

**A PRAYER RESOURCE FOR THE DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING  
ON ST MARK'S DAY, 25 APRIL 2020**

**Bishop David's suggested topics for prayer**

- Please pray on this St Mark's Day and in the days ahead. *Come Holy Spirit.*
- For those who are sick at this time, that they would be healed (name those known to you).
- For those working in the NHS and other front-line services, that God would protect them (name those known to you).
- For many to come to faith in Jesus in these days (name those that you want to see come to faith in Jesus Christ).
- For a move of the Holy Spirit in your parish (pray by name for your rector, rectory family, church staff, select vestry members and all who hold any office and serve in any way).
- For those who are the decision makers in our nation (pray by name for politicians and others known to you).
- For an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our diocese (pray by name for Bishop David, his family, the diocesan staff team and their families).

**The Collect Prayer for St Mark's Day**

Almighty God,  
who enlightened your holy Church  
through the inspired witness of your  
evangelist Saint Mark:  
Grant that we, being firmly grounded  
in the truth of the gospel,  
may be faithful to its teaching both in  
word and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*BCP 2004*

**Come Holy Spirit**

Ever living and ever-loving God,  
We praise you for your loving presence  
with us.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
take and transform our societies:  
that broken people find healing;  
that lonely people find love;  
that bitter people find peace;  
that fearful people find hope.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
take our world's leaders and governments  
and bring renewal:  
that communication can be open;  
that relationships between hostile people  
and hostile nations will evaporate;  
that a hunger for justice addresses the  
hunger for food felt by so many.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill your church:  
that our worship will be ever more  
pleasing to you;  
that prayers will change our minds  
instead of trying to get you to change  
yours;  
that our lives will make a real difference to  
real people in the real world.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill our lives with your presence:  
so that more and more every day,  
all that we do and say and hope  
will be an act of worship to you and an  
expression of love to others,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Baptist Union of Great Britain*

### **A Prayer for Medical Staff, Carers and Front-line Services**

We lift before you all our medical staff and professionals, carers, community workers and those providing essential services. We thank you for their commitment and dedication to sacrificially serving others. We pray that your outstretched arms will embrace their helping hands on the frontline of this pandemic. Comfort and uphold them as they deal with the traumatic situations they face. Lord give them strength and tenacity in their tiredness. Protect them from infection and guard their families. Father encourage them with your gentleness and give them compassion and grace in how they serve and lead.

*New Wine Ireland*

### **A Prayer for the Health Service**

O God, we thank you for our healthcare systems and those who work in them. We pray for healthcare workers known to us that through their love and compassion, those who are vulnerable and needy might come to know healing and peace in their lives. We pray for those who have to make difficult decisions about resources or treatments that they will do so with care and integrity. Lord, continue your ministry of healing in the lives of those who are broken, vulnerable and in need. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*The Churches and Industry Group,  
Birmingham*

### **A Prayer for Carers, Nurses and Doctors**

Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life, be with doctors, nurses and carers, as they act as agents of your healing touch. In these desperate times,

keep them strong yet loving; and when their work is done, be with them in their weariness and, at times, in their tears. Amen.

*Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals  
Chaplaincy, by Althea Hayton – adapted*

### **A Prayer for Healing**

God of compassion, we hold before you all those in need of healing, comfort and encouragement, especially those who have asked for our prayers ... calm the anxious mind, bring balm to the depressed spirit, and strengthen the weakened body, that all who suffer in body mind and spirit, may know your healing presence surrounding and holding them. Amen

### **A Prayer for our Leaders**

We thank you for our leaders. The women and men who have to make decisions that directly affect our lives. We pray for wisdom, discernment, integrity and a sense of calm in the decisions they have to make. We pray for those in government, local political leaders, head teachers, business leaders and other institutions. We pray for a sense of unity and collaboration in how they work across stressed systems and structures. We ask for clarity and your wisdom in how these leaders can help stop the spread of the coronavirus and protect our society. We ask for provision and release of resources that will help maintain, protect and sustain our health system. Jesus, we ask for courage where courage is needed and patience where patience is required. We pray that these men and women lead well and are supported and encouraged by the public and your Church.

*New Wine Ireland*

### **A Prayer for Evangelism**

Lord God, we pray that in this time of shaking, many will hear your voice and begin to build their lives on the firm foundation of your love and forgiveness. Help us to be alert to the action of your Spirit and quick to share the hope we have in Christ. Amen

### **A Prayer for Ireland**

Almighty and merciful God, who in days of old didst give to this land the benediction of thy holy Church; Withdraw not, we pray thee, thy favour from us, but so correct what is amiss, and supply what is lacking, that we may more and more bring forth fruit to thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*BCP 2004*

*Bishop David invites us to pray the Lord's Prayer on our doorsteps at 8.00pm. Please take the opportunity to ask others to join you.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come;  
Thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever,  
Amen.