

JANUARY – APRIL 2024



CARE
FOR WHAT
YOU BELIEVE

CARE Prayer Diary

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CARING FOR OUR PLANET

Pictured on our cover is Victoria Falls – one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World with the greatest falling curtain of water on earth (500 million litres every minute).

The Falls sits on the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia and known by the locals as 'Mosi-oa-Tunya' – 'The Smoke that Thunders.' However, when Scottish missionary David Livingstone discovered it in 1855 he named it after Queen Victoria, exclaiming, 'no one can imagine the beauty of the view from anything witnessed in England ... scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight.' Out of respect for him, the name has been retained although most other places have been reverted to their African names.



'Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;

The God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic...

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever.

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.'

PSALM 29:3-11 (ESV)

The CARE Prayer Diary is written by Rev. Celia Bowring.

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Rev. Celia Bowring

JANUARY 21 – 27

RESISTING EVIL



Holocaust Memorial - Berlin, Germany

- SUN 21** } Jesus our Redeemer, through Your pure sacrifice of love, You forgave those who killed you, submitting to death on a cross to set us free from sin, death and the devil. Please help us to resist evil through prayer and by following Your ways of mercy and grace. Through the power of Your Spirit. Amen.
- MON 22** } Lord, we intercede for workable solutions to counter the increasing international trade in weapons and ammunition, often into unstable and oppressive countries. Please strengthen the effects of the United Nations 2013 Arms Trade Treaty that seeks to promote peace and security. In Your mercy. Amen.
- TUES 23** } All-knowing God, we pray for those working in the National Crime Agency to be vigilant, skilful and successful in their fight against serious offences like cyber-crime, fraud, drug trafficking, money laundering, modern slavery, human trafficking and child sexual abuse. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- WED 24** } Merciful Father, we remember everyone caught up in warfare, especially between Russia and Ukraine, across Africa, in the Middle East and Afghanistan. We long to see an end to violence, destruction and the suffering of millions of displaced people. Please restore peace, healing and hope for Christ's sake. Amen.

'Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God ... Don't let evil conquer you but conquer evil by doing good.' ROMANS 12:17-21 (NLT)

- THURS 25** } God of compassion, we pray for Christians around the world suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus to stand firm and shine for You. We ask that through their testimony many who despise and attack them will be convicted of their sin and turn to you in repentance. In Christ's name. Amen.
- FRI 26** } **We give thanks for those who work hard, often in dangerous situations, to protect people from criminals.** Please help those serving in the armed forces, police, other security services, and the justice system to act with integrity and grant them increasing success in the prevention and punishment of evil. In Your mercy. Amen.
- SAT 27** } **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**
Father, we remember today, in our world so broken and scarred by conflict and oppression, the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside millions killed under Nazi persecution of other groups, and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

'Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.'

'Forgiveness is nothing less than the way we heal the world.' (Archbishop Desmond Tutu 1931-2021 who won a Nobel Prize for his role as a unifying leader figure in the non-violent campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa.)

JAN 28 – FEB 3

RURAL COMMUNITIES



- SUN 28** } Creator God, we praise You for the amazing beauty and bounty of the countryside. Please prosper the work of farmers as they seek alternatives to pesticides, fertilisers and other products that pollute the land and waterways. In Your mercy. Amen.
- MON 29** } Lord, we pray especially for older people in more remote rural communities, that lack adequate retail, health, transport and banking services, affordable housing, employment and connectivity. We ask that central government, local authorities and other organisations will prioritise those in greatest need. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- TUES 30** } Father, please strengthen and protect farmers whose property, crops, livestock and businesses have sustained major damage and loss from storms and flooding. We pray they may find support in such crises and through ongoing problems of mental health and future security. By Your grace. Amen.
- WED 31** } God of hope, we pray that many farms and smallholdings across the developing world will benefit from 'climate adaption' schemes – providing social support and developing crops and livestock that can withstand unpredictable climate emergencies. May this reach areas where people's livelihoods are most threatened. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth.'
PSALM 65:9,10 (NKJV)

- THURS 1** } Dear Lord, thank you for wonderful glories and treasures within the UK's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 15 National Parks and the staff and volunteers who look after them. We pray that the millions of visitors will continue to respect and appreciate these places and help to support local communities. For Christ's sake. Amen.
- FRI 2** } **Lord of the Church, we thank You for the tens of thousands of people in the countryside who attend church.** Please strengthen and encourage congregations and their leaders, especially where numbers are low and ministers have many churches under their care. Through Your power and grace. Amen.
- SAT 3** } Living Lord, we pray for the future of woodlands and forests across the UK, especially those described as 'ancient, veteran and valuable'. Please bless all who work with the Woodland Trust, The Forestry Commission, and many other local organisations caring for trees. In Your name. Amen.

