



## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – MARCH 2018**

Just as a bulb cannot be ready for Spring unless it has lived through winter, so Christians cannot be ready for Easter unless they have observed Lent; God's springtime.

**Growth in everything –  
Flesh and fleece, fur and feather,  
Grass and green world all together  
Nothing is so beautiful as spring**

**Gerald Manley Hopkins.**

Our daily prayer diary this Lent should contain dates of our Church activities, brief notes about the brave men and women whose lives have been dedicated to helping others in faithfulness to our Father and his Son, who put himself to the test for us.

With the Lord there is always another blossom time "For I know the plans I have for you .....plans to prosper you .....plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29.11

**As you know our weakness  
so may we know your power to save.**

**Joyce Huggett**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March St. David's Day, patron saint of Wales, honoured for his spirituality and his kindness, particularly for the sick. **(See prayer at end)**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Prayers for the Sick at 6.00pm in the Vestry

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March We join with Rod and Wendy Kennedy who come to Church today to ask for God's blessing as they renew their wedding vows.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March Lent 3

We ask that happiness will be evident at the Lenten lunch following the 10.00am service. May those present feel inspired to give generously to the Bracknell Night Shelter, a worthy charity.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. God's blessing on the Lenten House Group meeting to discuss 'Finding a Voice', based on 'The King's Speech'.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Blessing also for the Lenten House Group meeting to look at 'The Joy of the Gospel'; walking through Lent with Pope Francis

The house group at Oak Lodge meets this evening from 7.30pm – 9.00pm to discuss 'interceding as God did', based on Luke 22: v31 – 34.

Lisa will be leading a Lent Eucharist for the Mothers' Union at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March Lisa will again be leading a Baptism Preparation Evening.

On this day two early third century African martyrs influenced the early Church - Vibia Perpetua, a young married noblewoman of Carthage and Felicity, her personal slave. They, along with fellow catechumens were arrested, put into an arena to be mauled by wild animals and ultimately executed by the sword. Before their death they exchanged the Kiss of Peace and affirmed their faith in Christ, the Son of God. Their example was widely circulated in secret and for their faith and courage in adversity, were martyred in 203.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March Prayers for the Sick at 6.00pm in the Vestry

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March May joy and fun be present as our youngsters, with the help of the Mothers' Union, make posies for Mothering Sunday. Hopefully the brief service before lunch will have real significance and happy memories for the future.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March. Mothering Sunday.

See a 'Mother's Prayer' below which sums up not only what qualities a mother would want for her child, but surely what we as Christians would have.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March Our Lenten House Groups will meet again and also the group on the following evening.

The Messy Church Planning Group meeting inspired with hope from the previous Saturday to plan the further successes they deserve.

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March. The Mother's Union meet at 2.00pm to listen to a talk by Susan Howe on Hymn Writers and other Music Topics which should prove interesting and possibly very moving. The PCC also meets on this evening. May God direct their deliberations.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Throughout Lent our thoughts will be with our choir extended by members of the congregation, their choir mistress and organist, busy rehearsing for our Easter celebrations.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March Prayers for the Sick will meet as usual at 6.00pm in the Vestry, seeking God's aid for the sick in our parish.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick's Day.

This Romano-British six year old boy was made a slave to the marauding Irish. After escaping to Europe, training as a bishop in Gaul, he returned in his early forties to Ireland. He travelled throughout the country bringing its people to Christ. His two pieces of writing reveal a humble man who acknowledged his achievements as by the grace of Christ. His monastic foundations kept the faith alive after his death.

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Lent 5 – Passiontide.

A day for thoughtful prayer on our Parish Quiet Day.

We pray for the residents of Alcot Close and Fielding Gardens.

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March

There will be a Communion Service at Oak Lodge and Pinehurst. May it be a source of comfort to all the residents.

The Mother's Union meet at 9.30am for prayers in the Lady Chapel or Vestry.

In addition we remember Joseph of Nazareth, Mary's husband, who adopted Jesus thus fulfilling the prophecy that Israel's deliverer would be of the House and lineage of David.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. The House Group at Oak Lodge will be meeting from 7.30 – 9.00pm when their prayers and discussions will be on the subject of 'Practising God's Presence' base on Thessalonians 5: 16 – 18.

A day dedicated to the much-revered Bishop Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne who spread the news of the gospels all over his diocese, is remembered this day.

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Thomas Cranmer who was responsible, with his team, for bringing about the annulment of Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. He wrote two editions of the 'The Book of Common Prayer' leaving his mark on Anglican liturgy.

Robert Ferrar, a former Prior, handed over his monastery when they were dissolved. He became Bishop of St. David's and attempted to reform the Church in Wales. Both were burnt, when Catholic Mary I became queen, as heretics.

