that you may continue to renew and to refresh our hearts."

- Please pray for the suffering people of Ukraine. Pray for all those who are offering medical, spiritual and emotional support to the injured and to bereaved families.

P.T.O.

- Please pray for those involved in pastoral care in our church – our Pastoral Care Team is meeting together this morning.
- Please pray for all who work in our Church Office – especially pray that they would have strength on another busy Friday.
- Pray for our Confirmation Service on Sunday – especially that a good number of friends and family will come to support the candidates and they too will be spoken to by God.
- Please pray for St. Osyth Road West (Kathryn Hall).

Saturday, 11th

‘As they pass through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.’

(Psalm 84: 6)

“Today we pray, O Lord, for any we know who are passing through the valley of tears. May they find in you, and in your Word of Truth, encouragement and refreshment and great hope for the future.”

➤ Please continue to pray for those who are considering full-time ministry in the C of E and for those whose job it is to discern vocations. Pray for wisdom and faithfulness.

- Thank God that we are a loving church family of all ages.
- Local churches: St. Mary’s, Frinton – please pray for God’s wisdom as they will soon be interviewing for a new vicar.
- Please pray for travelling mercies for Rob as makes the journey from Manchester to be here for Sunday. Pray that God would keep him safe in the many miles he travels throughout the year.
- Please pray for Flatford Drive (Martin Hall).

Sunday, 12th BISHOP ROB’S VISIT & CONFIRMATION SERVICE

‘They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.’ **(Psalm 84: 7)**

“Today, O Lord, as we worship you, so we pray that we may each catch a glimpse of your glory. Speak to us, as you spoke to your servant Samuel: inspire us and fill us with your Spirit so that we may go forth into this new week in sure and certain hope of all that you will do in us and in others.”

P.T.O.

- Give thanks today, as we welcome Bishop Rob and also friends from St Paul's, our neighbouring parish. Give thanks that we are all part of God's family.
- Give thanks for the candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Affirmation of Baptismal Faith – that they are willing to publicly declare their faith. Pray that each one would be strengthened in it.
- Pray for our joint Morning Service and our Confirmation Service in St John's today – pray especially that we would be able to welcome visitors and they would be able to engage with all that goes on.
- Please pray for Martinsdale (June Hammerton).

Monday, 13th

'Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.' *(Psalm 84: 8)*

"O Lord our God, we pray that you will make of us a people of prayer, a people who know that you hear and respond to all the prayers of the faithful. We pray that you will hear our prayers – both public and private – and listen to our deepest and most heart-felt pleas."

- Pray for the poor of our land and for all those struggling to cope with the increased costs of living. Pray also for all those victims of injustice. Pray that they might soon get redress.
- Give thanks for each of our Little Fishes and Searchlights families.
- Please pray for Lee and the Davis family as they attend the funeral of Brenda at Weeley Crem. (MM)
- Pray for all those attending Bethany today and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one – pray for God's comfort.
- Please pray for Foxglove Close (Katrina Hammond).

Tuesday, 14th

'Look upon our shield, O God; look with favour on your anointed one.' *(Psalm 84: 9)*

"Today, O Lord, we pray that we may, like the widow of old, persist in prayer. May we resist the ever-present temptation to be impatient, but may we persist with the prayers which you lay upon our hearts. And may we rejoice to see them answered."

P.T.O.

➤ Pray that the Lord might give to all His people a heart for the poor and needy and a desire to relieve suffering, wherever it is to be found.

- Thank God for all those who publicly declared their faith on Sunday. Pray that they will continue to follow Jesus closely.
- Pray for the hall team, faithfully packing food bags on Tue & Thurs.
- Please pray for Jessica, our local CAP worker, as she meets with people who need help with their debts.
- Please pray for Kingsman Drive (Paul Harding).

Wednesday, 15th

'Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;'
(Psalm 84: 10)

"Thank you, Lord, for the inspiration which this psalm has been to generations of believers. Thank you for the joy expressed by the psalmist of spending time in your presence. May we, too, delight daily in spending time with you."

