

Prayer Diary – May 2020

This month, we are continuing to pray for all the prisons across England and Wales. There are four listed each day.

*I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

Psalm 27: 13-14

<p>1</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Loving God, open our hearts to see and receive Your goodness this month. Even as our world is in crisis, would You draw us into Your presence, to wait on You, and find hope and courage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Altcourse, HMP Ashfield, HMP/YOI Askham Grange and HMYOI Aylesbury. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Cardiff, HMP Channings Wood, HMP Chelmsford, and HMP Coldingley.
<p>2</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Today, visualise England and Wales, and the prisons in these countries, and imagine God’s love and protection encircling them all. God, in a time of fear and sickness, we commit our prisons into Your safe and loving hands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP & YOI Bedford, HMP/YOI Belmarsh, HMP Berwyn and HMP Birmingham. 	<p>6</p> <p>Wednesday</p> <p>There are fears that increased time in cells will lead to an increase in self-harm and suicide attempts. Loving God, would You raise a wall of protection around the hearts and minds of those vulnerable to desperate thoughts, and bring healing and freedom to all who need it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMYOI Cookham Wood, HMP Dartmoor, HMYOI Deerbolt and HMP/YOI Doncaster.
<p>3</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>This first Sunday of the month, we thank God for the Church – Christ’s Body – which continues to reach out to the hurting and vulnerable. Show us how to be Your hands and Your feet to those in need, even when we can’t be physically present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Brinsford, HMP Bristol and HMP Brixton. 	<p>7</p> <p>Thursday</p> <p>We pray for Christians in prison who are missing gathering together for worship and Bible studies. May they remember and find comfort in the truth that they are still part of the Body of Christ, even while they cannot meet with fellow believers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Dovegate, HMP/YOI Downview, HMP/YOI Drake Hall and HMP Durham.
<p>4</p>	<p>Monday</p> <p>God of healing, we pray for all those men and women in prison who have coronavirus – for fast and effective treatment that is not held up by security issues, and for protection for all who come into contact with them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Bronzefield, HMP Buckley Hall, HMP/YOI Bullingdon and HMP Bure. 	<p>8</p> <p>Friday</p> <p>God of comfort, we pray for those who miss seeing their loved ones. Be with the lonely this day, and make the way smooth for increased phone contact while visits are suspended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI East Sutton Park, HMP/YOI Eastwood Park, HMP Erlestoke and HMP/YOI Exeter.
<p>5</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Being in one small room for 23 hours a day is incredibly hard on a person, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. God, we remember that you are present in every cell; we ask for Your peace, for resilience, and for hope for every man and woman in prison today.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Saturday</p> <p>We pray for those in prison with pre-existing health conditions that make them vulnerable to coronavirus – may they be protected both from sickness and from the fear that can overwhelm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Featherstone, HMYOI Feltham, HMP Ford and HMP/YOI Forest Bank.
<p>10</p>	<p>Sunday</p> <p>This Sunday, while Christians can no longer gather in prison for services, we thank God for the use of prison radio, to broadcast services into each prison cell. May this bring hope and</p>	

	<p>assurance to all those who listen, especially those listening for the first time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Foston Hall, HMP Frankland, HMP Full Sutton and HMP Garth.
11	<p>Monday</p> <p>God who is always present, we praise You for the ministry of Prison Chaplains, who are an essential support to those inside. Would You strengthen them and bring new energy and vision for their work this week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Gartree, HMP Grendon/Springhill, HMP Guys Marsh and HMP/YOI Hatfield.
12	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>We thank God for the ministry of volunteer Chaplains, who continue to provide pastoral care through this crisis. God, would You give them wisdom, compassion and words of encouragement as they meet each person inside today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Haverigg, HMP Hewell, HMP Highpoint North and South.
13	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Almighty God, we pray for all those in leadership in our justice system – for Dr Jo Farrar, CEO of HMPPS, for Lucy Frazer, Minister of State for Prisons, and Robert Buckland, the Secretary of State for Justice. Would they govern with wisdom, compassion, and truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP & YOI High Down, HMP/YOI Hindley, HMP & YOI Hollesley Bay, and HMP Holme House.
14	<p>Thursday</p> <p>On Thursday, as we “clap for carers”, we remember prison staff, who continue to work in challenging circumstances. God who sees, would You fill them with new energy for their work, and give them empathy and discernment as they interact with the men and women in their care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Hull, HMP Humber, HMP/YOI Isis and HMP Huntercombe.
15	<p>Friday</p> <p>Pray for all processes that have been slowed or interrupted due to the coronavirus, causing frustrating and disappointment amongst prisoners and staff. God, we pray for a creative and resourceful response to challenges, to allow for just and timely procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Isle of Wight (Albany and Parkhurst), HMP Kirkham and HMP Kirklevington Grange.