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Prayers for the Sick at 6.00pm in the Vestry

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March May our Church be blessed with a good turnout for our Spring Clean in preparation for our Easter Celebrations.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday

8.00am service – a dramatised reading of the Passion.

10.00am service – 'Jerusalem Joy' will be performed by our augmented choir.

The day on which the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary is celebrated, consequently called Lady Day

26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March We use the time to prepare for the final days of Lent, praying for strengthening of our faith at this key time on the Church's calendar.

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March Maundy Thursday

8.00pm service – a sung Eucharist and stripping of the altar followed by a silent vigil until midnight.

A time, perhaps, when the prayers below might be useful.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am Churches Together all age worship at Crowthorne Baptist Church followed by a walk of witness.

2.00pm Meditation before the cross.

**See prayers below**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April Easter Sunday

8.00am Service of Light and sung Eucharist

10.30am All age Eucharist, blessing of the Easter Garden and Easter Egg hunt.

### **A prayer for Mothering Sunday**

#### **A Mother's Prayer**

**May you always be  
a strong arm to the weak;  
and may you always be  
a comfort to the crying;  
a smile to the lonely,  
a blessing to the grieving;  
and may you always be  
a haven for the anxious.**

**May your life be full of Jesus  
and his love;  
May you be God-driven by the  
Father and the Spirit;  
and may you be in His hands  
and smile  
and be His arms of comfort;  
And may you always be  
His blessing to the world. Amen  
(A Celtic prayer)**

### **A Prayer for St. David's Day**

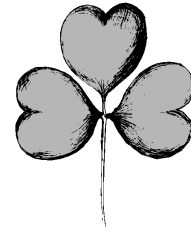
**God our Father,  
You gave St. David to the people of  
Wales to uphold the Faith;  
Encouraged by his example,  
May we joyfully hold fast to the things  
which lead to eternal life.**

**Collect for the day.**



**A Prayer for St. Patrick' Day**

Almighty God,  
who in your providence chose your  
servant Patrick  
To be the apostle of the Irish people.  
Keep alive in us the fire of faith he kindled  
and strengthen us in our pilgrimage  
towards the light of everlasting life.  
Collect for the day.



**A Prayer for Joseph of Nazareth** (for all fathers particularly on Mothering Sunday)

God our Father  
who from the family of your servant David  
raised up Joseph the carpenter  
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son  
and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary;  
give us grace to follow him  
in faithful obedience to your commands.

Collect for the day

**A Prayer for Lent and Easter - By the Palestinian women of Jerusalem**

O Christ, as we follow you down the road to Calvary,  
Guide us to become active participants, not curious bystanders.  
O Christ, as we stand with the mourners at the Cross,  
Give us the love that can forgive those who trespass against us.  
O Christ, as we witness the new life given to us through your Resurrection,  
Empower us with faith to act and spread the Good News.

**A Christian Prayer for Father's Day** (for Mothering Sunday)

**Our thanks for them as well as our Mothers**

St. Joseph  
Through your goodness, faith and quiet  
sacrifice, you taught the meaning of fatherhood.  
You offered us guidance and you showed the way.  
Thank you for those who brought fatherhood  
into my life, especially my own father.  
I turn to you today and seek blessings for my father  
and all good men who have touched my life.

**A Prayer for All Mothers on Mothering Sunday**

Mary, Mother of Jesus  
You formed your child's faith and led him to his destiny.  
You lived your life in this world and became a model for all women.  
On this special day, as in all the days of my life,  
I ask blessings for my mother  
And for all women in my life  
Whose faith and care have blessed me.

Amen

**A Prayer for all Saints**

To all Saints – ordinary people who helped in extraordinary ways,  
They faced many obstacles and made changes  
In their lives to follow Jesus.  
Our God, help us to follow their example  
In our family life and in our contact with others.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen

**A Prayer and Thought for Holy Week**

Let all that is within me cry glory  
Glory to the Lord God most high.

Glory comes wrapped in the ordinary;  
a spider's web, wearing the morning dew  
a mistake, reflected upon and learned from .....  
an autumn tree letting go of her leaves  
a spring tree putting leaves on again  
a wound embraced and understood.

**A Prayer for Easter Day**

As sure as what is most sure,  
sure as spring primroses  
shall new-dapple next year  
sure as tomorrow morning,  
amongst come-back-again things,  
things with a revival  
things with a recovery,  
Thy Name

Gerald Manley Hopkins

**A Final Prayer for Easter**

May the God of hope fill your hearts with all joy  
And peace, as you trust in him, so that you may  
Overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15: v.13



with love on  
*Mothering  
Sunday*