



## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – JUNE 2017**

May saw another highly successful fair – a very creditable achievement in view of the uncertainty of the weather.

Two courses in addition to the Lenten groups were held. We thank God for the continued sense of community here at St. John's. Let us hope that our efforts in Christian Aid Week have raised the fine sum of money the organisation deserves. The numbers of people needing support continues to grow across the world.

Source books for this month show that we should celebrate the lives of many who have lived, and died too, keeping faith in God and his Son alive.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June . Justin – an apologist - the first to be recorded defending Christianity in dialogue with other intellectuals including Judaism, later beheaded

**See prayer for All Saints and Martyrs for Christ at the end.**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June Blandina and her followers were the first to have their suffering and martyrdom witnessed and recorded in letters sent, from France to Asia and Phrygia, by survivors.

**Lord, remove from us every kind of terror, and grant that we, like them, may become firmly grounded in the faith.**

**See prayer for All Saints and Martyrs for Christ at the end.**

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Anyone who has visited Glendalough, in the Wicklow Mountains, will have seen Kevin's tower and been overwhelmed by the beauty of the area. No wonder that Brian Keenan, a hostage at the same time as Terry Waite, chose it for his honeymoon. Kevin's music and poetry influenced many for generation who gathered at the monastery he built up.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June. A very special celebration of Pentecost entitled 'Thy Kingdom Come' at St. John's. Come and join in the global wave of prayer, both international and ecumenical. Bring your own food since it lasts from 10.00am – 3.30pm

Two more British saints to be remembered. Petroc, the abbot of Padstow, familiarly called the 'Captain of the Cornish Saints'. The place then was called Lanwethinoc, now Padstow.

**See prayer for All Saints and Martyrs for Christ at the end**

Pope John XX111 held by many to have breathed new life into the Roman Catholic Church by laying down the foundations for reform, died on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1963. His life is celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

We ask God on this day to watch over all the residents, friends and relations, and especially those who have problems which are causing concern, of Napier Road and Napier Close.

**See prayers at the end.**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June the meeting of the Stewardship Committee. We pray that they may continue to have ideas designed to stimulate more fund-raising, the need, we know never ceases.

This evening is the date of the Mothers' Union AGM at 7.30pm. It will be followed by a talk given by the former High Sheriff of Berkshire – John Millar. May the first part of the meeting be profitable and the second enjoyable.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a baptism during this morning's service. We welcome Aria Martin into our Church along with the family and we hope that it will be a happy occasion which they will long remember.

This is also the day we remember Barnabas. Though not among the twelve apostles or evangelists, he emerges in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant of their number. He was a Levite from Cyprus, a friend of Paul, a leader from Greece rather than Palestine. He introduced Paul to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem. Sent to Antioch to guide Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts promoting all being one in Christ. He broke with Paul to go to Cyprus where he was martyred in AD61.

**Help us, bountiful God, by the example of your servant Barnabas to be generous in our judgements and unselfish in our service.**

Please pray for the residents, family and friends, of Chaplain's Hill, School Hill and Phoenix Rise.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June. The Deanery Synod meets at Ruscombe.

We ask that our thoughtful Lord God will be present with them throughout their deliberations and useful ideas to ensure the advantage of all Churches.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June is the day of the Mothers' Union outing to the Hospital of St. Cross and Almshouse of the Noble Poverty. Having been earlier entertained by a speaker, Brother John Leathes, the ladies will have been well prepared for an enjoyable, interesting visit.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Remember Samuel and Henrietta Bennett. Both were concerned with improving the religious and cultural improvement of the East End of London. Samuel had worked with Octavia Hill at the Charity Organisation. After ordination he later became incumbent at St. Jude's, Whitechapel, where his unorthodox methods, including evening schools and entertainment aroused criticism. Eventually his devotion to religion and loyalty to the East End as its priest won respect.

Henrietta, his wife, helped him and she, too, before marriage had worked with Octavia Hill. In later years she founded Hampstead Garden Suburb, a community in which all classes might live together.

His spiritual gifts and her robust energy and assertive personality made a dynamic team expressing publicly the Christian faith.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. No 'Prayers for Streets' but see a prayer for fathers at the end.

Father's Day

**Dear God, be with us at our service and bless all families present. Show all fathers that they are loved and valued and are recognised as being important in bringing up their children in infancy and childhood through to adulthood,**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Alban was a citizen of the Roman city Verulamium (now St. Albans in Hertfordshire). He gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from persecution for several days and by whom he was converted. Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and when discovered was subsequently beheaded on this day. Even after torture he had refused to renounce his Christian faith and is consequently considered our first British martyr. His shrine stands as a place of pilgrimage in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans.

**See prayer for All Saints and Martyrs for Christ at the end.**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. From before birth in his mother's womb, our patron saint, St. John the Baptist, seemed to have a special role in encouraging the people of God to live better lives in anticipation of the coming of Christ.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Our Patronal Festival.

**Loving Lord, grant that your love warms the hearts and prayers of us all as we meet together to worship. May we, as we enjoy the celebrations, keep in mind that we should follow his example of constantly speaking the truth, rebuking vice boldly and be prepared to suffer hostility or apathy for the truth's sake.**

Please pray for the residents, family and friends, of Linkway and Coppice Gardens.

**See prayers at the end.**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The Book Club meets to discuss the penetrating, thought-provoking "Heaven's Morning" by David Winter. They meet in the Church Hall at 8.00pm.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The Net leaders meet tonight to discuss and plan the material for the Sunday morning meetings. May they continue to produce the interesting, appealing ideas that we the congregation have been treated to. We enjoy seeing what our youngsters have obviously enjoyed creating. Carry on the good work!

### A Prayer for St. Peter and St. Paul

**Almighty God**

**Whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life:**

**grant that your Church,**

**inspired by their teaching and example,**

**and made one by your Spirit,**

**may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,**

**Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,**

**who is alive and reigns with you,**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and for ever. Amen (Collect for 29<sup>th</sup> June)**

### A Prayer for Father's Day

**Most gracious Heavenly Father**

**We thank you for our earthly fathers, those to whom you have entrusted the responsibility to provide loving protection of their families and guidance of their children.**

**May our earthly fathers imitate the manly courage of Abraham, Jesse and Joseph, in providing wise counsel to the children you have given to their care.**

**We ask your blessing on all those to whom you have entrusted fatherhood.**

**May your Holy Spirit constantly inspire them with justice and mercy, wisdom and strength, fidelity and self-giving love.**

**May they receive your grace abundantly in this earthly life, and look forward to eternal joy in your presence in the life to come.**

**Through Jesus Christ, your Son and Our Lord. Amen Diane Law**

**A Prayer for All Saints and Martyrs for Christ**

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,  
and no torment will ever touch them.  
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,  
and their departure thought to be a disaster,  
and their going from us to be their destruction  
But they are at peace.

(from Wisdom 3. V1-3)

**Prayer for Our Patronal Saint, John the Baptist**

Almighty God,  
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance.  
Lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ our Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

(Collect for 24<sup>th</sup> June)

**A short pray for Jesus to watch over us all**

(We include this month the residents, together with their families and friends of:  
Napier Road, Napier Close – 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Chaplain's Hill, School Hill, Phoenix Rise – 11<sup>th</sup> June  
Linkway, Coppice Gardens – 25<sup>th</sup> June.

Watch, O Lord, over those who sleep tonight,  
Tend our sick ones and rest our weary ones.  
Calm our troubled ones and soothe our agitated ones.  
May we wake safely in the morning to start  
A new day and all for your love's sake.

AMEN

