

# *Our Prayer Diary*



## *November 2024*

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I  
will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing  
praises to my God all my life long.

*Psalm 146 verses 1 - 2*

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

Almighty God, it seems to be a very long time since we were urged to pray for the future of our churches and congregations. Months have moved into years and we appear to have no real clarity about what is to happen. We are encouraged to seek God's will in this but it is very hard to keep going. An old hymn says "*God can do anything but fail*". Dear God, help each of us to believe and to keep praying.

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

With darker days and colder winds with the possibility of rain and sleet *4 Paws* asks everyone to make sure both you and your pets keep warm. Be sensible about food and clothing and if possible both of you should try to take a little toddle out. It will surely help with meeting/thinking/smiling at others and returning home ready to face the day. Father God, we pray for all who feel isolated when living alone. Encourage them to try to get a little breath of fresh air. However there are people who can't get out. Remind those of us who are fit to slot in a visit or phone call to those who are housebound.

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

If you don't already have one you may wish to get a Poppy in the next few days. Lady Haig's Poppy Factory in Edinburgh has been making poppies and supporting veterans since its founding nearly 100 years ago. The poppy denotes peace, sorrow and the interconnectedness of all living things. Heavenly Father we bring before You all who work in the Poppy Factory. May these workers feel proud of what they do to keep alive the memory of all who died in battle.

## **Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**

On 22 September *Sunday Worship* on Radio 4 explored the word '*liminality*' with its listeners. It is a fascinating word and worth further exploration for those interested in linguistics. In short it relates to the time when we are removed from our normal duties at work or in the home. It is the time when we are in transit such as commuting or out walking; it is the time in our life when we lose our daily identity as an employer, employee or a parent. Lord I pray that You help me to be aware of the liminal spaces in my life so these voids are filled with giving You thanks and praise but more importantly, it gives me the time to hear what You are saying to me and how I may serve You better with the skills and talents You have so graciously given me.

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

Dear Lord, the colder weather is now upon us. We ask that people will be able to afford to heat their homes, and where this is challenging, may they attend Day Centres where food and warmth are provided. This time of year also brings difficult driving conditions. Please keep people safe as they travel.

## **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

Today is the last opportunity for Blythswood boxes to be dropped off at Castletown and Community Free Church. Tomorrow they will be collected and taken to the Blythswood depot at Evanton. Due to your generosity, people of all ages will be delighted with the boxes they receive. Thanks also for monetary donations towards transport costs. Caring God, we bring before You all who will receive a box and ask that You draw near to them. Bless also those who donated goods for the boxes.

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

There are times when every human needs a listening ear, an outstretched paw and a loving heart. Pets of any kind can really enhance the lives of their owners. Creator God, You are the maker of all living things. You called forth the fish in the sea, the birds in the air and animals on the land. We ask that you will bless our pets.

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

*“Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted”* Matthew, chapter 5 verse 4. Loving God, it seems that so many of our friends and relatives have suffered loss during the year. We pray for all the families involved and we give thanks that You have heard our continued prayers for each of them. On our local level, thank you for using Janet, Linda, Heather, David and others who bring comfort and healing to the bereaved. Give each of them the words they require and the strength to keep going.

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

Caring God as we approach Remembrance Sunday we pray for all members and former members of the armed forces who are still suffering, both physically and mentally, from injuries and experiences which were incurred while serving their country. Please encourage people to attend church and war memorial services in our parishes and further afield, tomorrow. [At Canisbay there will be a Soup and Sandwich Lunch in the Church Hall following the church service. All welcome. - Editor]

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

Almighty and everlasting God we give You thanks for the memory and good example of those who have laid down their lives in the service of their country. We remember their courage and devotion even unto death. Accept their sacrifice we ask, let it not be in vain that they have died in the cause of righteousness and honour. In Your mercy we ask that You will send Your peace into the hearts of all men and women.

## **Monday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Father of all, on this Armistice Day we ask that You would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. As You remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom.

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

Thank you dear Father for those people who love and show kindness towards us. Sometimes it's family but at other times, it's complete strangers who have put our needs before theirs. We are truly thankful and trust that we learn from each other in the way You would want.

## **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

Lord, I give thanks for all the words that have been written and set to music in praise of Your name that we sing as a community in Your church. Many of these hymns and psalms give much solace and reassurance when I take the time to read and reflect on the words in a private space. I give thanks to You for those You have blessed with the gift of writing both traditional or contemporary Christian music that is a source of comfort to so many people of faith.

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

We pray for peace in Ukraine as Russia continues its attempts to claim land with the help of North Korea. More young soldiers will be hurt and more families will suffer. Please, please, Lord, bring peace to this troubled land.

