

# Our Prayer Diary



December 2024



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and  
his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The  
mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of  
Peace." Isaiah 9 v 6 KJV



## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and it gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on Hope. Heavenly Father we ask for Your hope to arise in our hearts. It is from You alone that our hope comes. Help us to be free of the anxiety, discouragement and distractions that have been around us this year. We ask that You will be glorified in this season of expectation.

## **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Yesterday was *World AIDS Day*. Heavenly Father, Your love abounds and shapes our lives. Help us pour out that love to those in our world, known and unknown - those who live with memories of loved ones who have died from AIDS, those who live because they are cared for by family and friends, those who live because of continuing scientific breakthrough, those who live because others speak out for them, those who live because we are praying for them and You hold them in the palm of Your hand.

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Over the next few weeks Christmas presentations will happen in the schools in Pentland Parish. We pray that through these, children and all others involved will get to know the big picture of the Bible and who Jesus is.

## **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>    Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

Loving God we pray for farmers burdened with paperwork and long hours in uncertain and unpleasant weather affecting crops and stock. The recent Budget has brought huge additional challenges to many. As we continue to thank You for a Harvest Blessing, may You keep us mindful of those people through whom the blessing came - the farmers.

## **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>**

At this time of year TV advertising portrays people of all ages enjoying camaraderie and friendship and having a wonderful time at Christmas. However, this will also be a busy period for calls to the Samaritans from people who because of the harsh reality of life will only feel despair and not happiness over Christmas. Loving God, we pray for everyone who will have those feelings of loneliness and despair over Christmas; direct us to act in practical ways to help those in need.

### **Friday 6<sup>th</sup>**

Father we remember Rob Petersen and his family - we pray for healing, restoration and renewal. Surround them with your love and peace and give them strength as they go through the healing process. They are so precious to us.

### **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>**

In John O'Groats there is a Community Fire Station. Loving Lord, please protect our fire fighters when they are called out on duty. We ask that they will know strength and courage from You. We also remember their loved ones at home worrying about them when they tackle fires.

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

A regular contributor was bird watching recently. The autumn colours were at their best and many migrating birds were resting on ponds and marshland. They couldn't stop admiring all the colourful birds and scenery. Thank you dear Lord for providing us with such a beautiful world. We pray that You guide us to take good care of it.

### **Monday 9<sup>th</sup>**

Matthew Chapter 11 v 28 and 29: Jesus says *'Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you and learn from me because I am gentle and humble in spirit and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy and the load I will put on you is light'*. God of love please help all of us during the busy hours of this month to hear Your voice and to respond to You.

### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Today Pentland Parish Guild will meet in Canisbay Church Hall at the slightly earlier time of 1.00 pm for Carol Singing and Christmas Activities. All are welcome to come along. Heavenly Father please bless all Guild members Scotland wide. Through them may Your message be shared with others in the community.

### **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

The secret of being happy is accepting where you are in life and making the most out of every day. *Rejoice in the Lord and be glad.* Psalm 32 verse 11 NIV.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Today is *Christmas Jumper Day*, organised by *Save the Children*, where you are invited to put on your favourite Christmas jumper and donate £2 to help give disadvantaged children in the UK and around the world a brighter and better future. Heavenly Father, we pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected children all over the world, that their cries for help and support may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

### **Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Gracious God, as Christmas approaches at top speed, we think of those who are physically or otherwise disabled and the additional burdens Christmas celebrations may pose on those who are close and whom they love. Please be with them, and help us to treasure each day and live in the moment with You so we receive Your blessings, protection and peace at all times.

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>**

Tomorrow (15<sup>th</sup>) a *Carols by Candlelight Service* will be held in *Castletown and Community Free Church* at 4.00 pm. Following the service tea/coffee mince pies and shortbread will be served. All are most welcome to come along to sing together and enjoy the company of others. Loving Father, we pray that while we raise our voices in joyful praise, those present will be truly filled with Your spirit, such that we are inspired to share Your message of love, hope and salvation within our broader community.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

This is the third Sunday of Advent and we light the candle of Joy. Father God we shout for joy for the birth of Jesus. You sent Your son to earth. Through Him we have eternal salvation. Let this holy joy be contagious and spill over onto the lives of those around us. May Your peace that surpasses all understanding be upon us, especially as we come to the end of a year that at times has felt challenging and uncertain. Encourage our hearts with the knowledge that with You we can live in Your perfect peace, no matter our circumstances. We thank you for the joy and peace You give!

### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup>**

Loving God, we pray for all the people who have recently lost a family member or close friend. Christmas can be a time when loved ones are especially missed. Please wrap Your loving arms around the bereaved and comfort them. *'The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.'* Psalm 34 verse 18 NIV

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Caring God, as Christmas is just around the corner we pray for all the kind people who will gladly invite an elderly relative or a lonely neighbour to share their Christmas celebrations so that no one is left aside on the day our Saviour was born. We also pray for all those who will have to work on Christmas Day to make our lives safer and more comfortable.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

Over the Festive Period, especially in cities and big towns there will be people sleeping in doorways. Caring God, bless all the people who through voluntary work will be on the streets over Christmas showing compassion to those individuals who, for whatever reason, have been disconnected from their families and friends. We ask that You keep the homeless warm with Your grace, and lead us to be helpful to them in any way we can, just as You have been merciful to us.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>**

Lord may we never forget the joyfulness of children as we approach this wonderful season - may their joy spill out onto us and be a compass in our journey towards a future filled with Your everlasting love. May our hearts be full of thanksgiving, such that we may open our eyes wide like children to see Your mercies, even in the midst of our pain, and come to You with gratitude.

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Ever present Father, we thank you for our Saviour who came as a baby and grew up in a family. We thank you for our homes and for the people who raised us and for the wider family of Your church. We praise You for the privilege of becoming Your children through faith in Jesus.

## **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

As we approach Christmas, Lord, may we remember and give thanks that this is when love came down and that is what Christmas is all about. Wonderful love, amazing love. *‘And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.’* John 1 v 14 ESV

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Heavenly Father, we ask that where there is war may You bring peace; where there is hunger may You bring provision; where there is sickness, healing. Help us Lord, to remain patient in our praying and in our waiting for Your kingdom to reign. We thank you God, that You call us again and again in Scripture not to be afraid. Help us to understand what it means to trust in You more deeply each day.

## **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Father please help us to reach out to the stranger, to show Your love, so that no one is alone this Christmas. We pray for Your healing in relationships in families where it is needed and for joy to abound. *‘The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”’* Matthew 25 v 40.

## **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Loving God, on this Christmas Eve we reflect on Your goodness for bringing Jesus to be born to save us and love us. The people who walked in darkness saw a great light. We ask that You will spread the light of Jesus Your Son upon us. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we pray that we will remain mindful of the reason for his coming. *4 Paws wishes all - both two and four pawed - a Merry Christmas.*

## **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Glory to the new-born King.* Almighty God we praise You for the gift of Jesus Christ. Like the shepherds we come to meet Him. Like the Magi we offer gifts. Like Your people across the centuries we give thanks for this day rejoicing that the familiar story we know and love so well is still able to speak to our hearts.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**

After the busyness of the past few weeks today might be the time to take life at a slower pace, and think of all the simple pleasures we often take for granted. If you are able, go for a walk and explore the local area with enthusiasm. If you are housebound, phone someone you haven't spoken to for a while. Loving God we give thanks for the beauty of Your world, for being able to have a glass of clean drinking water, a comfortable bed to sleep in and all of these are given by You.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>**

Father God there seems to be so many people struggling with ill health in body, mind or soul. We pray that they will know Your comfort and peace and that You are always with them whatever they are going through.

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Beechwood House* in Inverness run by *Crossreach* offers residential rehabilitation, community outreach and social care to people affected by substance abuse. For service users past and present may God continue to watch over them and keep them safe. Also for families and friends who visit Beechwood may God bring comfort when most needed.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Joint Service in Canisbay Church at 12 noon**

Thank you Father for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. May we always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and be guided at all times, in all we say and all we do.

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup>**

As we draw towards the end of the year we look back on the past twelve months. There is so much for which we should give You thanks: for health and strength, for protection in the time of danger, for healing in the time of illness and for upholding us in the time of sorrow. Draw near to those for whom this has been a sad year and help them to face the future with eyes fixed on You.

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>**

In the words of Barbara Bush: *'When all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family and friends.'*



# The Church of Scotland

[www.churchofscotland.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:admin@pentlandparish.org.uk) or *phone:* 01847 821759**

**Copy date for the January 2025 issue is Monday 9 December.**

**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](http://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.

