

Our Prayer Diary



April 2024

*Let us love one another, because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

*God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his
only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.*

1 John 4:7-9 NRSV

Monday 1st

Tonight is the United Churches Easter Praise Service in *St Peter and the Holy Rood* Church in Thurso commencing at 7.00 pm. This service is a great finale to Easter Weekend and is always a wonderful time of worship, praise and fellowship. Pentland Parish will be contributing to the programme. All are welcome - do try to go along if you can. Heavenly Father, we gather to celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May the promise of Your Spirit working in all of us light up our lives.

Tuesday 2nd

Loving God, children will now be on holiday from school. Some will be looking forward to visiting relatives. In the excitement of travel, keep everyone safe. We pray that as journeys are made, may we freely extend the hospitality that is extended to us.

Wednesday 3rd Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Dear Father, as spring arrives and nature bursts into life all around us, we give thanks to You for the creation of new life. We are particularly moved when we see the arrival of a new child; the joy it brings to parents, grandparents, their family and friends. May these young lives be surrounded with love as they grow and come to know You in their daily lives and learn to love You as I do.

Thursday 4th

Healing God, we pray for King Charles III that he recovers quickly and fully from his illness. We seek Your blessing on the other members of the Royal family as well. *"Add many years to the King's life, let him live on and on! May he rule for ever in Your presence, O God, protect him with your constant love and faithfulness"*. Psalm 61 verses 6 and 7.

Friday 5th

It is hard to believe this is the end of the first week of the school Easter holidays. Time continues to travel so quickly! Loving God bless all the families in our parish and grant them a happy and safe time, hopefully in weather when they can be outside enjoying our clear fresh air. Thank you for family members who look after children while parents continue to work. Many families in our country benefit greatly as relationships are strengthened when oldest and youngest spend time together.

Saturday 6th

Loving Father, we pray not just as individuals alone but as a community, where the needs of one are met by the generosity of another. Let our worship be a symphony of selfless love, echoing the chorus of the early believers, and testifying to the resurrection power of our Lord Jesus Christ. We offer our hearts, minds, bodies, souls, and possessions, knowing that in our shared devotion we shall encounter the presence of the risen Christ.

Sunday 7th

Today is *World Health Day*. The theme this year was chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education and information as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition and quality housing. Caring God, we give thanks for the many things we take for granted, which are unavailable to a great number of people throughout the world.

Monday 8th

Loving Father we pray for everybody who is housebound and lonely. Help us to find the motivation to visit our neighbours and to love them as if they were You.

Tuesday 9th

Don't miss out on being as happy as you can be: smile, even when life gets you down. Four Paws asks people to use their dog to interact with folk when they are out. Friendly conversation may just make that person's day. *O my strength, to You I sing praises, for You, O God, are my refuge, the God who shows me unfailing love.* Psalm 59 verse 17 NLT

Wednesday 10th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

The brave volunteers of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution have been saving lives at sea since 1824. Across their 200-year history many things have changed, but if someone is in peril at sea the RNLI lifesavers will still do all they can to save them, answering the call to rescue day or night, on calm seas or into ferocious storms. The story of the RNLI is one of courage and dedication. In Caithness we have lifeboats stationed at both Wick and Scrabster. Heavenly Father we ask that You will protect and bless the crews of Lifeboats all around the coast, as these volunteers selflessly risk their lives when others are in danger.

Thursday 11th

Loving Father, we hold up before You every adult involved in teaching, caring and in other practical skills in our schools. During the school holidays multiply to each of them the rest and renewal which they so urgently need. A very busy term lies ahead and we give thanks that we can be assured that You understand all their needs.

Friday 12th

Last month the Princess of Wales revealed she had begun treatment for cancer that had been discovered following abdominal surgery. *“Do not lose faith or hope, you are not alone”* she said in a public broadcast. Loving Heavenly Father we pray for all people who have been given a diagnosis of cancer. Thankfully You are helping us to find newer and better treatments all the time but nevertheless the shock of disease is frightening.

Saturday 13th

Today Pentland Parish is holding a fund raising Daffodil Tea in Mey Hall beginning at 2 pm. As well as tea, coffee and delicious baking there will be stalls. Heavenly Father, as we meet in the spirit of Christian fellowship at our community event, please let our hearts be filled with Your Spirit and fulfil our desire to become more like You. Whenever we meet, help us to spread love, joy, peace and faithfulness.

Sunday 14th

Lord, forgive me for the times I have struggled to fully trust in Your resurrection power. Forgive me for the moments when I've allowed doubt to overshadow the profound truth of Your victory over death. In the spirit of Thomas, I confess that there are times when I demand tangible evidence, seeking assurance in what I can see and touch rather than trusting in the unseen reality of Your love and grace. I repent my limited vision and ask for the faith to believe without always needing to see. Grant me the strength to embrace the blessedness of those who trust in Your word without demanding visible proof.

Monday 15th

Father God, we pray that Highland Council will take the necessary action to repair the roads, so that the tourists and local people can enjoy travelling again, rather than having to suffer the problems that presently exist.

Tuesday 16th

Caring God we pray for peace and fairness in the world as well as reconciliation, understanding and acceptance of others. Let us learn to love each other as You love us.

