

Penedeyrn Prayer Letter, March/April 2020

Our best way of being ready to pray in every situation is to walk closely with Christ.

God be in my head
and in my understanding.

God be in mine eyes
and in my looking.

God be in my mouth
and in my speaking.

God be in my heart
and in my thinking.

God be at my end
and at my departing.

God our Father, we give you thanks that your own blessedness and goodness stream out to all people like the shining of the sun. We ask that people will turn their hearts towards your light, as the daisies turn their faces to the sun. So may many find your grace and transforming power, and rejoice in your glory, as in the brilliance of sunshine after rain.

We ask this in the name of your Beloved, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Father, we pray that where there is fear, you will graciously lead people into faith. In this time of much uncertainty, may many turn to you for help, and find Christ to be the everlasting Rock. Amen.

Prayer is our fullest expression of reliance upon God. In prayer, we are most aware of our smallness and God's greatness, our weakness and his power, our limited compassion and his unfailing love. We can cry to him in our need, and also find glad assurance, praying beyond ourselves into the realms of his grace.

We live in an uncertain and transitory world. For decades, we in the UK have been blessed with a large measure of security and predictability in our daily lives, but the current health crisis reminds us that certainty resides only in God.

As we consider the many challenges to be faced at this time, let's pray especially for people's spiritual well-being as well as their physical needs. Let's pray that individuals should turn to Christ and discover the true comfort of the gospel, Christ's presence with us, and the sure and certain hope of salvation through him.

Let's also remind ourselves that although we may work hard and do our best to bring this gospel to others, 'only God...gives the growth.' (1 Corinthians 3:6-7) We do not know how many of our usual activities will be able to continue over the next few months, but God does not stop working, and our work of prayer goes on.

A thought for this month

The last words of St David, who lived in a far more hazardous world than ours, were 'Be joyful and keep your faith and your creed, and do the little things that you have seen me do, and heard about.' Aware that his death was very close, this was a carefully chosen final instruction for his followers. It remains excellent advice for us, too, all these centuries later.

Penedeyrn cycle of prayer

We pray for a different church in our Mission Area each day. We also pray for the whole Church, the world, our local communities, the sick and suffering, the bereaved and the nation.

Monday

- Llandrillo
- the Church

Tuesday

- Bala
- the world

Wednesday

- Cerrigydrudion and Llanfihangel
- the community

Thursday

- Cynwyd
- the sick and suffering

Friday

- Llandderfel
- the bereaved and remembrance of those who have died

Saturday

- Maerdy
- the nation

Sunday

- special focus on thanksgiving and praise, celebrating our faith

Matters for prayer this month

- for those among us who are particularly vulnerable to be kept safe
- For those among us whose livelihoods are likely to be at risk
- for wisdom for our government and insight for our scientists
- for strength for our health professionals
- for those who are seriously ill with covid-19, and those who are dying
- for the bereaved, and for everyone who is afraid
- for God's Spirit to be at work when we cannot
- for whatever form of 'lockdown' comes to be made into a time of peace, of strengthening, of seeking and of finding
- for a halt in the spread of the virus
- for everyone still trying to get back to normal after last month's floods
- for our Archdeacon Barry and the effective putting together of a rural strategy for church growth

Our gospel reading last Sunday was about the meeting of Jesus with the woman of Samaria at Jacob's well (John 4) He is still offering living water, but only thirsty people will come to him and drink. Let's pray for a renewed sense of thirst for God, in all our churches, in our communities, in our children and young people.

Help us, Lord, to drink deeply of your Spirit, until our lives are transformed by your compassion.