

Our Prayer Diary



December 2025



For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Titus 2 verses 11-13 NRSV



Monday 1st

Loving Father, we pray for all the primary school children within our Parish. Rob Petersen is involved in delivering Assemblies to them on a regular basis. Please bless Rob as he helps to bring Your word alive to the children, and may they be receptive to listening to what he has to say.

Tuesday 2nd

Caring Lord, we thank you for the lights that have shone in our lives, for those who have helped us when we were ill, when we were struggling with difficult issues and when we just needed a bit of friendly help. Help us to be lights willing to shine for others in their dark times and ready to give help and friendship where it is needed.

Wednesday 3rd Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 10.30 am

God of the nations, we bring before You the things which feel too big for us to carry alone. We ask that Your peace would be stronger than conflict in Ukraine, in the Middle East, in Sudan and in so many other places around the world. We ask for your healing in the midst of all manner of ills, in relationships and in unjust circumstances.

Thursday 4th

1 Thessalonians 4 verse 11 says ... *'to aspire you to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you'*. Many people suffer from overload due to the pressures of home, family and work. When people start to lose energy due to declining physical or mental well-being then it is okay to take time to stand back and prioritise your life. By standing back we can gain an inner peace and possibly discover new talents. Lord, we pray for all those who choose to live a quiet Christian life, so that they can share their peace of mind with others. May their time away from the limelight bring them strength, courage and an inner peace.

Friday 5th

Gracious Father, thank you for giving us the gift of prayer by which we can have direct contact with You. Please forgive us when we limit what You are able to do in our lives because we fail to pray, or we do pray but don't believe that You are listening to us as tiny individuals in our huge universe. Help us to seize every opportunity to bring the needs of those around us and the needs of those across the world who are daily on our television screens to the attention of those who can deliver support, relief and loving care.

Saturday 6th

We know that extreme weather events can increase poverty, hunger and poor nutrition in places where people cannot grow or find sufficient food. Following the COP 30 meeting in Brazil let us pray that political leaders take the right measures and decisions to avoid drastic climate changes. Caring God, we also pray for all those who live and work in areas at risk of flooding.

Sunday 7th

On this second Sunday in Advent, as we light the candle, we think of Peace and Faith. Heavenly Father we pray for peace around the world. When we reflect on this past year and the many conflicts we have heard about, please be with all who have suffered in any way. Give them strength and faith to rebuild their shattered lives. We are grateful dear Lord for Your love and compassion.

Monday 8th

Happiness is like jam. You can't spread even a little without getting some on yourself. Psalm 105 verse 3 ESV: *'Glory in His Holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice'*. Heavenly Father, we praise Your holy name; may we never stop singing Your praises. Help us to get rid of those bad habits, ungodly attitudes, anything that might keep us from being filled to overflowing with your Holy Spirit. Use us for your glory.

Tuesday 9th Pentland Parish Guild at 1pm, Canisbay Church Hall

Please note the earlier start time for the Guild today. Heavenly Father, we pray for Your blessing on the Guild. Show us the road we are meant to take so that Your message comes alive for many more people. We thank you for those who have gone before us, for the heritage of the Guild and for the service of so many individuals. Help us to be Your disciples in our day and age.

Wednesday 10th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 10.30 am

As the weather becomes more unsettled and wintry we think of all who have to travel on difficult road conditions. Caring God we pray for drivers of emergency vehicles, ambulance drivers, police, fire service personnel and all whose jobs means they have to travel regardless of weather. Keep everyone safe Father and make us appreciate the service they give us in challenging circumstances.

Thursday 11th

Father God, we bring before You Jennifer Macdonald as she administers Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme applications on behalf of the parish. She is working hard to learn the 'ins and outs' of the application procedure and requirements. It is essential to have sufficient congregation members with PVG scheme clearance to support ministry now and in the future.

Friday 12th

Orlando Aloysius Battista, a Canadian-American chemist and author, once wrote the following: *'A dog is one of the remaining reasons why some people can be persuaded to go for a walk'*. Loving Father, going for a walk on a stormy day does not appeal to everyone, however dog owners put on the waterproofs and go out regardless. Even during inclement weather there are wonders of Your creation to be viewed in the great outdoors. *4 Paws* wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and asks that you remember your pet, family, friends and neighbours at this hectic time.

Saturday 13th

Charles Spurgeon, a preacher and teacher of the 19th century wrote sermons on the power of prayer. He challenged people listening to him to believe that prayer is much stronger than anything man made. *"The first fresh hour of every day should be dedicated to the Lord, whose mercy gladdens it with golden light"*. With the development of many new inventions the minds of men and women might consider these things to be what we rely on. Not at all said Spurgeon. *"Prayer is more important and more powerful"*. Loving God help us to always value prayer, putting it first.

Sunday 14th

Lord as we pray before You during this Advent season, refresh our hearts with the wonder of Your story. Guide us through Your Holy Spirit into deeper revelation of Your love, mercy and hope. Remind us that You might come to us in surprising ways. Help us to be open to Your presence, and in that presence, to await your prompting and your calling. We give You thanks that You still call ordinary people to do extraordinary things in Your name.