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

This month we pray for the work done by *CrossReach* at Cunningham House in Edinburgh. Loving God, You know all the men and women who are experiencing homelessness in Edinburgh. We pray for all the work that is done in this supported hostel accommodation at Cunningham House. We ask You to shower Your love and grace upon those who are supported by the service. May they be given confidence and reassurance through their journey.

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

*John O'Groats Playpark Development* have a few things organised for November. Today there will be both Christmas Lantern making and family bingo. On the 27th they have a swap shop planned. Loving God, You know the pleasure young children get from time spent at a playpark. We give thanks for the effort put into staging fund raising events by the Playpark committee, to bring new play facilities to our area.

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

*"God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!"* Matthew chapter 5 verse 9. Loving Father, hear our prayers when we pray for all the inhabitants of countries still at war. May their political leaders be wise enough to negotiate a long lasting peace with their neighbours. We should not feel privileged to live in a peaceful country, it should be the lot of all human beings.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup>**

There is only You, God, in whom we can have absolute faith and trust. We praise You for being always beside us and always there for us. We trust in You.

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

Loving God, we give thanks for the miracle of life, for every person uniquely and wonderfully made, every single one of us! We pray for all within our fellowship who are unwell or nearing the end of their life. We pray for their healing in the fullest sense of the word.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

We pray for all delivery drivers who come over the Ord – sometimes in terrible weather – to bring food and goods into the county. As Christmas approaches, they will get busier. We ask You will keep them safe, Lord.

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

Indiri Ghandi said '*You can't shake hands with a clenched fist*'. In this fractious world of ours more shaking of hands would be very positive. Lord God, in times of challenge or fearfulness give world leaders the courage to extend the hand of friendship as a first step towards conflict resolution, peaceful understanding and harmonious co-existence.

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

The story is told of our King's late grandmother when she was a child growing up in Glamis Castle. She and a young friend were allowed to stay up and watch the guests arriving for a banquet on a special celebration. All too soon they were told to go to bed "*and don't forget to say your prayers!*" The late Queen Mother remarked that it must be very difficult for God when children all over the world were saying their prayers at the same time. Thank you dear God that You hear us and answer the prayers of each one of us. Lord, keep me praying!

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

Heavenly Father, we pray that our local economy and companies are prosperous enough to offer suitable jobs for all the families who live in Caithness. Should their children also wish to remain in the county we pray they will be able to source suitable employment.

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

Merciful God, forgive us for the moments that we missed or the opportunities we squandered that denied fullness of life to all Your children. Forgive us for anything we have done that has in any way stifled or blocked Your will at work in Your world. Redeem our regrets, release us from remorse, refresh us anew with Your unending mercy, for we place our hope in Your promise: "*I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.*" Hebrews 10 verse 17 NRSV

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

*'Sing praises to God and to His name! Sing loud praises to Him who rides the clouds. His name is the Lord – rejoice in His presence.'* Psalm 68 verse 4 NLT. Caring God we think of You as we sing our favourite hymns when going about our daily chores. May we take time to meditate on the words and make it a time to worship and praise You amidst the busyness of the day. [We know music is most beneficial and if we don't feel confident to sing there is often music on the radio we can listen to. - Editor]

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

Thank you for the changing seasons and the more changeable weather, which keeps our fields green and the sheep well rounded! We have been fortunate not to have endured the flooding experienced in the south of Britain. Thank you Lord.

## **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> Prayer Time at Canisbay Church Hall at 2.00 pm**

Forgive me for the wrong thoughts I have had over the past months – the wrongs I have done and the hurt I have inadvertently caused. Please help me to think more positively and kindly towards others less fortunate than myself.

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

Joyful God, thank you for unexpected, pleasant surprises; for the reawakening of long-forgotten dreams. May we always be open to the possibility of Your generous gifts and may we avoid passing judgment or shaming anyone in our community because of what they have or haven't done.

## **Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**

We pray for the people of Lebanon, Israel, Syria and Gaza who have been displaced, hurt or made homeless. Give them strength to carry on and we plead that the various leaders are given the wisdom and moral strength to stop fighting and institute peace.

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

Heavenly Father, forgive us when our lives are full of commandments and rules and bereft of compassion and love. Forgive us when the word becomes more than the Word, when our determination to adhere to the word belies the Spirit of joy and hope. Show us, gently, humbly, lightly, softly how to follow, how to be guided into obedience and teach us acceptance of Your love, Your forgiveness and Your compassion.



# The Church of Scotland

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**[www.pentlandparish.org.uk](http://www.pentlandparish.org.uk)**



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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:

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**We continue to need your prayers! Thank you!**

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