

ST. MARGARET'S
COLEVIEW,
SOUTH MARSTON
&
STANTON FITZWARREN

JULY & AUGUST
PRAYER DIARY



Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians – Chapter 9 Verse 24

24 Surely you know that many runners take part in a race, but only one of them wins the prize. Run, then, in such a way as to win the prize.

To my fellow Christians...

Owing to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, many church and local events have been put on hold or cancelled altogether. As a result, until such time as the events recommence, the prayer diary will be scaled down to weekly prayers, much like the prayer diaries that are distributed over Christmas and the summer months.

I will still attempt to make the prayer diary as varied as possible, but for that to succeed I will continue to require your help and support, so please feel free to jot down your own thoughts for prayer below.

God Bless,
Adam Jenkins

If you would like to suggest any topics for prayers, please contact:

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Prayer topics...

1st - 3rd With restrictions being slightly lifted on weddings recently, pray for all those who are getting married over the next couple of months. Pray that all the couples are able to share their special day with those that they care about. May their marriages be life-long, life-affirming and life-giving.

Week beginning 4th July

Collect: Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In your prayers this week pray for all care workers, be they social workers, occupational therapists or carers both formal and informal. They work hard every day, often performing thankless tasks, to look after our most vulnerable people and they should be remembered, particularly throughout this pandemic as they would often put themselves in a situation where they could have been exposed to the virus.

Week beginning 11th July

Collect: Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This week, as we celebrate World Population Day on Sunday and World Day for International Justice on Saturday, pray for all those who feel alone and detached from God, particularly those suffering from some form of abuse, be it sexual, financial, emotional or psychological. Pray that God will give them the strength to break their chains and get the help that they so desperately need. Pray also for those who have been affected by poverty, especially as a result of restrictions.

Week beginning 18th July

Collect: Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If everything goes according to plan, then the remaining restrictions should be being lifted this week. Pray that we not abuse the freedom that we will hopefully have been given, and that life can return to some semblance of normality. Pray also for those that have passed away. Pray that they may know God better during this time of grief, and that He will be with them through every stage of the process.

Week beginning 25th July

Collect: Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This week sees the first full week of the delayed Summer Olympics. Pray this week for all those taking part in the events, that they may treat the games with respect and perform to the best of their abilities. Also pray this week for those who are injured and therefore cannot compete. May they get the support they need and the time they desire to rehabilitate so that they can come back stronger.

Week beginning 1st August

Collect: Gracious Father, revive your Church in our day, and make her holy, strong and faithful, for your glory's sake in Jesus Christ our Lord.

As we celebrate the transfiguration of Christ this week, pray that, as the disciples started to really comprehend just how powerful Jesus is, we too may recognise the power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and that we may open our minds to His passion and His power.

Week beginning 8th August

Collect: Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Remember in your prayers this week that, in the changeable weather we are experiencing, it can be a hard time for the lonely and the homeless. Pray that, whether it be blazing hot sunshine or biting wind and driving rain, there may be a light at the end of their dark tunnel. They will always need our support. Pray that God will guide us to try and lay the foundations to give them a better life, just as He did with us.

Week beginning 15th August

Collect: God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

This week in your prayers, pray for all those who are still being persecuted simply because they are trying to help those who are struggling with disease, famine and poverty. Pray also for those who have lost their lives aiding humanitarian causes and those who still fight for a better future for people who do not have the means to fight for it themselves. May they be recognised and rewarded spiritually.

Week beginning 22nd August

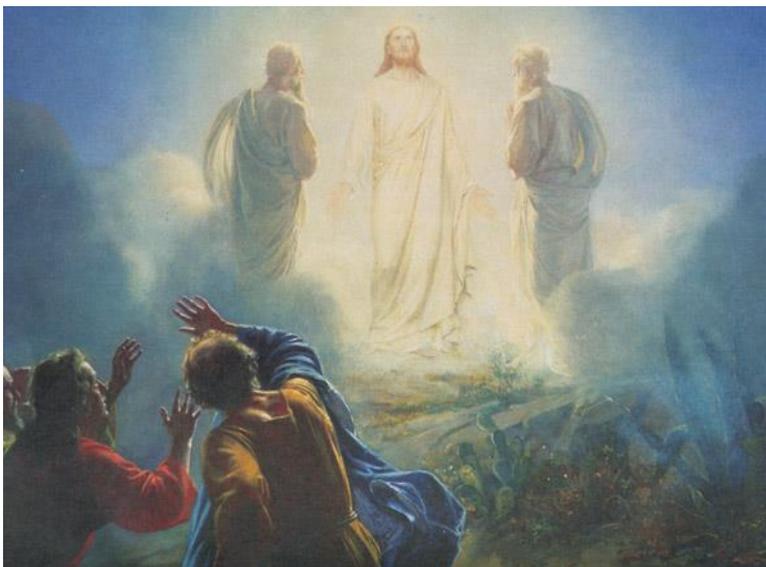
Collect: God of constant mercy, who sent your Son to save us: remind us of your goodness, increase your grace within us, that our thankfulness may grow, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thank God this week for our Ministry team, and their continued devotion to spreading the word of God despite the ongoing difficulties; we pray also for all those who work tirelessly to make sure that we are able to attend church every week and enjoy being together again. Also this week, pray for all those who are sick and ill at this time. Pray that God's love and strength will give them the resilience they need to get well again.

Week beginning 29th August

Collect: Almighty God, you search us and know us: may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness, now and in all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With children preparing to go back to school this week, pray for all those starting the new academic year in new surroundings. Pray for teaching staff starting into new roles and for pupils starting new schools, colleges or universities. Especially pray for young children starting in reception class and young people who have moved onto secondary school. Pray that they will settle in quickly and feel happy in their new schools.



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