

Our Prayer Diary



July 2024

All your works shall give thanks to You, O Lord, and all Your faithful shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and tell of Your power, to make known to all people Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendour of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Psalms 145 verses 10-13 NRSV

Monday 1st

July marks the beginning of the school holidays for our local children. Our friends at Castletown and Community Free Church tell us all the Free Church Summer Camps will be running during this month. Heavenly Father we pray for safety in travel as these folk journey away from home. We pray the young people will have a happy and blessed time having fun, making new friends and getting to know You better. We also remember the leaders and cooks who play such an important part in camp life.

Tuesday 2nd

Sometimes we struggle with how to give thanks to God for the good things He provides for us. In Matthew 18 verse 3 (NSRV) Jesus says *“Truly, I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”* A regular contributor recalls a prayer they sang at school before school lunch. It simply embraces almost everything we have to say to God: *Thank you for the world so sweet, Thank you for the food we eat, Thank you for the birds that sing, Thank you Lord for everything.*

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

A week ago Liz Geddes (our Session Clerk) and her husband Benny celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We wish them both congratulations and many more happy and healthy years together. Dear God, thank you for being with Liz and Benny through tears and laughter during the past six decades. We pray that You will watch over them in the days to come. From The Message: *‘When you get married you become one unit.’* Matthew 19 verse 6.

Thursday 4th

Today is Election Day. Some people decide not to cast their vote. Almighty God, we pray for all those eligible to vote in the General Election. Remind all the citizens of our country of the cost of gaining the right to vote paid by so many, long ago. Keep us faithful and praying for all who will enter The House of Commons in the days ahead. We pray for justice and a leader of integrity. May Your will be done.

Friday 5th

Over the next few months many will travel long distances on busy roads to go on holiday or visit friends. Heavenly Father we pray that You will keep them safe and they will enjoy their much deserved summer break.

Saturday 6th

There are some people in the area who still feel sad that Achvarasdal Care Home had to close. Oversteps at Dornoch is a CrossReach home providing residential care for twenty four older people. Caring Lord we pray that this and all other CrossReach Care Homes will be filled with happiness, joy and peace. May the staff work tirelessly to make life as comfortable and fulfilling as possible for the people supported and cared for.

Sunday 7th

Almighty God, through the ages you have drawn men and women to be ministers in Your churches. We ask Your blessing on all who are training in theological colleges just now. Prepare them for what lies ahead. Equip them for Your service and enrich them with Your grace. Keep them steadfast in their determination to bring Christ to the people they minister to.

Monday 8th

Father, cancer seems to be so prevalent. Please would you bring your healing touch to all those who are suffering with cancer or any other health issues. We remember too their carers. Serious illness of one family member can change the lives of others in the family.

Tuesday 9th

Loving God, we give You thanks for answering prayers for the continued recovery of our King and the Princess of Wales. It has been encouraging to see them both in public and we pray for them as the summer continues.

Wednesday 10th

‘... but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.’
Acts 1 verse 8. God and Father of all people we pray You will fill us with Your powerful Holy Spirit and enable us to share our faith. Let us be aware when You speak with us, so that we may deliver Your will.

Thursday 11th Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm

Don't worry. Be happy! This is sometimes easier said than done. Caring God, deep down we know that worrying doesn't achieve anything, however we still continue to worry. Please help us to remember the words from Psalm 55 verse 22 (NKJV). *‘Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.’*

Friday 12th

Heavenly Father we continue to lift Presbytery up to You. Major decisions have to be made and this may well cause sadness and pain. All that we ask Lord is that Your will is done, and Yours alone.

Saturday 13th

Dear Father God, we pray for all those in Care Homes and those at home who are unable to go out. Some of those people used to sit beside us in the pews of the churches of Pentland Parish. Please send people to visit them so that they know they are not alone – and also let them know they are loved by You.

Sunday 14th

Teach us, Lord, that however busy we are, we need time to ponder, time for You. Forgive us for neglecting You to the margins of our lives, believing we have more important things to do. Remind us that You have the words of eternal life, the answer to our inner hunger and deepest needs, and so in our list of daily priorities help us to put You first, not last.

Monday 15th

Heavenly Father please be with all the farmers in Pentland Parish and beyond. Watch over them as they toil from early morning to late at night. So much of what they do is weather dependent. This time of year sees them making hay and we pray for bright sunny days to give good crops which will feed the animals over the winter months.

Tuesday 16th

Thank you, Lord, for being with us in our darkness, Your light continuing to shine through trouble and tragedy, turmoil and tears. Break through where shadows still linger. Fill our hearts with the light of Your love and thank you for the assurance that Your light will always finally shine through.