Wednesday 17th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Loving Father, let us pray for the refugees who have had to leave their homeland because of wars or natural causes. Help them live a fulfilling life in their country of adoption. *"Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer! In despair and far from home I call to You!"* Psalm 61 verses 1-2

Thursday 18th

According to Buddha - *Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.* Heavenly Father, peace is greatly needed in the world today. We ask that You will speak to politicians and world leaders and help them to sort out differences in a peaceful way.

Friday 19th

Dogs help us to enjoy God's creation. Life is simply better, richer, fuller healthier, happier, more satisfying, more active and more fun with a dog! And maybe a little messier and muddier, too. *This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.* Psalm 118 verse 24 NRSV

Saturday 20th

Heavenly Father as the buds develop on flowers and trees, may they be a reminder of Your continual love for us. We praise You and give our heartfelt thanks for the privilege of living in a rural community.

Sunday 21st

God of heaven, and yet God over all the earth, we marvel that You hear us as we pray and that You respond according to Your goodwill and purpose. In all things, we pray: *Your will be done; Your Kingdom come.* Help us, Lord, to be faithful in prayer, day by day, that we might be ever mindful of the harsh realities being faced by so many today. And as we pray, soften our hearts that, filled with Your Spirit, we might exhibit love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Monday 22nd

Last month Safeguarding Training was held for elders and for those who work with children and vulnerable adults. This refresher training has been particularly necessary because requirements have changed dramatically over the past ten years. We give thanks for all who were involved and pray that work done in our churches may benefit greatly from this experience.

Tuesday 23rd

Cameron House in Inverness is a Church of Scotland Home for thirty people who are at various stages in their journey with dementia. Loving God we think about the service users and ask that each will always have a deep sense of being loved and valued. We also ask that the love of Jesus will be experienced by all those visiting and working in the home, and that families who are supporting their loved ones transition into the home receive wisdom, strength and peace.

Wednesday 24th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Heavenly Father I am sorry for all the things I planned to do, but haven't. I meant to bake and visit, but I still haven't done that either. My list of 'reasons why' seems to grow. Please give me the courage and strength, Lord to be more active and give more kindness to others.

Thursday 25th

Heavenly Father we pray for the Church in these challenging times, and not least that You might equip Your Church with those who would minister among us and across our communities. Help us to encourage and support those who are called to ministry in all its forms - those who serve faithfully, those who are retired, those who are just starting out, and those who quietly serve in a supporting role. Might we and they together serve You faithfully as You work through us to establish Your Kingdom.

Friday 26th

A survey conducted by the teachers' union reveals that teachers in the Highlands suffer physical violence and abuse on a daily basis. The impact has been debilitating with an increase in stress, anxiety and depression for some teachers. Heavenly Father we pray that all teachers have enough strength to carry on with their demanding teaching tasks.

Saturday 27th

Forgive us, Loving God, that much of the time we are too busy to be aware that You are in the room - overly distracted to notice what You are up to. Our lives are lived less fully as a result. We talk of following Jesus, but wander off on other paths. Forgive us, we pray. We ask that You send Your Spirit, good and generous God, that by daily transformation we might become evermore the people You made us to be. We long to serve more faithfully.

Sunday 28th

Loving Father, we wonder at the diversity within the majesty of Your creation. The seasons that vary and cycle unceasingly, the climates that show and share life from extreme cold to extreme heat, from the depths of the oceans to the highest rocky outcrop. Difference is all around us. We, Your humble servants, are just as diverse and varied as the physical aspects of this world in which we live; our lives, stories and experiences are often vastly different. We are eternally grateful that within Your loving embrace there is space enough for all of us. Your Son, our saviour, came in love and offered us eternal life through Him. Help us to go out into this world sharing Your perfect love, so that all may experience what it means to abide with You.

Monday 29th

Caring Lord, thank you for the efforts of those who work in difficult conditions in order that we may live more comfortably - e.g. oil rig workers, miners, wind farm workers and those maintaining electricity supplies - often in the worst of weather. Pour Your love on them all.

Tuesday 30th

Our friends at *Castletown and Community Free Church* would like to invite children from P5 to S6 to their Summer Camps throughout July 2024. This year the camp venues are Kincaig, Renfrew and Oswestry. These camps are open to anyone. If you would like to have some further information this can be found at www.freechurchyouthcamps.org. Heavenly Father we bring to You all young people who attend Christian based camps. We trust this time of fun and Bible teaching may just be the beginning of a deeper love for You. When they return home we ask that they have an opportunity to continue their faith journey.



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meeting in four congregations around the Caithness Coast:

CANISBAY, DUNNET, KEISS and OLRIG.

www.pentlandparish.org.uk

A pdf copy of this and previous editions of the Prayer Diary are available to view online via our website - www.pentlandparish.org.uk.

Copies also go by e-mail to a growing number of friends throughout Scotland and we are sincerely grateful for their interest and support. Feel free to commend it to others, and if they express a wish to receive it please forward their contact details to the Editor.

If you have found this Prayer Diary helpful please let us know, and if there is any topic or particular prayer you would like included in a future issue please contact the Editor, Liz Buchan, via:

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Copy date for the May issue is Monday 22 April.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

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