

"...whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these"  
(John 14:12)

# Cults Parish Church

## *Prayer Diary May 2019*



Lord, give us the conviction to keep building ...  
... to keep building each other on the rock of the risen Christ.

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 June diary by May 18<sup>th</sup> to Andrew Fairhead.  
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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.

Image adapted from "Notre Dame Burning", by Adélaïde Calais WMFr, CC BY-SA 4.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=78064507>

**Wednesday May 1** *Dear Lord, at Easter of all times, when the futility of sin has been revealed to all, we are so sorry that some people are still mad enough to kill. We pray for the victims of the attacks in Sri Lanka, and for those left grieving; and it seems more important than ever to pray that we can all be turned towards peace. There may always be individuals unhinged enough to kill, but do they now have encouragement? Help us!*

**Thursday May 2** We pray for the congregation of Notre Dame Cathedral, and all who are attached to it. In spite of the tragedy they have suffered, we are all surprised and thankful in these days to realise that certain treasures in the world can transcend our divided loyalties and unite our fractured society. So may they see a generous response to their loss, which will give them hope, and us as well. We ponder on what is truly great, and how it came about; and we thank the Lord Jesus for this particular treasure.

**Friday May 3** *Lord, we pray for the wellbeing of young people in our area, and for the mission of Clay and Abbie, our Youth and Families Workers, to bring them closer to Church, and therefore to You. Bless the efforts made at today's Friday Café, and the S6 volunteers who now leave and take their next steps.*

**Saturday May 4** Lord, Who has made us for friendship and love, and is present in our Church to bless and sanctify these, hear our prayers of gladness for Roanna and Declan's wedding today, and for Sarah and Angus and Willie and Audrey's later in the month. Help us all to practise unselfish love.

**Sunday May 5** *We thank You Christ that baptism is a regular sacrament in our Church. Help the loving parents and all of us to honour the commitments we make to Jamie Andrew William today, and Willow Mary and Athena later in the month. May these children grow up to know the blessing of being Your followers.*

**Monday May 6** I ponder what my own baptism means, with Shuna's help: "Baptised to begin lives of faith, I would witness to all Christ does in our world. Baptised to serve, I would speak up for the voiceless, I would bring justice to those who have none. Baptised to speak, I would heal and not hurt, I would bless and not curse. Baptised to do what is right, I would not play favourites, but treat everyone as God's beloved."

**Tuesday May 7** *Let us pray for all who have received or are awaiting the results of medical tests, and for their worried families and friends. That calmness and encouragement that comes from You, O Lord, will be so important to them, so help us to pass it on to them however we can. Let them understand that there is still time to make any difficult decisions, time to discuss them with friends and experts. May they meet with kindly advice and treatment. We give thanks for all who care for the sick.*

**Wednesday May 8** Let us pray with the mothers-to-be of Sierra Leone that the forthcoming Christian Aid week can improve the shocking statistic that one in ten of them could die in childbirth. Let us pray that more collectors will come forward from our congregation to bring in funds from our generous neighbourhood.

**Thursday May 9** *Progress is what we all need, Lord Jesus, certainly in our Christian life and mission. Our Messy Church is well established, but we will not stop asking for Your Spirit's energy to help us bring more people of all ages to share Your Good News.*

**Friday May 10** (A children's prayer.) Lord Jesus, You were horribly killed, but God brought You back to life. You sound like a superhero, but You didn't use weapons, and You had an even greater effect on the world than the superheroes I know, thanks to God. I must think about that.

**Saturday May 11** *We would never imagine they are like You, Lord Jesus, but superheroes have a great way of encouraging us to embrace right over wrong. Our members and friends watching "The Black Panther" this evening show that our Church is open to all aspects of the modern world's culture that we can honestly incorporate.*

**Sunday May 12** We pray for all who are getting infirm as they grow older – those in our family, our Church family, and in our neighbourhood. Lord, make us keen to contribute to the care they receive, and importantly their spiritual nourishment.

