

# The Parish Church of St. Giles with St Mary's, Pontefract



Prayers and Readings to bring comfort and  
support during the Coronavirus Pandemic

## Introduction

*This booklet of Prayers and Readings has been put together to help you to pray and to bring you comfort and support during this difficult time for both our country and the whole world. Please feel free to use these prayers both in Church and at home. We've also included some prayers suitable for children for you to use when praying with your child. You may wish to join us in saying this prayer for those affected by Coronavirus daily as you begin your prayers.*

**God, our rock and shield, we pray for our land, and all nations and places in our world, as many endure the effects of the illness Covid-19 and the Coronavirus pandemic.**

**For those who are ill, grant healing;**

**for those who mourn the death of loved ones, bring comfort;**

**for those who care for the sick, grant strength and endurance;**

**for those who are isolated or whose livelihoods are threatened, give courage and hope;**

**for all who take difficult decisions, from governments to health practitioners, give wisdom and compassion to accompany the knowledge and experience that they bring.**

**Deliver us from this disease, we pray, and enable all nations and communities to grow in collaboration and unity as we face this challenge together.**

**Grant a legacy of enduring common purpose in facing all that threatens our global common good.**

**We pray in Jesus' name, in the unity of the Spirit, Amen.**

# A prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our  
Lord.

**Amen.**

## For those in isolation

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.



## For those who are worried/social cohesion

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need  
and heal the sick in body and mind.  
Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time.  
Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions  
that separate us from you and from one another.  
Give us grace to live our lives  
confident in your promise that you are with us always. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neighbour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us strength  
to comfort the fearful, to care for the sick,  
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

## For those who are ill

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your unfailing and tender care,  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold us safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

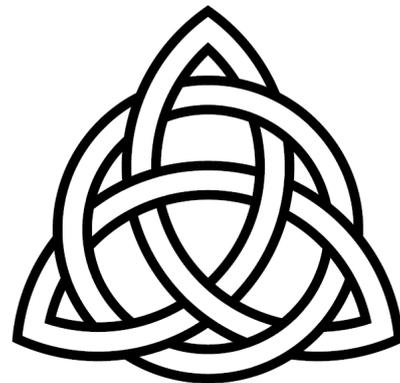
## From one who is ill or isolated

O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayers for when you can't get to church

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'.  
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,  
and keep me in your care.  
Amen.

Christ be with me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ beside me,  
Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.



From St Patrick's Breastplate

.....  
I am giving you worship with all my life,  
I am giving you obedience with all my power,  
I am giving you praise with all my strength,  
I am giving you honour with all my speech.  
I am giving you love with all my heart,  
I am giving you affection with all my sense,  
I am giving you my being with all my mind,  
I am giving you my soul, O most high and holy God.

Praise to the Father,  
Praise to the Son,  
Praise to the Spirit,  
The Three in One.

adapted from Alexander Carmichael, *Carmina Gadelica* (1900)

.....  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
son of the living God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

The 'Jesus Prayer'

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,  
body of Christ, save me,  
blood of Christ, inebriate me,  
water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me:  
hide me within your wounds  
and never let me be separated from you.

From the wicked enemy defend me,  
in the hour of my death, call me  
and bid me come to you,  
so that with your saints I may praise you for ever and ever.

Aníma Christi

## Prayers to use with children

### A prayer for when a friend is ill

Dear God, *(name of friend)* is ill.  
They are not allowed to go to school or come over to play.  
I'm sad because I miss them.  
They must be feeling miserable and lonely as well.  
Please be close to them.  
Please be with the people who are looking after them.  
Please help them to get better and to know that you love them. Amen.

### A prayer for the world

God of love and hope,  
You made the world and care for all creation.  
But the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Many people are anxious because of it.  
Many people are anxious that they might get ill.  
Many people are anxious about their family and friends.  
Be with them in their worries and help them to find some peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists who are working to  
discover the right medicines to give hope to those who are ill.  
Thank you that even in these strange and worrying times, you are with us.  
Help us to look for the signs of your goodness and love towards us.  
**Amen.**

## A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the World, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight we pray especially for *(names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus and the people of (country or place which is affected by Coronavirus))*.

Give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

**Amen.**



## A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me.

You are with me in the day and in the night.

You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad.

You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill.

You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am anxious.

Today I am feeling *(name how you are feeling)* because *(reasons you are feeling this way)*. Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. **Amen.**

.....

