

Prayers – Week Commencing 5th April

Here are some prayer suggestions for sharing this week and thank you to those who have sent in ideas and contributions. May you find this collection useful from wherever and whenever you choose to use it.

My apologies at getting last weeks dates confused, I hope you are still with me

Special Prayers.

We are praying especially for

- Peter and his continued recovery – Sue says he is still very weak and sleeping much of the time,
- Susan, Rob and Anna's friend Susan who is undergoing treatment
- Katie, Barbara's daughter as thankfully she recovers from Coronavirus.

In Memoriam, let us pray for

- Barrie and family as they mourn Austin
- Helen and her family as they mourn Ros
- Keith who lost his aunt, Hilda
- Sue who is mourning her father Gerald.

May all of these people find peace and comfort in the knowledge of your love and care, Gracious Lord.

If you have someone or something that you would particularly like us to pray for, or if you have a prayer that you would like to contribute, please send it to Rose at r.stimson@btinternet.com

You will find here one page each for Sunday 5th April and one page for Wednesday 8th April. For each day there is a suggested focus, a prayer and some further resources that you may find helpful.

We wish you peace and strength at this troubled time. May God be alongside us all.

St. Leonard's PCC

Sunday 5th April Palm Sunday

Today is Palm Sunday but it is like no Palm Sunday we have known before. In these times of great change and upheaval though, God is still here with us on our journeys. We can be secure in his love for us demonstrated by the journey of Jesus to the cross.

Whilst we cannot share Palm crosses today as we usually do so there is the suggestion that if you have access to greenery why not decorate your window or front door. Or if you are feeling particularly creative you can make your own palm cross if <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT-0Z6YSJoU&feature=youtu.be>

FOCUS:

Today please pray for all the people who are working so hard to keep things going.....

- Everyone working in the nhs, doctors, nurses, cleaners, cooks, ambulance drivers,...and so many more
- The people who are working to support our shops and homes, postmen & women, delivery drivers, refuse collectors, emergency plumbers and electricians, telephone engineers, warehouse pickers and many others quietly going about their business
- Those in the front line of social care, social workers, food banks, those helping the homeless, the kids at risk and old people in care, priests, policemen, firemen
- Our own Yarpole volunteers.

Prayer:

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Other resources

Live Streaming of Sunday services from:

- **Anglican:**
 1. National virtual Palm Sunday service here, led by Bishop of Manchester
<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/national-virtual-service-palm-sunday-be-led-bishop-manchester>
 2. BBC1 at 11.00 am – pre recorded service from Hereford Cathedral led by the Dean, the Very Rev Michael Tavinor
 3. Archbishop Justin Welby will also be appearing on BBC One Andrew Marr show talking about stories of hope during this time and publish a reflection on his website
<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/>

Catholic: Our Lady & All Saints Stourbridge <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-all-saints>

Baptist - Ludlow Baptist Church at 10.30 on Sunday please email church@ludlowbaptistchurch.org.uk to get a login code.

Wednesday 8th April

Tomorrow will be Maunday Thursday as we prepare for Easter. May we use that time to think of those who are ill, those who are struggling physically, mentally or materially with the crises, those who are to stay indoors for 12 weeks, those struggling to feed, educate and entertain children, everyone who is so scared by the future they think lies ahead for them.

Prayer

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 your love,
for your name's sake.

Amen.

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.

And for those that are ill

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

Amen.

Other Resources

Weekly message from Bishop Richard of Hereford

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzXlt1DRSZo&t=11s&mc_cid=0598b3e37f&mc_eid=2cd7ebd188

Support resources for those experiencing mental health difficulties

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-action/mental-health-resources/supporting-good-mental-health/supporting-good-mental-health>

A thought provoking article on Christian understanding and response to the crisis – this is included to make us think not to promote a particular ideology. https://www.tearfund.org/2020/03/decoding_coronavirus/

From Leominster Priory:



Join us as we Experience Easter at Home!

Each day there will be a new film and activity on Facebook (you don't have to have a facebook account)

<https://www.facebook.com/LeominsterPriory/photos/a.164574180863215/541981893122440/?type=3&theater>
and Youtube as we journey with Jesus and the Disciples towards Easter.

You can do this on your own or as a family.

Please join us every day and add your own comments, photos and videos to the project.