The Church of England has over 1,000 churches in rural areas and 40 per cent of those who attend church go to rural churches. The 'Hope Countryside' partnership shares a growing vision of beacons of prayer lighting up across rural Britain, bringing hope both to and from the countryside to the whole of the nation. They aim to promote understanding and prayer for rural life and communities, church and mission, farming and the land. (hopeforthecountryside.uk)

FEBRUARY 4 – 10

TACKLING DISCRIMINATION AND INEQUALITY



- SUN 4 } God of grace and truth, we lament the expression of hatred and prejudice that is proliferating online, especially on social media, as well as in the physical world. We pray for the Online Safety Bill to be effective in silencing and prosecuting those who attack others in this way. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- MON 5 } **START OF RACE EQUALITY WEEK (5 – 11 February)**
Father God, may this week stimulate many businesses and organisations to be more vigilant about race inequality in their workplace. We pray for respect and fairness to be shown to everyone, and especially ask for change where people experience prejudice, discrimination and racist attitudes. By Your grace. Amen.
- TUES 6 } Lord, we pray that more people, including the Church, will speak out in solidarity with people who experience racial abuse, discrimination and unfounded suspicion on a regular basis. We pray for institutions and organisations to outlaw such behaviour. For Christ's sake. Amen.
- WED 7 } Thank You, Holy Spirit, for the rich diversity of people in our nation. Please empower Your Church to hold firmly to biblical values and show unconditional love to others in their efforts to challenge discrimination and inequality on grounds of disability, gender, religion and ethnicity. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- THURS 8 } God of mercy, we pray about the four-fold rise in antisemitic incidents in the UK – over 60 of which affected schools and pupils – since last October's Hamas attack on Israel. Please grant protection to our Jewish neighbours and help police and others to show solidarity and utterly condemn this hostility. By Your mercy. Amen.
- FRI 9 } **Lord, thank You for Fiona Bruce MP, the Prime Minister's special envoy for freedom of religion and belief.** Please grant her favour and success as she seeks to draw international attention and action to address the plight of 350 million Christians – and people of other faiths – who suffer a high level of persecution and discrimination. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- SAT 10 } Father, we pray for Christians whose employers require them to act against their conscience or accept work duties that are opposed to biblical ethics and values. Grant them courage and wisdom to stand firm for what is right, and count the cost, but to do so graciously. In Your mercy. Amen.

'You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together ... You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father ... But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift.' EPHESIANS 4:4-7 (THE MESSAGE)

'Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.' (Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.)

FEBRUARY 11 – 17

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE)



FEBRUARY 7-14 IS NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

- SUN 11** } Father, we pray that biblical family life founded on marriage between a man and a woman would be acknowledged and reflected in RSE as the best way to maintain stable, long-lasting relationships, benefit children and wider society. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- MON 12** } Loving Lord, please help young couples to overcome financial, social and emotional barriers that deter many from getting married, including the prohibitive cost of a wedding. May younger generations be persuaded to see marriage as the 'gold standard' in relationships and aspire to it. By Your grace. Amen.
- TUES 13** } Lord, we pray for decision-makers on RSE throughout the UK. Help them to act in the interests of children and parents rather than allying themselves with ideologies that undermine parental rights, cause confusion and encourage sexual behaviour that is likely to cause harm to children and lower moral standards in society. In Your mercy. Amen.
- WED 14** } **ASH WEDNESDAY, THE BEGINNING OF LENT**
Merciful God, in this season of reflection we pray for the hearts and minds of children. We long for them to enjoy their childhood, able to grow into mature and responsible adults. Please bless our school communities, may they be safe places to learn from. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.' PSALM 19:8,9 (ESV)

'How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.' PSALM 119:9 (NLT)

