

Prayers for 21 March

1. WELCOME & THANKS

Heavenly Father – Lord of Hosts. It is now 12 months since we started the first lockdown to combat the onslaught of the deadly coronavirus. Thank you for sparing us so that we may worship you and come together today to praise you and bring these our supplications to you in the name of your dear son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Responses

**As we are gathered we ask this in Jesus name
Hear our prayer**

1. Coronavirus

Our Lord and Saviour we give thanks for the successful development and distribution of the vaccine in this country. We pray that it will become universal and that our politicians will step back from using vaccination as a pawn between nations. Please ensure that those that have the vaccine will come to the aid of those who have neither the technology nor the resources to be self-sufficient.

Please spare us the trials of another wave as it rears its ugly head again across Europe.

As we approach the first anniversary of lockdown we reflect on the trials and privations that have been suffered by your people. Please comfort those who have suffered the loss of family and friends and also those who are suffering the long term effects of the virus. At the same time we thank you for restoring to us all those who have been healed.

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2. OUR WORLD AT HOME AND ABROAD

The world continues to be at war. The people of Syria have now suffered from the effects of conflict for ten years and it is five years since the start of the civil war in the Yemen.

Please bring peace to these regions and encourage those who are exiled to return home to rebuild their nations.

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3. OUR YOUNG

Our young have been badly afflicted by the effects of the pandemic and it is placing great strain on the discipline of those who are having to endure emotional privations that are not natural amongst free people. Please help them to adjust and to recover the ground that has been lost for their educational as well as their emotional development.

Many will become unemployed as businesses as a consequence of the pandemic . We pray that you will save this generation from the effects of long term unemployment.

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4. OUR HEALTH WORKERS

Our health workers, in the NHS, private care, care homes continue to struggle against the odds. We give thanks for them and for their dedication. We beseech you to keep them safe.

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5. OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIE\$

Lord Jesus. Bless our families and bind us together in love. Send your spirit to work among those whose relationships have broken down or are under stress, especially those who are and will suffer the privations of lockdown and isolation.

We give thanks for all those who serve and help us in so many ways. Grant our leaders wisdom, your wisdom from above, in their dealings with us and in return give us the courage to reach out and help those around us.

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6. THE SICK AND THE BEREAVED

Heavenly Father, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured or disabled. Today we pray for:

Zacharay Sayers, Karen Wade, , Kireet and Bhav Parmar, Pauline Pincham, Karin Vallis, Angela Fox, Ron Bowler, Harry Waller, Samantha Sayers, Ed Thompson, Niki O'Hara, Mary Clements, Stephen Richardson, Allan Brown, April Cane and those who are known to us but not listed here.

Please bless all those who care for them. Give them the strength to persevere and keep them safe. We give thanks especially for the front line health workers who have placed themselves and continue to do so at great risk.

We give thanks for those, who in your mercy you have healed and returned to us.

But for those who must leave us – please grant them peace and dignity and we pray that you will reach down and comfort those that they leave behind. We pray especially for the families and friends of those who are known to us and in particular:

Tony Morgan, Fred Watkins and John Lord.

We pray that you have prepared a place at your table for them and have already welcomed them into your presence.

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7. OURSELVES

Heavenly Father, through your dear Son you have promised us that your spirit will be with us forever. As we approach Easter, inspire us in our worship and in our dealings with our neighbours so that they may share in our hope for joy at your resurrection. We ask this especially for those who are struggling to find you. And when we falter raise us up and teach us to forgive those who may hurt us.

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8. THANKS

Heavenly Father - It is such a privilege for us to be able to carry everything to you in prayer. We know that all that is good comes from you alone. We thank you for all the blessings that we have received. Help us to be worthy of them.

We thank you bringing us here today and for listening to us.

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**