Monday 15th

As well as the Blythswood Shoe Boxes that were collected from Castletown there were pupils in schools across the county filling boxes, bound for Eastern Europe. We pray those boxes and their contents bring comfort to the people who live in communities where access to basic essentials is extremely limited. Heavenly Father we pray also for those generous pupils who gave their time and energy to prepare all the boxes.

Tuesday 16th

Cale House in Inverness is CrossReach accommodation for up to two years for homeless adults preparing for their own tenancies. Loving God may those who are transitioning find hope for the future. Thanks for Your grace and blessing. May these gifts be used for Your glory as the team work with the service users.

Wednesday 17th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 10.30 am

Ruth Carter Stapleton, an American Christian evangelist, wrote the following words - *'Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most'*. Lord, may Your peace and love fill our hearts and the world this Christmas.

Thursday 18th

This weekend, at 4 pm on Sunday 21st, *Castletown & Community Free Church* will be holding their annual *Carols by Candlelight Service*. All monetary donations will go to *Caithness Foodbank* which is their chosen community organisation. Lord, thank you for every volunteer and worker who help to keep the food bank open. Bless those who dedicate their time and efforts to help ensure that nobody in our community need go hungry.

Friday 19th

American artist, writer and musician Agnes M Pahro asks the question - *What is Christmas?* She offers the following answer: *'It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future'*. Heavenly Father, we pray that peace for all will happen in the future.

Saturday 20th

Tomorrow afternoon a Carol Service will be held in Orlig Church at 2.30 pm. Everyone is invited along to this time of worship, with refreshments being served at its close. Almighty God, You have given us this time of holy joy. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, born into our world. Help us to join in the angels' song, *'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men'*.

Sunday 21st

Living God, You called Your servant Joseph to leave Nazareth and journey to Bethlehem. Today Bethlehem is in the Palestinian West Bank, where the people are fearful - much more fearful than Joseph and Mary would have been going to a Roman occupied town. We pray for all those who are fearful this day. Fill those afflicted with the courage to walk in Your path towards healing and wholeness, strength and renewal, peace and comfort. *'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'* Hebrews 13 verse 6 NIV.

Monday 22nd

As we get ready to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we pray for all the people who will have to work on Christmas day, and not able to take part in celebrations with their family and friends. Dear Lord, we also pray for all those who are in hospital or who don't have any family and will spend Christmas on their own. Wrap your arms around them to comfort and reassure them.

Tuesday 23rd

Schools in Highland Region close today for the Christmas holidays. Heavenly Father we ask Your blessing on all staff and pupils within Pentland Parish as they begin their holidays. Amidst all that is going on in the next couple of days we earnestly hope that children will take time to reflect on what they have learned at school assemblies they have attended and nativity plays they have watched.

Wednesday 24th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 10.30 am

Almighty God, who by the incarnation of Your only Son has banished the darkness of this world, and by His glorious birth did enlighten this most holy night. Drive away from us the darkness of sin and illuminate our hearts with the glory of Your grace. We praise You saying *'Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled'*.

Thursday 25th Christmas Day service in Canisbay Church at 11.00 am.

Heavenly Father, on this Christmas morning we are filled with awe and wonder that the King of the Universe would allow His humble heart to touch the hearts of all around the world. We thank You for giving us the best gift of all - Your presence: Jesus. When we unwrap gifts today, may we know the greatest gift of all: the all-embracing, all-knowing, everlasting love of Christ Jesus, our Saviour.

Friday 26th

Heavenly Father we thank you for the peace and goodwill that was amongst us on Christmas Day. Grant that they are not something that lasts only for Christmas Day but that we may take the Christmas joy and the Christmas fellowship with us into all the ordinary days of life.

Saturday 27th

Loving God, we pray for the future of our children's ministry and associated activities. Help us to serve children and their families both within the church and the community of Pentland Parish.

Sunday 28th

God of loving kindness, You are the source and spark of all love and delight. We come to You knowing that You have already approached us and that You gather us in to Your beloved community. We bring our hopes and offerings. We bring, too, our limitations, our wounds, our shame and our guilt for having been less than loving towards each other. We come to You with confidence knowing that Your embrace gathers in all the lost and creates a safe home.

Monday 29th

Barnabus (whose name means '*Son of Encouragement*') is a lesser known character in the New Testament. We are told by Luke how this man was used to work effectively in the lives of John, Mark and others. How much Barnabus is needed in the world today! Another name for the Holy Spirit is '*The Encourager*'. Holy Spirit of God, fill me and more of Your people with Your Spirit so that we might be charged with enthusiasm to spread Your Gospel where we live and work.

Tuesday 30th

BBC Radio 4 has recently broadcast a number of programmes on nations where people struggle to follow their Christian beliefs. Lord we give thanks for the ability to worship our Christian faith openly. We offer our prayers for those people who are unable to worship freely as the consequences of being caught may lead to persecution or even death. We ask for greater tolerance in nations where Christianity is banned. We pray that oppressed Christians be granted greater leniency to celebrate their faith openly, within a community and without fear.

Wednesday 31st Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 10.30 am
Heavenly Father as 2025 draws to a close we thank you for Your faithfulness throughout this year. With 2026 approaching grant us the strength to face new challenges, and to step out in faith. Help us to walk closely with You, grant us wisdom in our decision making, and give us courage to stand firm in our faith.

***The Editor wishes all readers a Happy
and Healthy New Year.***



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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 January 2026 issue is Monday 15 December.
We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!**

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