- THURS 15** } God of truth, we pray about the increasing bias towards 'Gender Theory*', not least by the Department of Education's official RSE ratifying body, PSHE Association, made up of 50,000 RSE professionals. Please bring about a reverse in these ideas as people realise their dangers. In Your name. Amen.
*The idea that biological sex and 'gender identity' are two distinct factors of a human being (newsocialcovenant.co.uk).
- FRI 16** } **Thank You, Lord, for Christian heads, senior school leaders, teachers and parents who stand firmly** against an ongoing culture of sexualisation of our children, normalising transgender ideology and moves to exclude parents from decisions on RSE. For Christ's sake. Amen.
- SAT 17** } Father, we intercede for clear government guidance on RSE that will ensure alternative views to gender-theory are taught and prevent age-inappropriate content, often provided by external bodies. Please grant opportunity to those with influence in education politics who uphold this view. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

'Children are being subjected to lessons that are age-inappropriate, extreme, sexualising and inaccurate, often using resources from unregulated organisations that are actively campaigning to undermine parents. This is not a victory for equality, it is a catastrophe for childhood.' (Miriam Cates MP's March 2023 letter to the Prime Minister.)

FEBRUARY 18 – 24

DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS



Democracy means: rule by the people through elections, providing an environment that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in which the freely expressed will of people is exercised.

- SUN 18** } ‘God, grant to our King and his government, to MPs and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of Your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen.’ (House of Commons prayer)
- MON 19** } Sovereign Lord, we remember all our elected representatives in the Cardiff, Edinburgh and Westminster Parliaments and the Northern Ireland Assembly. Grant them strength and conviction to maintain and improve the democratic freedoms that underpin our society. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
- TUES 20** } **WORLD DAY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE**
Lord, please grant wisdom and success to all who campaign for a fairer world, so that millions of people in need can be given access to basic resources, justice and human rights, and be valued and respected. In Christ’s name. Amen.
- WED 21** } Lord, as we look ahead to the next General Election, we pray for men and women of discernment, integrity and character to stand to serve their constituency well, speak up for Your righteous ways and work on behalf of the disadvantaged and overlooked. By Your grace. Amen.

Jesus, fulfilling Isaiah 61: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’ LUKE 4:18,19 (NIV)

- THURS 22** } God of justice, we intercede for freedom across the globe as only 8% of the world’s population live in a full, functioning democracy, 37% in some type of ‘flawed democracy’ with 55% of people ruled by authoritarian regimes with oppressive governments that disregard their rights. In Your mercy. Amen.
- FRI 23** } **Holy Spirit, thank You for every evidence of Your grace, truth, goodness, compassion and creativity** in society, and for every elected representative committed to the service of others and promoting equality, harmony, progress, prosperity and peace. May their numbers increase. For Jesus’ sake. Amen.
- SAT 24** } Lord, please guide those who serve as elected councillors within 317 local authorities in England, 11 in Northern Ireland, 32 in Scotland and 22 in Wales. May they succeed in delivering essential services, despite being held back by tight financial budgets and a lack of other resources. In Your mercy. Amen.

The Council of Europe’s 12 Principles of Good Governance: 1. Fair conduct of Elections, Representation and Participation. 2. Responsiveness. 3. Efficiency and Effectiveness. 4. Openness and Transparency. 5. Rule of Law. 6. Ethical Conduct. 7. Competence and Capacity. 8. Innovation and Openness to Change. 9. Sustainability and Long-term Orientation. 10. Sound Financial Management. 11. Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Cohesion. 12. Accountability. 7

