

Our Prayer Diary



April 2025

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

John 11:25-26 NRSV (abridged)

Tuesday 1st

Over the last few weeks Rev Janet has not enjoyed the best of health. Heavenly Father we pray that she will be able to get an appointment with the appropriate members of the NHS staff to help her recover to full strength.

Wednesday 2nd Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Heavenly Father we pray that You will lead us in our outreach project for primary school children in Pentland Parish. It is a multi-phased event. We ask that You will encourage families to come and come back, volunteers to help and the grace of our Lord Jesus throughout.

Thursday 3rd

Father, I give thanks for Your words in the scriptures. As I grow older and hopefully a little wiser, I feel Your words speaking to me in a way I have never heard before. As such I am becoming more grateful for what I have in my life, for the good people and things around me, and all with a greater sense of humility.

Friday 4th

4 Paws says if things are getting you down try: your smile, your Smart Speaker (eg Alexa), your pet or your playmates to help to cheer you up. Martin Luther (German theologian) told *"the dog is the most faithful of animals and would be much esteemed were it not so common."* Our Lord God has made His greatest gifts the commonest. Heavenly Father, thank you for all the gifts You have bestowed on us.

Saturday 5th

A big thank you to all who took part in the World Day of Prayer Service last month in Orlig Church. A wonderful afternoon was spent together, where we enjoyed the service written by Christian women from the Cook Islands and learned a little about Maori traditional dress and customs. Next year we will meet in Canisbay Church Hall for a service which will be written by Christian women in Nigeria.

Sunday 6th

Heavenly Father, who in Christ affirms the beauty of compassion, who accepts and blesses what is offered in love; we bring and offer the best things from our hearts, the treasures of our affections and concerns for the world's healing. We pray that we may be strengthened for the good of all, to make known Your Good News: *God, at work for justice, renewing the life of Earth.* Help us to be what You need us to be - called to love extravagantly in our response to need, our pursuit of peace, and our love of the Earth.

Monday 7th

A regular contributor recalls camping at the John O'Groats site many years ago and being on friendly terms with Clara and Billy. They were sad to hear Clara passed away on 2 March. Caring God accept Clara into Your Kingdom and we give prayers for her husband Billy, their children and grandchildren who must miss her greatly. Loving God, wrap Your caring arms around them and bring them comfort.

Tuesday 8th

Generally the media publish very few positive stories about Christian churches and tend to concentrate on falling congregation numbers or church scandals. We should be thankful to God for the small number of newspapers and journalists who are willing to put out '*good news*' stories including the fact that the sales of bibles in the UK have increased by 87% between 2019 and 2024. A spokesman said that some of the sales came from young people buying the bible themselves, or parents buying it for their children, whilst another portion come from churches buying bibles for their youth group or their local school.

Wednesday 9th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

As the year has gone by, some of our relatives and friends have found it necessary to move into a Care Home so that they can be given the help they now require. Our local newspapers often describe visits or events taking place with the guidance of specially appointed staff. What joy these bring to the residents. People reading this Diary who have visited family and friends may have been glad to hear what has been provided in the daily programme of activities. God of love, thank you for all those who work so hard to make life as pleasant as possible for those no longer able to care for themselves.

Thursday 10th

Father, we give thanks to the politicians and teachers who seek peace over war. We are truly grateful for all the people who actively find ways of trying to bring peace to any nation and are driven by the good of humanity and not by selfish greed. We think of Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and so many more places. Lord, hear our prayer.

Friday 11th

Loving God, we pray for the children and their families in our parish, that outreach activities and Easter assemblies would draw attention to the greatness of our God and shine His light in our communities.

Saturday 12th

Lao Tzu penned the following words: *If there is to be peace in the world, there must be peace in the nations. If there is to be peace in the nations, there must be peace in the cities. If there is to be peace in the cities, there must be peace between neighbours. If there is to be peace between neighbours there must be peace in the home. If there is to be peace in the home, there must be peace in the heart.*

Sunday 13th - Palm Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ, You entered the city as a poor man not in style but simply, yet still You caused uproar and questions everywhere; You drew the expectations of a hungry crowd and brought buried conflicts to light. May we, who are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval, and who often avoid conflict for fear of its cost to us, hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice and follow faithfully in Your way of compassion and solidarity with those who are poor and excluded, wherever it may lead us.

Monday 14th

Cameron House in Inverness is home to thirty people who are at various stages in their journey with dementia. Loving Lord, we ask for the love of Jesus to be experienced by everyone living, visiting or working at the home. We give thanks for the *Friends of Cameron House* group as it continues to support service users and staff in many different, and often invaluable ways.

Tuesday 15th

From 20 April right through until October the doors of Canisbay Church will be open daily for anyone who wishes to spend some quiet time or reflection or prayer. Heavenly Father we remember all who have gone before us and worshipped in this place. We give You thanks for their faith and witness. We know we can worship You anywhere but sometimes a sanctuary just feels like the right place to be. Thank you for being with us wherever we are.

Wednesday 16th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

As Easter approaches we look forward to singing the familiar hymns which help us to understand more fully the truth that Jesus died and rose again for the sake of all those who follow Him. Some of us reading this prayer probably can't remember a time when we didn't believe that Jesus did this for us. Others have come recently to believe this wonderful truth. Thank you dear God who opened up Your words to each of us. Recently, some of us sang the old hymn *'When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there'*. This refers to the gathering together of those who have given their lives to follow Jesus. What joy it is for us to sing the old words. Thank you Lord Jesus.