**Monday May 13** *In this holy month of Ramadan, let us pray that Muslims and Christians can continue their journey towards friendship. There are many meetings among local communities that develop friendship and respect, and even through terrible circumstances, recent atrocities have brought us closer in our common humanity and vulnerability. May Muslims be safe in their fasting and eventual celebrations.*

**Tuesday May 14** *Let us bring to God our sadness that not everyone has an equal share in their local community, and particularly this week, our prayers for those with learning disabilities, who may feel intimidated by the surroundings and sense wariness to their presence. Let us be more careful to make them welcome and valued.*

**Wednesday May 15** *We pray for Syria, Yemen, and all countries where mighty power is being wielded against ordinary people. Lord Jesus, You have shown that those who abuse power are insecure and will sooner or later fall before that special power God guarantees for the innocent. By Your Holy Spirit, keep alive the shaken faith of all who are abused or in difficulty, so that in spite of their predicament, they might have the hope of the righteous.*

**Thursday May 16** To You, Christ, our inspiration, comes our prayer of thanks for all our Church staff who look after our administration, property, safety, finance, music, and the many other aspects of our busy community in Your Name.

**Friday May 17** *We pray that the people of Ukraine can move in a new democratic direction to freedom from corruption and oppression.*

**Saturday May 18** Anyone in anguish and desperation can have the feeling they have been abandoned – by friends or family or the medical profession, but just as worryingly, by God. Whatever their minds and faith might be trying to tell them, is shut out by the pain and distress. God understands this, and would have them try one thing seriously: praying. Not by trying to make up a prayer, but using a familiar one. Let us all say it with them the prayer Christ taught us, for what it really means: *Our Father, Who art in Heaven, ...* (Based on a sermon by Archbishop Justin Welby.)

**Sunday May 19** *Risen Christ, the promise of hope and joy You brought to us is most apparent when Your followers come together, such as in our Church services. It brings unaccountable benefits to us, which we ponder now. Of course it doesn't mean we won't encounter pain, but that only makes it more important for us to pass it on to those who need it.*

**Monday May 20** The Church's General Assembly is under way. Let us pray for all those attending. Dear God, by Your grace, let them (and all of us) be encouraged by all the positive aspects of the Christian church.

**Tuesday May 21** *Malawi is another country needing to be freed from corruption, but also to be led out of its poverty, poor health, economic and environmental problems. Let us pray that today's elections will bring leadership that cares about these.*

**Wednesday May 22** We give our grateful thanks for all the responsibilities that ministers and chaplains take on our behalf. We ask God to bless Padre Shuna's role with army cadets, and her service on the committee of chaplains to HM forces.

**Thursday May 23** *Saviour, just as You encouraged the woman at the well to give You water, You encourage me to give You whatever it is I have to offer. I wish I had realised sooner it is Your way of blessing me.*

**Friday May 24** Lord Jesus, I'm ashamed there are people I don't want to spend time with. I should remember two things: it was never that way for You – You regarded everyone You met as God's precious child, to be brought close to Him. You've even got time for me!

**Saturday May 25** *Christian Aid's busy month of fundraising finishes with a celebration – a coffee morning. We pray that perinatal care in Sierra Leone and around the world will improve; and let us give thanks for the many in our congregation who serve God's Kingdom by raising funds for charities, and for the even greater number that give so generously.*

**Sunday May 26** Today I only need to be held by Love. Let this breathing prayer help me: while breathing in, I whisper "Where Love leads," and while breathing out "I will follow". "Where love leads, ..., I will follow..."  
(Sabbath Pause, by Terry Chapman)

**Monday May 27** "I don't know exactly what a prayer is, [but] I do know how to pay attention, ... how to kneel down in the grass, how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields..." (from Mary Oliver's poem "The Summer Day")  
O Lord, Creator of me and all else, make my life a prayer.

**Tuesday May 28** *Father, I still don't realise how dependent I am on the other creatures You have created, such as insects. When I am calm among nature, as I notice things I don't normally notice, may I pray. Might that make me want to protect them.*

**Wednesday May 29** A special prayer for those of Christ's flock who come to Church with love, but prefer to "sit at the back", quietly supporting the "doers" and gratefully appreciating what they gain from the service. We thank Jesus for Paul's reminder that the Church has many parts.

**Thursday May 30** On this Ascension Day, I remember Jesus's words: "You can't now follow me where I am going. You will follow later. Trust me. There is plenty of room in my Father's home. I'll come back and get You! To see me is to see the Father."  
(using words from John's Gospel in Eugene Peterson's "The Message".)

**Friday May 31** *The Higher and National exams have finished in schools. Whatever the results, may the young candidates now be better equipped to fulfil a role of their choosing. We pray for all those who now devote themselves to assessing their work fairly, and all who will continue to counsel them with care.*