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

During June several couples chose to have their wedding in Pentland Parish churches. We pray for all those who have been married. We wish them all the best for the future. May they put You at the centre of their marriage always. We also remember those struggling with marriage. Please come alongside them during these difficult times, helping them and guiding them to love each other as You love them.

Thursday 18th

Gracious God, many families are having to resign themselves to go without a holiday away from home for various reasons - carers, those on a low income or people in business who find it difficult to get someone to man the fort when they go away. Help us to identify those people and drop by to visit to help uplift their spirits. Even at this late date, prompt small groups of adults living in the area to come together in groups to arrange appropriate activities for the children who live around them. Great blessings could follow if people hear God's call. We can be assured that God will provide whatever is needed.

Friday 19th

Later today and all day tomorrow Caithness Agricultural Show will take place in Thurso. Loving God we give You thanks for all the talents that will be displayed there. People will have entered animals, flowers, baking and handicrafts to the various competitions. Be with all those who attend the show and let them admire the exhibits and know that they have come from You.

Saturday 20th

We would like to wish Alan Sinclair congratulations and best wishes on reaching a milestone birthday today. During the last few years Alan has shown great friendship and given lots of help to Pentland Parish. This has included a time as Interim Moderator, producing Reflection videos and preaching in our churches. At present Alan is in Canada. We hope he returns relaxed and refreshed and full of energy and enthusiasm for the future.

Sunday 21st

Today a Memorial Service will be held in Canisbay Church for Dr Jack Dunnett at 3.00 pm. Jack was an internationally renowned potato breeder and Scottish potato industry pioneer. Jack also supported local projects including the construction of Canisbay Church Hall. He passed away in Norfolk on 14 April aged 94 years. His ashes will be interred privately in Canisbay Churchyard. Let us remember Jack's family in prayer as they return to Caithness for what will be a poignant time for them.

Monday 22nd

Teach us, Lord, to follow You faithfully; to live in such a way that everything about us – our words, thoughts and deeds – speak powerfully of You. Though we fail to make waves, let alone move mountains, may our lives in some small way testify to You, echoing Your care and concern for all. May the mark we leave in this world be for good rather than evil: a lasting legacy of love.

Tuesday 23rd

Father God You are sovereign – Your love is beyond measure. We are so thankful for Jesus and the gift of Your Holy Spirit.

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

“When two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them.”
Matthew 18 verse 20. Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for those who gather faithfully for prayer in Canisbay Church Hall each Wednesday afternoon. We know that You hear and answer, very often far beyond our asking.

Thursday 25th

George Eliot the English Novelist wrote *‘Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms’*. 4 Paws tells us God gave us dogs to be our friends. Heavenly Father it is a privilege to have a pet and not everyone is able to have one. We give thanks for *Pets as Therapy* dogs who can make such a difference to people when they visit care homes, schools, hospices, etc, providing comfort, stimulation and distraction.

Friday 26th

Today is the start of the Olympic Games in Paris. Strong and faithful God we ask you to bless all the athletes who will be taking part in the games. Please keep them safe and free from injury. May they all be proud to represent their country. Bless all the others who play a part in the staging of such a competition – referees, coaches, medical teams, host families, spectators to name but a few.

Saturday 27th

Castletown and Community Free Church are running a Holiday Bible Club for children from Primary 1 to first year of Secondary School, from Monday 5 August to Friday 9 August. It is free to attend and is open to all children, they don't need to be resident in Castletown.

Sunday 28th

Lord, we are so thankful for such a beautiful place to live. This makes us think of others living in war torn countries. Please hear their cries and our cries on their behalf for peace and justice.

Monday 29th

The following is a *Prayer for Patience* by *Helen Steiner Rice*. It is based on Psalm 46 verse 10 – *Be still, and know that I am God...*

God, teach me to be patient –
Teach me to go slow –
Teach me how to “wait on You”
When my way I do not know ...
Teach me sweet forbearance
When things do not go right
So I remain unruffled
When others grow uptight ...
Teach me how to quiet
My racing, rising heart
So I may hear the answer
You are trying to impart ...
Teach me to *let go*, dear God
And pray undisturbed until
My heart is filled with inner peace
And I learn to know Your will.

Tuesday 30th

Loving Father we pray for all the school pupils who are now anxiously waiting for their exam results. For those leaving secondary education we ask that You will guide them to find the right university or college course so they can study a subject they enjoy and go on to find a career in that field in later life.

Wednesday 31st Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm
Mahatma Gandhi said “*We must be the change we wish to see in the world*”. How true is this short piece of wisdom!



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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 August issue is Monday 22 July.

We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!

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