

Church of the Holy Spirit, Mossley



**“The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.”**

(Psalm 145:18)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

(Philippians 4:6)

These are difficult and challenging days, with many of us feeling anxious and uncertain. Scripture reminds us that, in such times, we are to turn to God in prayer. Therefore, this booklet has been created with the intention of encouraging us to pray on a daily basis. The structure of prayer, which is provided, enables us to offer praise to God, seek His forgiveness for our sins, and ask for His blessing on the world, the Church, the local community, our friends and our families.

On each day, there are two occasions for us to move beyond the proposed structure of prayer in order to reflect and pray about other specific issues. These are good opportunities for us to develop our personal confidence in prayer and intercede for other people and situations.

On the final page you will find several ‘additional prayers.’ *The Lord’s Prayer* will be more familiar to most people than the *Caleb Prayer* or the *Day by Day prayer*.

1. *The Caleb Prayer* – this is widely used in Wales, and especially the Ffald-y-Brenin Christian Retreat Centre, as a revival prayer. It can be found in the book, *The Grace Outpouring*, by Roy Godwin.
2. *Day by Day* – this is based on an historical prayer used by Bishop Richard of Chichester in the Thirteenth Century. It’s a personal request to God that He will permit us to grow deeper in our faith and walk with Him.

A prayer which focuses specifically our journey through the coronavirus pandemic has also been included. This was written by Rev Alex Wimberly, the Leader of the Corrymeela Community.

Please use this resource and let us commit ourselves to seeking God in the days and weeks ahead.

Your friend and Rector,

Rev Peter Jones

Sunday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, in this time of prayer, draw close to me and help me to draw nearer to You. Speak to me and enable me to hear You. Challenge me and help me respond to Your direction and call. Enthuse me with the wonder of Your love, and may Your joy and peace fill my heart.

Take a short time of silence before God.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, I come before You seeking forgiveness for the various sins that I have committed. For all the wrong things that I have said, for any hurt that I may have caused, and for not living the way that I should, I am truly sorry. Forgive me, heal me, redeem me and sustain me.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, for Your greatness beyond imagining, Your grace beyond deserving, Your goodness beyond measuring, and Your love beyond comparing, I give You thanks and praise.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I pray for all those whom You have entrusted with positions of leadership and responsibility.

*Pray for our political leaders in Westminster, Stormont
and the Local Council.*

Grant them wisdom in their decisions, courage to hold fast to what is right, integrity in their dealings, and a genuine commitment to the good of all those they serve. Guide them to know and do Your will.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Monday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I come before You in prayer today, help me to hear Your still small voice. May I faithfully follow Your direction and guidance in all things, and at all times. Create in me a complete obedience to You, a heart that seeks to serve others, and a willingness to play my part in advancing Your Kingdom.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness: I confess to You, with my whole heart, my neglect and forgetfulness of Your commandments, my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking; the hurts I have done to others, and the good I have left undone. Forgive me, for all the ways that I have sinned against You.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, You have blessed me abundantly and in ways that are too many to number. Your goodness is too wonderful for words. I simply thank You for all that You have done for me and for all that You mean to me.

*Pause to reflect on all the blessings God has given you
and thank Him for them*

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I pray for the nations of our world and especially for the areas afflicted by conflict, famine, drought, poverty, homelessness and persecution. I pray especially for everyone affected in any way by coronavirus.

Pray for nations and areas that are troubled, for whatever reason, at this time.

Lord, grant wisdom to all who make decisions and give hope to those who are in despair.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, may this time of prayer be an opportunity for me to be still in Your presence – a time when I will experience the fullness of Your peace and presence. Help me to listen to Your voice before I speak, and to seek Your will before attempting to impose my own.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Acknowledge to God the specific things that you have done wrong.

Almighty God, I come before You in faith and seek to confess all the sins by which I have ever displeased You; and I resolve by the help of Your grace to commit them no more. Help me to avoid all opportunities of sin, and equip me to stand firm when faced with temptation.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, I thank You for the people that You have brought into my life – for family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours. I thank You for the companionship that they give me, for the love that they show me, and for the support that they are to me. I ask you to bless them and may they know Your presence with them at all times.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I ask You to pour out Your blessing on people who feel lonely or sorrowful, those who are sick either at home or in hospital, and all who are tempted or in despair.

Offer to God the names of people known to you who need prayer.

