



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

June 2020

Romans 8: 26-27 ... the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express, and he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8: 38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present or the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our lord.

At this time, with all places of worship closed and the comfort of regular services together taken away, it is even more important to pray, and through that prayer to feel the presence of God and to be part of the community who trust in Him and submit to His will.

This leaflet has been produced to assist us with our daily prayers; we hope you find it useful. Feel free to use as many, or as few, of the suggestions as you feel is right for you, and of course, add your own.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We pray for members of our church who have been affected by the virus; those who are poorly, those who have not been able to share in funerals of loved ones, those who have not been able to celebrate special occasions, those who have extra pressures at work, those who are struggling with restrictions and isolation including loneliness, working from home, home schooling, loss of business, financial problems, domestic abuse.

*Lord God,
who sent John to witness to the light,
to be the voice of one crying in the wilderness
and to prepare the way of the Lord:
comfort your people
and bring your healing to the sick and needy,
to the broken-hearted and the oppressed,
to prisoners and captives. (24th June Birth of John the Baptist)*

Especially we pray for

- Tricia Atherton's nephew Steve, seriously ill
- Peter & Janet Venables struggling with isolation
- Sue Henderson awaiting test results
- Alison Mckenzie's brother, Mark and wife Andrea working as Doctors in Chad
- Jill Millward, ROAR, who's friend, Sue, died, her partner, Frank
- Christopher Brooks, wife Bridget died
- The families for whom we have taken funerals in May: Margaret Musthill, Eric Slater, Douglas Collins, Lillian Willougby, Patricia Burden, Janet Dinsley & John Jackson

We thank you, Lord for all those who are working, paid or unpaid at this time; those who work for the NHS, carers, scientists and researchers who are seeking medicines to relieve suffering, essential workers in shops and transport providing our food, teachers facing the challenges of not being face to face with pupils and the risks when they are, all who voluntarily give of their time to support others with phone calls, deliveries, those who clean to try and keep us safe.

Your church is alive and we thank you for all those who are working so hard, especially for Martin and Sue but also the many others who keep us connected, decorate the railings, participate in services, making telephone calls, pastoral care. We give thanks for the news of Bishop Mark Tanner as the new Bishop of Chester. We pray for him, his wife Lindsay and family. We pray that your living word will grow and spread through Macclesfield, Chester Diocese and the whole world – Thy Kingdom Come.

*John proclaimed your Son as the Lamb of God
and John's disciples followed Jesus:
help us to follow him also,
and by our words and deeds
to bring our families and friends closer to you.*

Help us to be your disciples here and now (29th June Peter and Paul)

*Lord Jesus, in your love you invite us to be your friends.
Lord Jesus, in your joy you choose us to go out and bear fruit.
Lord Jesus, in your power you send us to be your faithful witnesses.*

This month would have found Macclesfield celebrating Barnaby (St Barnabas 11th June). We give thanks for those who organise this festival. We pray that when lockdown is over our town can be reborn with renewed connectivity and vibrancy. We pray for our schools, especially Bollinbrook, as they start to have pupils back, we pray for businesses as they reopen. It is a long road ahead, we ask for patience and a willingness to pull together. Be with your church so that it may be at the heart of the town, opening its doors with a listening ear and outgoing concern.

*Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,
who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas
and gave him grace to encourage others:
help us, by his example,
to be generous in our judgements
and unselfish in our service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

During June we have many international and national Days including:- Children's Day (1st), Pride Month, Best Friend's Day (8th), Elder Abuse Awareness (15th), Refugee Week (17th), Father's Day (21st), Wellbeing Week (21st), Day Against Drug Abuse and Trafficking (26th) and Day of Support for Victims of Torture (26th). These remind us that some people are living in extremely challenging situations, that relationships are important and that all should have wellbeing. Lord, despite the stigma you healed the lepers, and everyone is equal in your eyes. You invite us all to come as children and be your best friend so that we can know your father, God. Help us to open our eyes, hands and hearts and walk with feet in service to you and all people.

Our natural world is showing signs of recovery with less pollution e.g from travel. We are charged with caring for our world, your creation (World Environment Day 5th, Ocean's Day 8th, Sustainable Gastronomy 19th, Clean Air Day 20th). Help us each to know what we can do towards this (Plastic Free Beauty 17th, Refill Bottle 19th, Plastic Free July) so that we may enjoy your bounty in creation (Picnic Week 21st). During this time many of us have had to "make do and mend", have not been able to buy new clothes, have made uniforms and masks, gardened, walked, listened to bird song. As we "unlock" may we remember the positives of this time and not rush back to our profligate way of living.

If you would like something included in the next prayer letter, contact

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