

Our Prayer Diary



February 2025

The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their refuge in the time of trouble. The Lord helps them and rescues them; He rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.

Psalm 37 Verses 39 and 40 NRSV

Saturday 1st

A belated thanks to Mairi Anne Cormack and her team for providing a superb lunch in Canisbay Church Hall for church members following the joint service in December. It was a special event and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Heavenly Father we give thanks to You for the food we eat.

Sunday 2nd

Almighty God, as we think of Your Son Jesus Christ who suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane knowing the pain of human abandonment and the crushing fear of isolation, we ask that You look with compassion and mercy on our broken world. Help us to remember those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, through illness, oppression or conflict. We pray that You would give light to those who walk in darkness, that they may know You as the refuge of the weary, the hope of nations, and the light of the world. Draw us close to the fire of the Holy Spirit, where the light transforms the hidden darkness of our lives, and sparks our activities with renewed energy for serving Christ.

Monday 3rd

Lord as this day comes to a close we thank you for being alongside us and guiding us. Grant us a night of peaceful sleep so we will be renewed and refreshed to meet the new day and use it fruitfully in Your service.

Tuesday 4th

At this time of year we often have cold, dark days and long weary nights. Lord be with the elderly and vulnerable. Give comfort and protection to the homeless. Let us know Your presence as we think of Your promise that spring will come again with new growth and warmer weather. May Your love surround us all.

Wednesday 5th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Caring God we pray for all those who have been a victim of crime, thinking of those who have been burgled, abused or subject to a traffic accident or road rage. Crime comes in many forms and whilst it may be dealt with through the courts and police the victims are often left emotionally scarred or traumatised. We ask that these victims find solace in You and the community around them to give them the strength and courage to return to a normal life.

Thursday 6th

In 2024 it is thought that as many as eleven thousand people throughout the world may have lost their lives because of the aftermath of recent climatic changes. Dear Lord, guide us so that we can preserve the beautiful world You created for us. May we stop over-exploiting its natural resources and polluting the air, seas and oceans.

Friday 7th

Heavenly Father we pray for those who no longer have their usual church buildings to worship in. May they find a welcome wherever they choose to go. We know that closures were deemed necessary but pray that the hurt and sadness will fade and they find comfort in Your presence, however they now choose to worship You.

Saturday 8th

One day a church member was showing a friend round the church. After viewing the worship area they opened the kitchen door. Ladies were busy preparing vegetables for soup to be served at the weekly church meal. Through a window children could be seen playing football. They were doing well in the town league. Further along there was a notice inviting gents to the Men's Shed. Finally they came to a door which was slightly ajar. A group of all ages were sitting with heads bowed. *"This is our power supply - it makes things happen"* said the guide. Jesus said *"Ask and you will receive"*. If only more of his people could hear and do that!

Sunday 9th

Although today is Racial Justice Sunday, the truth is *every* Sunday should be Racial Justice Sunday. Our God is a God of justice who takes an interest in justice permanently and perennially. Heavenly Father, You are the one who brought us into being, knitting and weaving us together and forming us before we were even born. You know us, each and every one, blessed to be bearers of Your image and likeness. God of all nations, You stitch and sew this intricate image of You - like a garment of many colours, stitched, sewn and hemmed; each tone and hue painted with the tender care of You, the Artist, our Maker and Creator - clothing us all in Your love and mercy. Unite us we pray, as we draw closer in communion with You and each other, for Your glory.

Monday 10th

Fairtrade is an international movement which is in partnership with two million farmers and workers worldwide. It has a vision of a world in which all producers enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future. Father God please draw us towards *Fairtrade* goods when we go shopping. Through each of us filling our basket with just a few *Fairtrade* items it would help the producers and workers.

Tuesday 11th

'Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done.' Psalm 105 verse 1 NLT. Thank God for the blessing of today.

Wednesday 12th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

The American crime writer Robert B Parker says *"I heard someone describe heaven once, as a place where, when you get there, all the dogs you ever loved run to greet you"*. Heavenly Father we remember all the pets we have had and how much they have enriched our lives. We give thanks for people running Pet Rescue Centres, and to those who regularly donate food items for the animals. 4Paws says *"Be sure to be kind and supportive to all your friends and pets"*.

Thursday 13th

Heavenly Father we pray for the *Air Ambulance Service*. All of us owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the pilots and paramedics who operate this service at any time of the day or night, and in all weathers. We give thanks for everyone involved in this project, and to the generosity of the general public who contribute to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance.

Friday 14th

Severe wintry conditions always have a damaging impact on our roads. With spring not far off let us pray for the right decisions to be taken to repair our fast deteriorating local roads. Dear Father, until this is done, please watch over motorists so that accidents do not occur because of potholes.