Thursday 17th - Maunday Thursday

Loving God, who by the example of Your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ has taught us the greatness of true humility. Give us grace to serve one another in all lowliness, and to enter into the fellowship of His sufferings, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Friday 18th - Good Friday

Gracious God, though the cross is, and always may be, an offence to some and a stumbling-block to others, You have made it to us the good news of Your power and wisdom, a testament to Your restoring and renewing love. Help us to make it so in turn for those we meet and mix with. Save us from conveying the wrong message, from putting across a negative or false picture of the gospel. Help us to know You that who and what we are may speak of Your love for all, witnessing in a way that words alone cannot achieve to the awesome extent of Your grace.

Saturday 19th

This is an Easter Reflection from Helen Steiner Rice:

*With our eyes we see the beauty of Easter as the earth awakens once more;
With our ears we hear the birds sing sweetly to tell us spring again is here;
With our hands we pick the golden daffodils and the fragrant hyacinths;
But only with our hearts can we feel the miracle of God's love which redeems
all men;
And only with our souls can we make "our pilgrimage to God" and inherit
His Easter gift of eternal life.*

Sunday 20th - Easter Sunday

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray to rejoice with You in Your risen life. The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God, heirs of eternal life, and this day we confess You as the way, the truth and the life, risen from death. We confess also that we have no claim on You other than Your love for us. You died for us to deal with all our sins, which we freely acknowledge before You. You rose for us that we might know You as Saviour and Lord, and live new lives, turning our back on sin and pressing forward in Your good purpose for us. Therefore, we bless You and honour You as our living and reigning Lord.

Monday 21st

This evening there will be a *United Churches Service of Easter Praise* in Thurso Baptist Church, Thurso Business Park at 7.00 pm. Do come along if you can to what is sure to be a wonderful evening of praise, prayer and fellowship. Loving God be with all who are organising and taking part tonight, and please encourage people to attend this wonderful finale close to Easter weekend.

Tuesday 22nd Pentland Parish Guild - Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Last month a member of Canisbay congregation won Fundraiser of the year at the Highland Heroes Awards. We congratulate Mairi Anne Cormack who has been raising funds for a playpark in John O'Groats in memory of her late friend Julie McGee. Heavenly Father we thank you for all the effort Mairi Anne and others have put into this worthy cause. Bless them and all the children who will in due course derive great pleasure from time spent in the park.

Wednesday 23rd Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Yesterday children in Highland Region returned to school after the Easter holidays. For those in S4, S5 and S6 it will soon be time for their certificate exams. Loving God, be with the young people and also their teachers and families as they support them through what can be quite a stressful time.

Thursday 24th

Today we welcome the first cruise ship passengers of the year to Canisbay Kirk. We pray that they may find peace and relaxation as they visit our beautiful county. Father we thank you for the care and dedication of the captain and crew of this ship and all ships sailing round our coast. Bring them all safely to their home ports.

Friday 25th

Heavenly Father, we pray that we would be merciful and kind with each other as a church and allow God's grace and peace to help us continue learning how to be selfless.

Saturday 26th

In His teaching Jesus encouraged His friends to go the second mile. We give You thanks dear Lord for those who have recently done this for us. For some it has been a sacrifice. Hopefully we have acknowledged this and let them know how grateful we are. It takes only a minute to express our thanks but the words of thanks can make a huge amount of difference to others.

Sunday 27th

Loving Jesus, it is only by our faith in You we can ask for and receive forgiveness. Even though we might not see You on the cross like Your disciples did, we believe You made a way for our forgiveness, to wipe our slate clean and You rejoice over us with singing. On this day, the day You, our Lord have made, we can, and do, rejoice and pray in the name of Jesus.

Monday 28th

A regular contributor reflected on parking their car recently in the High Street car park in Perth. How foreboding the car park looked a number of years ago when a substantial part of it was taken up with a temporary Covid centre. At that time the future looked uncertain, and the term 'new normal' emerged. We can thank God that the 'new normal' and the restrictions are a thing of the past, and the vast majority of people can now go about their lives without any hindrance or difficulty, although we should not forget families who have lost loved ones to Covid or who are suffering from Long Covid.

Tuesday 29th

Matthew Chapter 5 - *'God blesses those people who are merciful, they will be treated with mercy! God blesses those people who make peace, they will be called His children.'* Dear Lord, hear our prayers so that peace prevails everywhere in the world and particularly in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Wednesday 30th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Albert Schweitzer penned the following words: success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. *'Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established.'* Proverbs 16 verse 3 NKJV.



The Church of Scotland

www.churchofscotland.org

**This prayer diary is produced monthly by and for
PENTLAND PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Registered Charity No: SCO10296)

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:

e-mail: admin@pentlandparish.org.uk or phone: 01847 821759

Copy date for the *May* issue is *Monday 21 April*.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

If you would like to make an online donation to Pentland Parish, please scan the adjacent QR code; *alternatively* visit www.churchofscotland.co.uk and navigate to the *Donate to the Church* page. Either way, at Step 1 on the page, select *Donate to a Congregation* and enter **PENTLAND PARISH**, then follow the instructions to complete the donation.

