

"Let our lives display His Name." (Christopher Martin Idle)

Cults Parish Church

Prayer Diary April 2019



The Crucifixion, by Diego Velazquez
from Wikimedia Commons.

An accident waiting to happen?

Judas: "I meant him to save himself and our nation."

Pilate: "I didn't want him killed."

Peter: "I was too frightened to say anything."

The crowd: "We didn't see anything wrong with a good execution. No one warned us of the effect that destroying someone has on us."

The Faith Journey Core Group hopes that this Prayer Diary will be a useful daily companion that will help unite us in prayer at Cults Kirk. Please send your contributions or requests for the May diary by April 19th to Andrew Fairhead.
andrew.fairhead@btinternet.com Phone 01224 861926.

At 7pm on the last Wednesday of each month, everyone is welcome to meet in Morven at the Kirk Centre for prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, and to talk informally about praying. (You don't have to talk if you would rather just be there in silence.)

Our prayer team prays in private for individuals, or about more confidential matters on your behalf. Please put your written request into one of the prayer boxes at the Kirk or the Kirk Centre, or let Shuna know and she will confidentially notify the team.

Monday April 1 *Many fools worship You, Lord Jesus. You were used to them, and You somehow made their foolishness effective. I trust You will do the same for me.*

Tuesday April 2 Holiday time, though no longer related to the holiest of days. We pray for all who are having a break from the routine, that it will be refreshing rather than unsettling. We pray that donations to food banks will be generous during the holiday. We pray for those needing help of any kind, that they will ask and receive. And we pray for those who don't or can't get a break from routine or unfavourable constraints.

Wednesday April 3 *Along with the money we have sent goes our prayer for the victims of the cyclone and flooding in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. It is so hard for us to understand their poor lives, but the pictures are awfully vivid. May the Lord care for those lost, and for the bereaved, while we give our thanks for those saved. May the world help them combat disease and build safer homes.*

Thursday April 4 We pray for Liam Smith, that he may rest in peace, freed from the dark place he entered; and for his grieving family and friends, that they might eventually be given peace as well. We pray for all teenagers who find the emotions and changes in their life hard to cope with. May we be gentle when we notice their troubles.

Friday April 5 *My Friday prayer is for Muslims, in the wake of atrocities against them, and that the people of New Zealand can continue to show the world what a peaceful, integrated society should look like.*

Saturday April 6 (A children's prayer.) Lord Jesus, You have said it is not good for me to want bigger and better toys. I sometimes think they would make me happy, but I am wrong. I shall be happier with simple things, and when I notice what is already around me. That will help me to make my friends and family happy too, and You!

Sunday April 7 *Jesus, just as You left Your safe haven in Bethany to ride into Jerusalem, so I do not want to feel safe as I follow You. I must be ready to be unsettled. That is how You speak to me.*

Monday April 8 The national minimum wage has gone up, but still doesn't provide enough for living. We give thanks for the organisations promoting the higher "real living wage" and particularly those in Dundee who aim to make it the UK's first "living wage city". May the benefits to staff, employers and society persuade more to follow.

Tuesday April 9 *Many Christians are not giving up things for Lent, but trying to be as generous as they can. Though this can't come close to our Father's love for everyone, it surely gives the recipients a taste of a world that is more loving and fair. In a similar way, Lord, might I reflect Your love for the world.*

Wednesday April 10 We pray for the people of Northern Ireland, facing many uncertainties about their future. Adding to their worries about national and international relations, the stain of "the troubles" is proving stubborn to remove. May they receive the leadership and the will within themselves to stabilise their outlook and re-establish the merits of power-sharing.

Thursday April 11 *Lord Jesus, You are our inspiration for bringing our world and God's children to Messy Church. You embraced all the world's messiness and all the world's people. May we today remind ourselves and our visitors of the love that drove You, and of its profound affirmation at Easter.*

Friday April 12 Dear Saviour, You lived in revolutionary times, yet pursued faithfully Your message of neighbourliness, inclusivity, peace and equality. You and Your message were overtaken by chaotic events, but re-emerged as The Truth. May God grant us the kind of freedom that You offered. Amen.

Saturday April 13 *Lord, they come and go from our news, and from our consciousness, but multitudes from Syria, Yemen, Burma and elsewhere live miserably in dangerous homes or refugee camps. The strenuous efforts of aid organisations and individuals are hampered by the continuing hostilities. Might the world take its shame more seriously and agree on how to restore humanity in these regions.*

Sunday April 14 O Lord! Like those who crowded to see you enter Jerusalem, I too can easily wave my hands, get caught up in the singing and think the battle won. But Your teaching uncomfortably demands that I change my tune, change my life. So come Jesus, and make Your real entry. Break my self-interest and guardedness, and make me Your home. (Based on "Palm Sunday Sonnet" by Malcolm Guite.)

