



LET US PRAY

St Michael & All Angels', Macclesfield

April 2020

When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed". ... Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering". (Mark 5.27-34)

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.

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and of your love, for your name's sake. Amen

During the Covid-19 outbreak:

Dear Lord, we pray for all those suffering at this time through ill health, fear for their relatives and friends, anxiety and loneliness and for all those unable to work and worried about loss of income. Ease the suffering of those who have been afflicted and help us to help one another; help us to show the respect, support, encouragement and love that you taught us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

Especially we pray for all those in the front line in the fight against Covid-19; for all the workers in the hospitals, surgeries, care homes, hospices, ambulances and in social services; for those who risk exposure every day to maintain vital services that we all need; for the manufacturers rushing to supply the equipment needed for treatment; for the scientists seeking a vaccine; for the volunteers delivering medicines to the vulnerable. Give them strength; keep them well. Amen

For the season of Lent:

Wonderful God, during this season of Lent, this time of preparation for the mystery of Easter, help us to ready ourselves, so that we can journey with Jesus through the wilderness, to meet with him in resurrection joy.

Make us ready to fast from criticism and feast on the good we see in others.

Make us ready to fast from inactivity and feast on action for justice.

Make us ready to fast from greed and feast on giving.

Make us ready to fast from conflict and feast on peace making.

Make us ready to fast from selfishness and feast on Christ-likeness so that we might be changed to become more like your Son. Amen.

Palm Sunday: 5th April

Today on Palm Sunday we see Jesus enter Jerusalem in triumph. Seated on a colt, welcomed by the shouts of joy and praise of his disciples. They cannot keep the good news to themselves. Christ Jesus, forgive me for the times I have lost courage and been unable to speak up for what I know is right. Strengthen my voice to speak from my heart and help ensure that all people can make themselves heard. Amen.

Good Friday: 10th April

God of mercy, forgive us our sins.

For the times we have closed our eyes to injustice: Lord, have mercy.

For the times we have closed our ears to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor: Christ, have mercy.

For the times we have closed our hearts to our sisters and brothers in need: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Amen.

Easter Day: 12th April

Let us give thanks to God for all that he has made. Let us rejoice that through the power of the resurrection, all things have been made new. May this renewal inspire us to do what we can to bring about a change for the better in our lives and in our world. As we celebrate Christ's resurrection today, let us praise him for his glory
Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Risen Christ, we praise you and give you thanks for your glory as we celebrate your resurrection today. Fill our hearts with your love, so that we too may renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Our Church Family:

For I will restore health in you and heal you of your wounds Jeremiah 30.17

Pray for those in our congregation and in our town who are elderly or infirm or have underlying health conditions that make them especially vulnerable to Covid-19. Keep them safe. Let them know that they are loved and cared for.
Pray especially for Edward Harrison, Beth Marshall's father, who has Covid-19.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46.

Pray for the family and friends of Win Hall who died recently and for the family and friends of others who have died and especially where attendance at funerals has been minimised due to the pandemic.

God of love and mercy, embrace all those whose hearts today overflow with grief, unanswered questions and such a sense of loss. Amen

Grant them space to express their tears and hold them close in the coming days and weeks. Amen

Pray for the families and friends of all those who would be been celebrating baptisms and weddings but whose preparations and rejoicing has had to be put on hold. Amen

Our Church Life:

That the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith (Ephesians 4:12f)

While the building is closed and regular services are halted; while we as a congregation do not meet together for worship and companionship; while we as individuals may be isolated and alone, Lord, strengthen our church family. Enrich our lives with love for you and for each other in these testing times. Amen

If you would like something included in the next prayer letter

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