- Please pray for our Wednesday Worshipers, as they meet today. Pray for godly fellowship around the Lord Jesus.
- Pray for all the young people in our church and those who will be attending Ignite tonight (joint with St Paul's). Pray for those who were Confirmed on Sunday – pray that they would persevere.
- Mission Links: Please pray for Mark and Ruth in Betel Birmingham as they help pastor the men and women who seek help from their addictions. Pray for wisdom, strength and energy as the juggle many aspects of their work. Pray that God will be at work transforming broken lives.
- Please pray for Langtry Court (Rachel Harding).

Thursday, 16th

'I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.'
(Psalm 84: 10)

"Help us, O Lord, we pray, to resist the siren call of wickedness. May we be a people who rejoice to dwell in the courts of the Lord and who encourage many to join us."

P.T.O.

- Pray that many in this parish might seek the Lord. Pray that God would continue to be at work. Pray for a great awakening!
- Pray for the Together service today – pray for good numbers, a love of God’s Word and loving fellowship .
- Persecuted Church: Central African Republic – in a population of 5 million there are 3.7 million Christians. Most of the country is occupied by armed militia groups who are responsible for a range of human rights abuses. Please pray:- for peace and stability in the country; for the protection of believers, particularly church leaders; that Christians will be able to provide for their families and even reach out to their local communities.
- Please pray for Rob Harper.

Friday, 17th

‘For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favour and honour;’ **(Psalm 84: 11)**

“Lord Jesus, we pray that in these Easter days you may shine upon us with your glorious light. And we pray that you may fill this land with the Father’s glory.”

- Give thanks for our Church Office and all who work there.
- Pray for our Mission Committee, meeting today – pray that they would help us keep in close contact with our Mission Links. Give thanks for our links with God’s work across the world.
- Pray for all the visitors who came to our services last Sunday – pray that they would continue to think about all that they saw and heard. Pray that God would be at work in many hearts.
- Please pray for Quilters Close (Alan and Marian Hills).

Saturday, 18th

‘no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.’ **(Psalm 84: 11)**

“O Lord our God, we pray today that you will fulfil your promise not to withhold any good thing from those whose walk is blameless. Thank you that you have promised to give whatever we ask in the Name of Jesus. May all we ask for bring glory to your Name.” P.T.O.

- Please pray for Ricky McKinn and Kerry Norris as they get married today in St. John's Church. (MM)
- Please pray for all in our church family who are ill at this time – pray for God's healing and his strength and comfort.
- Other local churches: St. James, Little Clacton - please pray for our neighbouring parish, as they struggle to get clergy to cover their services while they don't have a vicar. Pray too as they (and three other parishes) advertise for a new vicar (to share).
- Please pray for Mill Lane (Steven and Lynne Holden).

Sunday, 19th PENTECOST SUNDAY

'O LORD Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.'

(Psalm 84: 12)

"O Lord our God, as we meet together today to worship you in spirit and in truth, we pray that you may touch us all with your joy that only your Holy Spirit can bring. May your joy in us be reflected in our worship, in our prayers, in our attention to your Word and in our fellowship. And, seeing our joy, may the stranger in our midst begin to seek your Kingdom."

- Pray for many evangelicals to be involved and engaged in the Synods and Committees of the Church of England, for the sake of the Gospel. Pray especially for all those who are serving on General Synod.
- Thank God for the gift of his Holy Spirit – pray that He would be at work in the hearts and lives of each of his people in our churches.
- Please pray for each of our services today – at St John's, at St Mark's and online. Pray that each member of the congregations may experience the joy of God's Spirit.
- Thank God for Bishop Rob. Pray as he continues in his ministry.
- Please pray for St. Osyth Road East (Tovah Hollingshead).

Thank you for using our prayer diary.

We're always looking for new ideas of things we should be praying for. If you think of anything that has been missing from our prayer requests, please let Ann-Marie or Mark know.