Monday April 15 *This Holy Week, this last week of Lent, gives me great opportunity to re-direct my thoughts towards Your transforming ministry and its momentous culmination, Lord. The evening services at St. Devenick's might be just the help I need. Whatever I do, grant me times free of distraction, and be with me then.*

Tuesday April 16 So, is it time to party, Lord Jesus, as Mary anoints Your feet? No! Not yet. But thank You for the joys Your ministry brought in Your time and ever since.

Wednesday April 17 *The events of Holy Week show clearly that there were those who were corrupting and exploiting religion for their own ends, but also those who had seen the true Kingdom through Jesus's love and teaching. It is still the same today, so let us be brave about where we stand.*

Thursday April 18 "In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?" This is how John Stott introduces his study of the Cross, which our Bible Group is looking at each Thursday. O God, our Companion and Inspiration, thank You for all those who interpret your love to deepen our understanding. May we cherish them and learn from what they tell us about it.

Friday April 19 *Saviour, Your life has vividly made real the promise God gave us at Christmas. But as You have walked through Holy Week to death, and as I consider the brutal world today, is Your Light fading? No! You will be back with shattering power. My belief and commitment can be strong after all.*

Saturday April 20 God of all, it was not Your cruelty that sent Your Son to His death: what You were doing is shattering the terrible cycle of human cruelty. May we yet see a world learning to control the dark forces You sent Jesus to suppress, and may His teaching become more widely seen as essential. We pray this for dear little Bentley being baptised tomorrow, for the new Royal baby, and for all newborns.

Sunday April 21 *Risen Lord, this is the day that laughs at those who thought that using fear, violence and death are means to their own success. We pray for those trapped by the misguided decisions of others, those who find themselves living on the streets, or in poverty; who are hungry, thirsty, or searching for meaningful employment; for those struggling to raise their family, or whose health in body or mind is poor; and for those being damaged by addiction and social media. For all of these we pray that hope will find a way to break through and bring change. (Shuna)*

Monday April 22 On this, his day, we pray for Stephen Lawrence and all the tragic victims of murder in our cities and even in places where peace and safety was expected. We pray for those left grieving, and yes, for the perpetrators of these brutal crimes. Lord, help those who work to bring the violence of gangs and mobs under control.

Tuesday April 23 *Yesterday was Earth Day, and I think of the calamitous news about the environment that I hear daily. The migrating birds are returning now, but may not find the homes or food they need. Creator God, help me to understand better how to save the planet. I believe I can make a difference.*

Wednesday April 24 Saviour Jesus, I pray for those who cannot pray for themselves. I know that You notice people in all kinds of trouble, and give them courage, just as You did during Your Ministry, even as You went through the worst of times Yourself. If possible, guide them out of their troubles. And perhaps someone is praying for me? May I always remember I am in God's loving hands.

Thursday April 25 *For many young people, national and higher exams begin today. Lord, we pray that all means of calm attention will be given to them, enabling them to take full advantage of their capabilities. May the rest of us look out for them.*

Friday April 26 Lord Jesus, may Your teaching change all, especially national leaders, who are provoking prejudice against immigrants. While all countries may be anxious to ensure immigration is fair for residents and newcomers, dislike of "the other" leads to dangerous, uncontrolled consequences that diminish everyone.

Saturday April 27 *We, God's Resurrection people, pray that Easter might have made others curious to know more about His astounding love and mysterious power that allows joy to triumph over adversity. If they come to Church, or talk to Christians, may they be given a sense of that Graceful joy. Amen.*

Sunday April 28 Risen Christ, You come to me, at Communion in Church, or wherever I am, even through closed doors, saying "Peace be with you. Don't be ashamed of what you have or haven't done. God will never abandon you for any reason. See that love is the victor." (Based on words of Rev. Margaret Shuttleworth, Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Parish Church.)

Monday April 29 *We pray for all facing the challenge of physical disability, and degenerative diseases. May they receive spiritual succour, Lord, to compensate for their lost ability; and from us, the best care and comfort we can offer. We give thanks for all who work to alleviate their suffering, and particularly for Sue Ryder's pioneering Dee View Court home, which is to receive yesterday's retiral offering.*

Tuesday April 30 We pray for all brave aid- and peace-workers, and particularly for Rev. Orozu Daky in South Sudan who is managing against many desperate odds to break down divisions in his local area and bring peace. We thank You, God, for making such people so brave on everyone's behalf; and we thank You for inspiring our Church of Scotland's World Mission Council to train Orozu and peace workers like him.