*At the end of your prayers you can use one of these two sentences:*

Be with us, Lord, in all our prayers,  
and direct our way toward the attainment of salvation, that among the  
changes and chances of this mortal life, we may always be defended by your  
gracious help, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*or*

O gracious and holy Father, give us wisdom to perceive you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

# Readings

## Psalm 27

**Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? ◆

The Lord is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

When the wicked, even my enemies and my foes,  
came upon me to eat up my flesh, ◆  
they stumbled and fell.

Though a host encamp against me,  
my heart shall not be afraid, ◆  
and though there rise up war against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord  
and that alone I seek: ◆  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord ◆  
and to seek his will in his temple.

For in the day of trouble  
he shall hide me in his shelter; ◆  
in the secret place of his dwelling shall he hide me  
and set me high upon a rock.

And now shall he lift up my head ◆  
above my enemies round about me;

Therefore will I offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with great gladness; ◆

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; ◆  
have mercy upon me and answer me.

My heart tells of your word, 'Seek my face.' ◆  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.



Hide not your face from me, ♦  
nor cast your servant away in displeasure.  
You have been my helper; ♦  
leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.  
Though my father and my mother forsake me, ♦  
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord; ♦  
lead me on a level path,  
because of those who lie in wait for me.

Deliver me not into the will of my adversaries, ♦  
for false witnesses have risen up against me,  
and those who breathe out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord ♦  
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and he shall comfort your heart; ♦  
wait patiently for the Lord.

**Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

## Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, ♦  
a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, ♦  
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters rage and swell, ♦  
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, ♦  
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her;  
therefore shall she not be removed; ♦  
God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦  
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come and behold the works of the Lord, ♦  
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world; ♦  
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear  
and burns the chariots in the fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God; ♦  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

## Psalm 91

**Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.**

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,  
Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦  
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

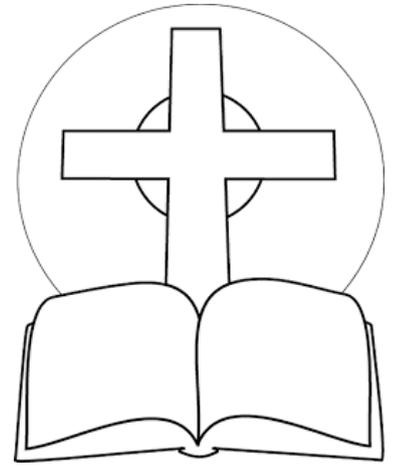
Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦  
yet it shall not come near you.

Your eyes have only to behold ♦  
to see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦  
and the Most High your stronghold,

There shall no evil happen to you, ♦  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.



For he shall give his angels charge over you, ◆  
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, ◆  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ◆  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them; ◆  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

They will call upon me and I will answer them; ◆  
I am with them in trouble,  
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them ◆  
and show them my salvation.

**Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.**

## Psalm 139

**Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.**

O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; ◆  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

You mark out my journeys and my resting place ◆  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

For there is not a word on my tongue, ◆  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You encompass me behind and before ◆  
and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, ◆  
so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go then from your spirit? ◆  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; ◆  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning ◆  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand shall lead me, ♦  
your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me ♦  
and the light around me turn to night,'

Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day; ♦  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

For you yourself created my inmost parts; ♦  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; ♦  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

My frame was not hidden from you, ♦  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; ♦  
already in your book were all my members written,

As day by day they were fashioned ♦  
when as yet there was none of them.

How deep are your counsels to me, O God! ♦  
How great is the sum of them!

If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, ♦  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

O that you would slay the wicked, O God, ♦  
that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!

They speak against you with wicked intent; ♦  
your enemies take up your name for evil.

Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you? ♦  
Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?

I hate them with a perfect hatred; ♦  
they have become my own enemies also.

Search me out, O God, and know my heart; ♦  
try me and examine my thoughts.

See if there is any way of wickedness in me ♦  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.**

## Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

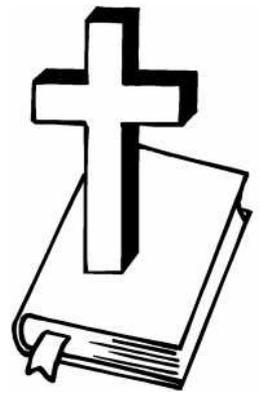
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth -

7 everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.

## John 14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.'



Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

*At the end of your prayers you may wish to use 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.**



If you would like to talk to someone about the things you have brought to God in prayer, please do contact the vicar:

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Email: vicarofpontefract@gmail.com

We are on:



**St Giles'**



**One Church, One Community**

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