FEB 25 – MARCH 2

POWER FOR LIFE



- SUN 25** } Almighty God, we welcome the new life and hope of Spring, filled with wonder and praise at how You create and faithfully sustain every atom of the universe, renewing us each day to live for You. May we be responsible stewards and use the power in our hands for the benefit of others and to the glory of Your name. Amen.
- MON 26** } Lord our Provider, we pray about price spikes in gas and oil globally caused by war in Ukraine and conflict in the Middle East, that have led to rises in the cost of living across the world. May equitable and peaceful solutions that prioritise support for vulnerable countries be reached soon. By Your mercy. Amen.
- TUES 27** } Heavenly Father, we remember people who feel weak and helpless because of health problems or other overwhelming circumstances. May they be supported by family, friends and others caring for them and recognise their need of Your salvation, healing and peace. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- WED 28** } Lord Jesus, Living Word who spoke all things into being, please help us to understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him – the same mighty power that raised You from the dead.* We long to know this in our lives and pray this for those in positions of leadership, and anyone in need of the wisdom and strength Your Spirit bestows. By Your grace. Amen. (*Ephesians 1:19)
- 'By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know Him, the one who called us to Himself by means of His marvellous glory and excellence.' 2 PETER 1:3 (NLT)
- THURS 29** } Holy Spirit, we pray for revitalisation and renewal of Your Church as Christians speak up for biblical integrity, evangelise and give themselves in compassionate service in ways that touch the soul of our nation. Please reveal Your truth and grace, that many may turn with repentance to Jesus and become faithful disciples. In Your mercy. Amen.
- FRI 1** } **Lord, thank You for natural and renewable sources of power** such as wind, sunlight, water and tidal flows, geothermal reservoirs and bioenergy. We pray that these resources will benefit everyone whether rich or poor and be used in ways that do not harm the environment. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- SAT 2** } Father, we intercede for households that have to switch off their heating to afford food and other essentials. Please help the government to provide targeted help and sustain a safety net for people struggling with subsequent problems of debt, health issues and other deprivation. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'Today, some 6.6 million households find themselves in fuel poverty after a winter that pushed many into making painful choices and created record amounts of debt. Currently £2.25bn is owed by UK households who are behind on their energy bills, up more than 70% over the past three years. This winter, households will be facing bills 13% higher than the last.' (Letter to Prime Minister Liz Truss from 140 organisations September 2022.)

MARCH 3 – 9

VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING



Human trafficking involves the recruitment or movement of people for exploitation by the use of threat, force, fraud, or the abuse of vulnerability. It can occur across international borders or within a country.

- SUN 3 } Heavenly Father, we intercede for those who have been tricked or coerced by human trafficking gangs into slavery: suffering physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Nothing is hidden from Your eyes of compassion, and we cry out to You for justice, freedom and mercy. In Christ's name. Amen.
- MON 4 } Compassionate God, please intervene on some of the Illegal Migration Act measures which undermine efforts to identify and help trafficked people who fear coming forward will result in them being deported and potentially re-trafficked. We pray for solutions to this serious problem. For Jesus' sake. Amen.
- TUES 5 } Lord, please equip and strengthen all police, border force officers and others able to identify trafficked people. We pray for investigation of these crimes to become a greater priority, perpetrators successfully convicted, and that victims will receive justice and proper support. In Your mercy. Amen.
- WED 6 } Father, we pray about the appalling situation of increasing numbers of people being trafficked into the UK as care workers, charged thousands of pounds for sponsorship certificates, forced into unrepayable debt and given 18-hour daily shifts. May they find freedom and opportunities to work under proper, fair conditions. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.' PROVERBS 14:31(NIV)

- THURS 7 } God, we lift to You every child who has been trafficked within the UK and abused through criminal involvement, sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude and organ harvesting, many recruited in this country and fearful for their families' and their own safety. Deliver them in Your mercy. Amen.
- FRI 8 } **Lord, thank You for the many charities that provide safehouses, legal help, and other support for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery.** As the situation worsens with increasing numbers of victims, we pray for effective cooperation between them and the many bodies involved in identifying and processing cases. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- SAT 9 } Father, please help us all to become increasingly vigilant and willing to act on any suspicion of human trafficking by informing the authorities. We pray too for growing awareness of online grooming and enticements from traffickers. Shine Your light to expose these crimes we pray! Amen.

Between January to March 2023, 777 potential victims of trafficking and modern slavery were referred to the Home Office, 1,471 (39%) of whom were children – the highest recorded number for a single quarter. 26% of referrals were UK nationals. 33% of adults were labour-exploited. 46% of children were victims of criminal exploitation (such as county lines drug dealing).

BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS



SUN 10 } **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

Dear Lord, we are so grateful for the dedication and unselfish love of motherhood and pray that women who care for others in this way will be appreciated. Please draw near to anyone going through tough times in their family relationships and help them to trust in You for comfort and strength through the trial. By Your grace. Amen.

MON 11 } **COMMONWEALTH DAY**

Sovereign God, thank You for today's opportunity to celebrate the 54 member states headed by King Charles III, that aim to promote peace and prosperity, particularly helping countries that are less developed. We pray for ongoing unity and agreement between this diverse group of people. For Christ's sake. Amen.

