



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST – APRIL 2020

It is concerning that our Church will be closed for services for the foreseeable future. It keeps the pressure on us to keep alive our faith and look to the guidance we have in the New Testament for putting that faith in action. Our Church is still open daily for quiet prayer. We should keep up our daily prayers and do what we can for our friends and neighbours.

A Prayer for our Church and our Community

We thank you Lord, for our Church, its clergy and lay ministers and all the members of our congregation who bring us the comfort of friendship and companionship which stems from our knowledge that we share a common belief in the perpetual love of Christ.

We are grateful, too, for our association with churches in the parish, dioceses and the world-wide Church. These thoughts will support us through this anxious period when we will not have the peace and joy of the fellowship that comes from our Sunday worship together. We will remember the friendship and acts of kindness which have been a consolation over the years. We hope that the measures being taken, the broadcasted services will inspire and guide us so that we can resume our worship with renewed confidence when the current crisis is over.

A Prayer for our clergy, lay ministers and church officers.

Dear Lord, be with Lisa our vicar, Gillian, Hazel, Lewis, Julia our lay ministers, and Carol in training and all our church officers who will have more responsibility for keeping our Church alive without the regular support of worship and praise. They have worked hard to devise ways to maintain our faith and fellowship. Our thanks and our thoughts and prayers are with them

A Prayer for our Streets

In “normal times” we would have allocated certain Sundays to every street in our parish for special prayers as part of our Church’s identification with its people. In this month it would have been Alcot Close, Fielding Gardens on 9th April and Waterloo Road on 26th April.

Now we must extend our prayers to every street – all feel the need for support at this difficult time. We ask God to bless the residents of all our streets in every house in our parish and to include in that blessing their friends, relations and everyone dear to them. Give them your strength and support to overcome these new problems and may they experience the joy of discovering additional friends coming forward to offer assistance.

We pray in addition for all our shop owners and workers, and we pray also for all who may be experiencing hardship as a result of temporary (hopefully) unemployment and businesses affected by lack of trade. We welcome the Government’s intervention with financial aid.

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,
those who are ill or in pain
both at home and all over the world,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.
Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

A Prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain us 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

For those in isolation

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For hospital staff, our doctors, nurses and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your spirit,
that through their work, while keeping themselves free from infection,
many will be restored to health
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe nothing can separate me
from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For those who feel guilt

Give us honest hearts, O God,
And send your kindly spirit
To help us confess our sins
And bring us the peace of your forgiveness:
In Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

In the absence of Church services and of our collective confession and absolution, we pray for the peace that confession and forgiveness brings.

For those who mourn

Gracious God,
Surround us and all who mourn this day
With your continuing compassion.
Do not let grief overwhelm your children or turn them against you.
When grief seems never- ending, take them one step at a time
Along your road of death and resurrection. Amen.

A Prayer for the Events of Passiontide

Fourth Sunday in Lent (29th March – Easter Sunday 12th April)

Passiontide begins the Sunday before Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday → the Last Supper → Judas's betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane → Jesus' imprisonment, torture, questioning and rejection by the mob – the walk carrying his cross down the Via Dolores to Golgotha – his death on the cross.

So many deaths in our country and across the world give Jesus's death, the manner of his dying for our sake, a deeper poignancy.

We ask our Lord, by his suffering, to heal us;
by his hurt, to heal us;
by his death on the cross to deliver us,
by his resurrection, to raise us up.
Christ by your passion,
Protect us.

King of Kings, we pray for all who entered into the joy of your kingdom,
all find peace and life in you,
Christ by your passion,
protect us.

David Adam

A Prayer for Easter Sunday 12th April

In joy we worship you, mighty Son of the Father,
In you is our hope, O Christ, who died and now is risen,
and lives with the Father of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen

Let the whole Church rejoice, in city and in country,
in this land and throughout the world, for Christ is risen.
Let each congregation and fellowship rejoice,
let each heart and mind rejoice, for Christ is risen.
O Lord, may the whole church rejoice in your victory,
let us proclaim the Good News that death is defeated;
we are set free and Christ has won for us the victory.
May we reflect your glory and the power of your resurrection.
Lord, may we know you
And the power of your resurrection. Amen

David Adam

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of eternal life.
We pray for all our loved ones departed this life
that, free from sorrow and pain, they may be one with you in your kingdom.
May the peace of him who triumphs over death
be with us all this Easter and for ever more.