Saturday 15th

Loving Father, I give thanks for the *Nicene Creed* which was written one thousand, seven hundred years ago in the year 325 AD. It is the first text when opening the book of Common Order. It is a proclamation of our Christian faith and, like the bible, it has stood the test of time. We are particularly grateful for the opportunity of reciting ancient texts out loud when it is done in a collective setting such as church services.

Sunday 16th

Caring Father, we pray for all who are seeking Your call in their lives - give them faith to believe Your love can overcome their fears, and give them hope that Your power can overcome their weaknesses. We pray for those who work to nurture and support vocations in our church - our minister, parish assistant, elders, session clerk and all who contribute to the operation of our parish in these challenging times.

Monday 17th

How often do we feel overwhelmed? God has a purpose behind every problem. However, He also has a protective shield in front of it. *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."* Romans 8 verse 28 NIV

Tuesday 18th

Lord of peace, let us pray for all the countries still at war and in particular for the Middle East. May political leaders see the light and be wise enough to build a long lasting peace after the end of the current cease-fire. *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."* Luke 6 verses 35 & 36 NIV

Wednesday 19th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

After years of uncertainty the results of reconstruction within the Church of Scotland seems to be coming to fruition. There is still hurt. Former members and adherents of our churches are trying to decide where they will worship and be involved. God continues to be in control and we know that He loves us all. Lord of love, we hold tight to Your hand and try to continue to trust.

Thursday 20th

Saint Columba was an Irish abbot and missionary evangelist credited with spreading Christianity in Scotland and throughout Britain. He arrived with twelve companions in Iona on the west coast of Scotland in 563AD and founded a monastery, on the site of which now stands Iona Abbey. The following prayer is attributed to St Columba: *'Be thou a bright flame before me, Be thou a guiding star above me, Be thou a smooth path below me, Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today, tonight and for ever.'*

Friday 21st

In Glasgow, *Crossreach* runs the *Dick Stewart Project*. This is justice services supported accommodation. It offers support with independent living skills for long-term prisoners leaving custody. Heavenly Father we pray that the people who use the service and their family members will feel safe and have an awareness of who they can turn to when they need support.

Saturday 22nd

On 22nd February each year members of the Girl Guide Movement around the world celebrate Thinking Day by learning about their international sisters in other countries. This is the birth date of the Founder Lady Baden-Powell. Heavenly Father we pray for the Leaders, Rainbows and Brownies that meet within our parish.

Sunday 23rd

Spirit of God, we pray for peace. Not only the cessation of war, but that peace that is beyond our understanding. Peace that is forged when closed fists are opened in sharing, when closed hearts are opened in caring and when closed minds are opened to possibility for all to share in the rich resources of the earth and of all creation. Father God, You have equipped Your Church with all the gifts that are needed to build Your kingdom. Help us to use them wisely.

Monday 24th

Whatever we have glimpsed of Your glory Lord, teach us that there is far more yet to see. Open our minds to the fullness of Your love, the extent of Your grace, the breadth of Your power and the magnitude of Your purpose, so that we may know You a little better each and every day.

Tuesday 25th

This afternoon Pentland Parish Guild will meet in Canisbay Church Hall. *Our Guild Has Talent*. Everyone is welcome to come along to a flower arranging demonstration by one of our members. Caring God, we ask Your blessing on all Guild members. We give thanks for the various projects the Guild has supported over the years. May all who have benefited from them feel a nearer presence to You.

Wednesday 26th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

In times of uncertainty, with our God there is always hope. It is encouraging to hear of beacons of light in places where it seemed that everything had drained away. A regular contributor knows of a parish in Moray where a new minister came from South Africa with his wife and family. The congregation is growing. The Prayer Group who have been meeting regularly are naturally rejoicing. Jesus Christ is indeed the *Light in the World!*

Thursday 27th

A Tibetan Proverb tells us: *‘The secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple and love without measure.’* Heavenly Father, thank you for being the rock upon which I can build my life, for being my fortress, my refuge, and my salvation. Thank you for Your bounteous harvest - the food that sustains me, the wonderful world I explore and marvel upon, the love and fellowship of friends, family and the stranger yet to be met. While I know there will be hard times, I also know that if I trust in You all things are possible. Help me to live a life that is a testimony to Your goodness.

Friday 28th

Caring Father we bring before You Funeral Directors and those who work in Funeral Homes. Please be with them as they draw near to people in their time of loss. In small communities they will often know the person who has passed away and feel sad too. However the nature of their work means they have to put on a brave face and show compassion for the bereaved who may be going through dark times. We pray that they will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.



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meeting in four congregations around the Caithness Coast:

CANISBAY, DUNNET, KEISS and OLRIG.

www.pentlandparish.org.uk



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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 month issue is *Monday 10 February*.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

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