TUES 12 } Lord of the Church, we pray for churches and denominations across the world that are divided on doctrine and ethical issues. Please help us to find ways

'to clothe ourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let Christ's peace rule in our hearts.' In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED 13 } Lord, we intercede for families torn apart by relationship breakdown and other troubles. May they find help from counsellors and others and most of all, appeal to Your mercy in their time of great need. Please turn the hearts of partners, parents and children back to one another. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

'I thank my God in every remembrance of you, always offering every prayer of mine with joy [and with specific requests] for all of you, [thanking God] for your participation and partnership [both your comforting fellowship and gracious contributions].'
PHILIPPIANS 1:3-5 (AMP)

THURS 14 } God of justice, please grant success to diplomats and others as they try to negotiate reconciliation and peace where hostility exists between governments and political groups. We pray for greater cooperation in working for the common good of humanity. In Your mercy. Amen.

FRI 15 } **Loving Saviour, thank You for opportunities for local churches to bless their neighbours** through practical caring initiatives and other activities that bring enjoyment and benefit to the community alongside faithful gospel preaching, prayer and worship. Help us to listen and join in with what You are doing. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

SAT 16 } Father, please draw lonely people into the company of others in churches and other community gatherings, especially elderly people living alone and those with mental or physical health issues. We pray for many to discover the comfort and inspiration of Your presence by trusting in Jesus and becoming part of Your Family. Amen.

'Christianity is not a religion or a philosophy, but a relationship and a lifestyle. The core of that lifestyle is thinking of others, as Jesus did, instead of ourselves.' (Rick Warren)

MARCH 17 – 23

VALUING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



- SUN 17** } Father, You regard each of Your children with such love, regardless of ability, health, achievements and social standing. Please help us always to value people who live with a disability and seek to understand the challenges they face with compassion and encouragement. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- MON 18** } Lord, we pray for the Disability Charities Consortium of the UK's leading disability organisations to work with Government to ensure disabled people's experiences are reflected in their policies. May their National Disability Strategy to tackle the barriers they face be increasingly implemented. In Your mercy. Amen.
- TUES 19** } Giver of life, please give courage, strength and love to parents of children with significant disabilities and help them in this journey. We pray that those who are told their unborn baby has a condition such as Down syndrome will choose to continue the pregnancy and receive support. In Jesus' name. Amen.
- WED 20** } Father, we pray for the estimated 1.3 billion people with a significant disability, 1 in 6 of the world's population – 80% in developing countries. Please galvanise efforts to overcome stigma, poverty, exclusion from education and work, and barriers within the health system. For Christ's sake. Amen.

'May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.' ROMANS 15:5-7 (ESV)

- THURS 21** } **WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY**
Heavenly Father, thank You for the gifts and personalities of children and adults with Down syndrome and for everyone who cares for them. We pray for greater acceptance and sufficient support for them to lead healthy, fulfilled lives. May many choose to follow Jesus. In His name. Amen.
- FRI 22** } **Father, we thank You for every caregiver who supports and encourages a person with disabilities.** We pray for better pay and conditions for those employed in the care sector and that providers will be carefully monitored to maintain high standards. In Your mercy. Amen.
- SAT 23** } Lord, please continue to equip and inspire churches to welcome people with a disability, including them in ministry and making sure that buildings are wheelchair and mobility-friendly, and presentations as accessible as possible to those with sight or hearing loss, or a learning disability. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'I have an interesting perspective on depending on others. I think it gives people a chance to serve. And I'm not so much big on independence, as I am on interdependence. I'm not talking about co-dependency; I'm talking about giving people the opportunity to practising love with its sleeves rolled up.' (Joni Eareckson Tada: Christian author, speaker, and international advocate for people with disabilities. An accident in 1967 left Joni a quadriplegic.)

MARCH 24 – 30

JUSTICE AND MERCY



- SUN 24** } God of boundless mercy, we believe that You 'deliver the needy when he calls, the poor and him who has no helper and You have pity on the weak*'. We intercede for people who are oppressed and ensnared by their own sin and through that of others, asking You to set them free. By Your grace. Amen. (*Psalms 72:12-14)
- MON 25** } Father, please help those responsible for assessing people who are applying for refugee status and seeking asylum to fairly weigh evidence and make decisions for their future. We pray for just and humane outcomes in these cases, with the best provision for each individual. In Your mercy. Amen.
- TUES 26** } Lord, please grant success to individuals and organisations that campaign on behalf of people who are exploited and unfairly paid. May governments and other agencies work towards a world where everyone has enough to provide essential food, clothing, medicine and education for their families. In Your mercy. Amen.
- WED 27** } God of truth and grace, we pray for change in our public discourse so that important issues are debated honestly and respectfully without recourse to hate speech, cancel culture and other ways to silence people. Please help those who feel misrepresented, unfairly criticised and discriminated against to present their case with reason and civility, and for their voices to be heard. In Christ's name. Amen.

'Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.' ISAIAH 1:16-18 (ESV)

- THURS 28** } Merciful Father, we remember the thousands of 10- to 17-year-olds who are arrested every year, many ending up in court and hundreds placed in custody. Please encourage youth offending teams working with these vulnerable children and help staff in Young Offender Institutions and other units to be fair and compassionate. For Jesus' sake. Amen.
- FRI 29** } **GOOD FRIDAY**
We worship You, our Suffering Saviour, forever grateful that You came to die on the cross to carry away the sin of the world, laying down Your life as a ransom that all who believe might be forgiven, justified, adopted as God's precious children and granted eternal life. Hallelujah! Amen.
- SAT 30** } Righteous God, we pray for those who serve within the criminal justice system. Help them to act with wisdom, impartiality and compassion towards people charged with offences, those seeking justice, and colleagues in police, prison and probation services, and the courts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

'Doing justice means giving people their due. On the one hand that means restraining and punishing wrongdoers. On the other, it means giving people what we owe them as beings in the image of God. It includes therefore everything from law enforcement to being generous to the poor.' (Dr Timothy Keller)

MAR 31 – APR 6

RESCUE AND RESTORATION



SUN } EASTER DAY

31 Heavenly Father, we praise You that 'in Your great mercy, You have given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade*'. Keep us in this knowledge and help us to become more like Jesus. By Your grace. Amen. (*1 Peter 1:3,4)

MON } Prince of Peace, we bring to You places torn apart by war: cities razed to the ground and communities brought to their knees. Please cause Your resurrection life and hope to rescue and restore innocent victims through the work of peacemakers, aid and development agencies and Your Church. By Your grace. Amen.

TUES } Lord, we intercede for people with addictions that harm both themselves and others: excessive gambling, drug and alcohol abuse, pornography and inappropriate sexual activity. Help them to come to a place of wanting to be free and able to find support. May they seek Your strength and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WED } Father, we ask for safety and healing for all who suffer domestic abuse (over a million police-recorded cases in 2022) and for police to respond promptly to cries for help. Thank You for the many organisations and helplines that offer advice and follow-up care for survivors, many of whom become suicidal in their desperate situations. In Your mercy. Amen.

'The Lord is my rock and my fort. He is the God who saves me ... The ropes of the grave were tight around me. Death set its trap in front of me. When I was in trouble I called out to the Lord ... The Lord thundered from heaven. He shot His arrows and scattered the enemy ... He reached down from heaven. He took hold of me.'
2 SAMUEL 22 (NIV READERS VERSION)

THURS } Lord our Rescuer, we remember the almost 30,000 migrants who in 2023 crossed the Channel in small boats to seek asylum in the UK. Please help the Government to find humane and workable strategies to deal with this, to keep people safe and wherever possible to allow them to stay. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRI } **Father, thank You for organisations that work with extremely vulnerable people** on our streets and in other hidden places of deprivation, abuse and despair caused by homelessness, addiction, modern slavery and other perilous situations. Please help them to find ways to bring rescue and restoration. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT } Lord, we remember those in police forces and emergency services who experience distressing or traumatic events as they respond to accidents and cases of serious violence. Please guard them from harm and illness as they seek to protect and help others. In Your mercy. Amen.

In the UK there are 186,000 police officers, 43,000 fire and rescue workers, 270 ambulance staff, 32,000 volunteer lifeboat crew members, 107 mountain rescue teams, 64,000 St John Ambulance and British Red Cross volunteers. Other organisations also offer help in emergencies.

APRIL 7 – 13

END-OF-LIFE MATTERS



SUN 7 } WORLD HEALTH DAY

Dear God, on this 75th anniversary of the World Health Organisation we ask You to equip health workers responding to public health challenges in the neediest areas. We especially pray for Christian medical missions as they reach out with Your love and truth. In Your name. Amen.