Be with those whom I have committed to You in prayer. Draw near to them, and may they find peace and healing in Your presence.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Wednesday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I come before Your throne of grace in prayer, open my heart to what You would say, even if it challenges me and makes me feel uncomfortable. Open my life to what You would have me do, even if this takes me beyond my comfort zone. Help me to live entirely for You.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, I acknowledge that I live in a fallen and sinful world, and that all too often I follow the way of the world, rather than remaining faithful to Your will. In Your mercy, cleanse me from my sin, heal me from my wickedness, and make me whole and healthy to serve You.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, I thank you for our parish and the witness that it is within the local community. I give You thanks for Your presence in the past, and I look to You with confidence for the future. Grant Your blessing on all our plans and ministries. I thank You for every member of our parish and all the various organisations that meet week by week...

Please pray specifically for the various parish organisations.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I ask You to pour out Your blessing on the Church which You have planted in this land. I commit into Your care and keeping all who give of their time in Your service, ordained and lay people, and ask that Your will may be done in this land.

Pray for all church leaders and the witness of God's church in this land.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Thursday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, during this time of prayer teach me to serve You as You deserve: to give and not to count the cost. Grant that I may increasingly learn to be generous and gracious at all times, and in doing so, may shine Your light to everyone I meet.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, though I try to put the past behind me, I am all too often haunted by mistakes. In Your mercy, forgive me all my sins and teach me that the past is done with and the future is open before me. Lead me in the direction that You would have me go, strengthen me to journey according to Your will, and help me when faced with trials and temptations.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, I thank You for our local community. Pour out Your blessing on our schools and especially to all who teach and learn in them. Remember with Your faithfulness all the churches in the local area and bless all the ministries that take place in Your name. Lord, I ask You to move in the power of Your Spirit in Mossley.

Take a few minutes to pray for specific parts of the local area.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I ask You to comfort and strengthen all who are grieving at this time. Grant to them the spirit of faith and courage, to help them face the days ahead with steadfastness and hope. Draw near to them and may they know the comfort that only You can bring.

Remember before God anyone, known to you, who has been recently bereaved.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Friday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, as I seek Your direction and guidance through prayer, may You open my eyes to Your presence. Grant me a glimpse of Your glory as I strive to become the person that You would have me be. I rejoice in Your unending love and pray that Your will may be done in my life.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, I have let You down in so many ways. I have not always worshipped You as I should or shown gratitude for all the blessings You have given me. For the times when I have not looked to You for guidance, and when I have been thoughtless, careless and selfish, I now ask for Your forgiveness. Lord of all, hear my prayer.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, I thank You for the vastness of the universe that astounds me, the beauty of the earth that amazes me, the miracle of creation that inspires me, and the gift of life that You give to me each day.

Reflect for a short time on the wonder and beauty of God's World.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I thank You for everyone who has taken up Your call to make disciples of all nations and have moved to serve You in foreign lands. I pray specifically for the missionary work that we support in other parts of the world. Today I ask for your blessing on everyone at Tansen Hospital and all involved with the South American Mission Society.

Pray also for other missionaries and/or mission agencies known to you.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Saturday

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the privilege of prayer. As I meet with You now, help me to relax, be still, and be attentive to You. Speak to me in clear and definite ways and grant me a willingness to respond to You.

Take a few moments in silence and clear your mind as you come before God.

Seeking God's Forgiveness

Almighty God, I come to You with sorrow and a sense of shame. I throw myself once more upon Your mercy, depending on Your grace to lift me up and renew me. Grant me Your forgiveness and do not hold my faults against me. Give me time for repentance and amendment of life. You are a God of love and mercy, and I praise You.

Giving Thanks to God

Living God, I thank You for the times when I can take things easier and have a rest from the busyness of life. Help me to appreciate those occasions more fully and use them as opportunities to draw closer to you.

Praying For Others

Lord of all, I pray for all those who hear Your Word, and are confronted with the challenge to respond to You. May those who earnestly seek find faith, those who are undecided be convinced, those whose faith is shallow be led to deeper understanding, and those who refuse to listen be challenged to think again. I pray that, in all our work in Mossley Parish, Your Kingdom may grow, and Your will may be done.

Pray for Mossley Parish and the various events that have been planned.

Concluding Prayer

Heavenly Father, may my lips always speak of You; may my deeds always honour You; and may my life always proclaim You. Make me always ready to serve You and provide me with opportunities to share Your Good News with others. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Some Additional Prayers

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.

A Prayer for our Journey through the Coronavirus Pandemic

God of the good news that spreads faster than fear, God of the courage that comes from the heart: be with us as anxieties rise and with us as uncertainty grows. Remind us that to be a community does not always mean to be physically present beside those we know well. It also can mean being spiritually present with those who feel very alone; and that you as our God, the God made flesh, are also the God who calls us from the tumult and tells us to be still and to know that you are God with us. Amen.

The Caleb Prayer

O High King of heaven, have mercy on our Land. Revive your Church; Send the Holy Spirit for the sake of the children. May your kingdom come to our nation, in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

Day by Day

Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray: to see Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly, follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.