

Prayers for the day, 20 March 2020

From the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 41, verse 13
For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand.
It is I who say to you, do not fear, I will help you.

Lord, as we come to you in prayer, still our hearts and minds and inspire us to remember those who need your comfort and strength to get through this day. Life is so changed, and we are filled with fear of the uncertainties that face us. It is as if life has been paused and we must wait for an unknown outcome. Yet for many the day will begin with the knowledge that there will be some routine of caring for those suffering from long-term illness. Arrangements have to be made for essential treatment, for pain relief, for day-to-day care. Hold all those who are facing traumatic news, caring for loved ones, supporting the elderly, in your loving care. May they and the ones they serve feel the strength of your presence and receive the gift of your peace.

We hold all health workers in our thoughts and prayers. Their sacrificial giving of time and effort, their acceptance of risk, their desire to serve, is an inspiration to us all. Hold them in your care. May they know the love and respect in which they are held and feel supported by the community around them.

To-day, even though it seems as if our country is closing down, babies are still being born, families growing – life continues. Father God be with all mothers in labour today. Bless them with the joy of new hope and surround them with your love and care. Sustain and support their families who will not be able to share in the joy of the new baby because of social isolation. Give strength to those who are concerned for the future of their families at this time.

And we pray for all teachers and pupils in our schools who are faced with uncertainty for the future. Those who are saying goodbye to old friends who have been with them through their school years, those who are saying goodbye to children they have encouraged through the year, working towards goals that have now been removed. Give them all hope for the future and strength for today.

We pray for all those we hold in our hearts

Thank you for inspiring Jenny Watson to send us all this simple prayer of confidence and hope

Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that you and I can't handle together. Amen

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

The Lord bless us and keep us

The Lord make his face to shine upon us

And give us his peace. Amen