MON 8 } Father, please draw near to people with failing health, and strengthen all those who care for them. We pray they will be treated with compassion as they near their lives' natural end: able to die in peace and above all, to turn to You in repentance and faith. Through Christ's mercy and grace. Amen.

TUES 9 } Lord, we pray about the potential pressure on vulnerable people to end their lives out of fear of being a burden. May those who favour legalising assisted suicide accept evidence from other countries that shows a so-called 'right to die' can subtly become a 'duty to die' and lead to euthanasia. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

WED 10 } Jesus our Healer, we pray for medical professionals, the majority of whom oppose assisted suicide as it undermines trust between doctor and patient, causes conflict with colleagues, and changes the ethos of medicine; to 'do no harm'. In Your mercy. Amen.

'Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterwards you will receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.' PSALM 73:23-26 (ESV)

THURS 11 } Father, we remember people who are dependent on life support systems, in a deep coma or with 'locked in' syndrome – seemingly unconscious but not brain dead. Please guide doctors and other professionals, family and friends to know what is right to do in such situations. According to Your great mercy. Amen.

FRI 12 } **Lord our Comforter, thank You for the expertise and compassion of those working in palliative care settings:** specialist hospital wards, hospices and in the community. We pray for there to be enough resources made available in every corner of the country. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SAT 13 } God of compassion, we ask that attempts to legalise physician assisted suicide in Scotland, Westminster and elsewhere would fail. Please grant unity, wisdom and favour to organisations that are working together to oppose euthanasia, affirm the value of life and recommend better access to palliative care. In Your mercy. Amen.

Requests for euthanasia are extremely rare when patients are properly cared for and physical, psychosocial, emotional and spiritual needs are properly met. Our key priority must therefore be to make the highest quality palliative care more widely available. This is true compassion.'

(carenotkilling.org.uk)

APRIL 14 – 20

CARING FOR OUR PLANET



SUN 14 } Almighty God, at this time of unprecedented heatwaves, wildfires, floods, storms and droughts we pray for countries to take effective measures: to establish early warning systems; build climate-resilient infrastructures – roads, bridges and power lines; restore natural ecosystems – planting urban forests, strengthening mangrove sea defence; ‘regreen’ mountain slopes, and protect water supplies. In Your mercy. Amen.

MON 15 } Father, please help us all to avoid plastic packaging and other materials that cannot be recycled, and to carefully sort our own refuse. We pray that local authorities will increase their commitment to reduce landfill waste, act to stop pollution and introduce environmentally friendly policies to cut down carbon emissions. By Your grace. Amen.

TUES 16 } Lord, we pray for effective ways to be found to reduce the appalling waste of one third of all food produced globally, in the UK 9.5 million tonnes a year – while millions struggle to afford to eat. Please bless projects that redistribute surplus food to charities, foodbanks and other organisations. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

WED 17 } Lord our Redeemer, please inspire people working in marine conservation, innovating and implementing solutions to pollution that causes such damage to our oceans, seas and waterways. We pray for major progress in restoring and rejuvenating these ecosystems. In Your mercy. Amen.

‘You gave human beings charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.’ PSALM 8:6-8 (NLT)

THURS 18 } Sustainer of life, as one third of all fossil fuel emissions can be absorbed by trees we pray that governments, investors and local communities will work with environment charities spearheading initiatives to protect, restore and plant forest landscapes by 2030. In Your mercy. Amen. (trilliontrees.org)

FRI 19 } **Thank You, Lord, for growing participation in litter picking and beach clean initiatives across the UK**, retrieving thousands of tons of cigarette stubs, plastic, broken glass and other debris. We pray for people to be more responsible with their rubbish and protect the environment. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

SAT 20 } Lord, we ask You to increase our knowledge and skills to discover and share efficient and economical ways to create clean renewable power. We pray for progress in harnessing solar, wind, hydro, biomass and geothermal energy especially in the developing world and in cities. According to Your mercy. Amen.

‘Still in the early stages of development, transparent solar panels, crafted from materials that permit visible light to pass through while capturing the sun’s energy to generate electricity, hold the potential to take the place of conventional windows, replacing traditional, bulky, and opaque solar panels. They could revolutionise the way we generate electricity and be used to power buildings, cars, and other devices without taking up any extra space.’ (greenchristian.org)



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