16	<p>Saturday</p> <p>We pray for the families and colleagues of the prison staff who have died from coronavirus. Loving Father, be with them in their grief.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Lancaster Farms, HMP Leeds, HMP Leicester and HMP Lewes.
17	<p>Sunday</p> <p>God, give us this day a vision of Your Church, which extends into every prison in this country. Thank you that we are one in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Leyhill, HMP/YOI Lincoln, HMP Lindholme and HMP Littlehey.
18	<p>Monday</p> <p>Many families with a loved one in prison experience financial difficulties; this is likely to be intensified during this crisis. Pray that these families would receive the support they need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Liverpool, HMP Long Lartin, HMP/YOI Low Newton and HMP Lowdham Grange.
19	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>It is worrying to have a family member in prison during this crisis, especially with visiting hours currently suspended. Loving God, we pray for all families experiencing anxiety, fear and loss at this time; may they know Your love and peace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Maidstone, HMP/YOI Manchester, HMP/YOI Moorland and HMP/YOI New Hall.
20	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>We think of the children of prisoners, who are missing their parent, or may be too young to understand why they cannot visit right now. Jesus, You said the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children – we pray that they might know Your love in the midst of this uncertainty and pain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Northumberland, HMP North Sea Camp, HMP & YOI Norwich and HMP/YOI Nottingham.
21	<p>Thursday – Ascension</p> <p>Jesus Christ, when You ascended into Heaven, You left us with Your blessing and with the promise of the Holy Spirit. We receive that blessing again today, for ourselves, our loved ones, and for the work we do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Oakwood, HMP Onley, HMP/YOI Parc and HMP/YOI Pentonville.
22	<p>Friday</p> <p>God, our Heavenly Guide, we pray for men and women who have been recently released into a very different society than they left. We pray that You would guide them as they seek</p>

	<p>out stable work and accommodation, and as they reconnect with family and friends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Peterborough, HMP/YOI Portland, HMP/YOI Prescoed, and HMP & YOI Preston.
23	<p>Saturday</p> <p>We pray today for organisations working with people on their release from prison, including Langley House Trust, Clean Sheet, Caring for Ex-Offenders, and many others. May their staff be renewed and strengthened as they continue to offer vital support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Ranby, HMP Risley, HMP/YOI Rochester and HMP Rye Hill.
24	<p>Sunday</p> <p>We pray today for the PF Support Team, who are mostly working from home through this time. Loving God, would You sustain them, give them new energy and vision for the work, and keep them connected to each other and the wider Fellowship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP/YOI Send, HMP/YOI Elmley, HMP Stanford Hill, and HMP Swaleside (the Sheppey Cluster).
25	<p>Monday</p> <p>In a time of isolation, we thank God for the technology that allows us to stay in touch. We particularly pray for our local PF Groups, that they might remain connected and supporting one another even as they are unable to meet locally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Stafford, HMP Stocken, HMP/YOI Stoke Heath and HMP/YOI Styal.
26	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Gracious God, even as PF volunteers are unable to go into prison, we ask for creativity and understanding to know how to pray, and how to support prison Chaplaincies in new and innovative ways. Show us how we can continue to show Christ's love to those in prison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP & YOI Sudbury, HMP/YOI Swansea, HMP/YOI Swinfen Hall and HMP Thameside.
27	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>We thank God for our letter writers, who continue to offer non-judgemental support and friendship to those in prison. May their</p>

	<p>words be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and bring encouragement and hope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP The Mount, HMP/YOI Thorn Cross, HMP Usk and HMP The Verne.
28	<p>Thursday</p> <p>Almighty God, we pray for sustained growth for our letter writing programme in this time. Would You open the way for more prisons and more men and women inside to benefit from this connection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Wakefield , HMP Wandsworth, HMP & YOI Warren Hill, HMP Wayland and HMP Wealstun.
29	<p>Friday</p> <p>While our <i>Sycamore Tree</i> courses are paused, we ask God to strengthen and prepare us to begin again – with more volunteers trained or receiving refresher training, and more volunteers willing to share their story of being a victim of crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMYOI Werrington, HMYOI Wetherby, HMP Whatton and HMP Whitemoor.
30	<p>Saturday</p> <p>Gracious God, we pray that You would sustain Prison Fellowship through this national crisis. At a time when key funding streams have dried up, we boldly ask that you would prompt individuals, churches and trusts to catch the vision of “Every life in prison transformed” and partner with us, so that PF may come through this challenge strengthened and ready for the next season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMP Winchester, HMP/YOI Woodhill, HMP/YOI Wormwood Scrubs and HMP & YOI Wymott.
31	<p>Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>Come once again Holy Spirit as our advocate, our counsellor and our helper. Give us Your Fire, that we may burn to see justice and truth in this world; Breathe into us, that we may bring Your life to all we encounter; and speak into us Your words of hope, that we may see lives renewed and transformed, in Jesus' Name.</p>