

We believe as a parish that God wants us to pray and we seek to integrate it into all aspects of our life as the people of God. If we are going to encounter God daily and be empowered by His Spirit it is vital that prayer becomes second nature to us. It's my desire that we all find a little time each day to stop, be still and think of God, and quietly place before him our thoughts and our cares. We hope the following prayers will assist you to do this. These prayers have been carefully chosen to help you grow closer to God and discover a deeper awareness of the spiritual needs of the world around you.

Rev David Ruthven

MARCH INTO APRIL *our focus is on the season of LENT then HOLY WEEK and EASTER.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It is a time when we turn inward and examine our hearts, seeking to align our actions and attitudes with God's will for our lives.

This season, I will be reflecting on the theme of action changing attitude, and how we can take intentional steps to transform our hearts and minds. In doing so, we can become more effective witnesses for Christ and better stewards of the gifts and resources that God has entrusted to us.

In addition to our personal spiritual journeys, we also recognise the challenges that our world is facing, from natural disasters such as earthquakes and flooding to ongoing conflicts and wars. As we pray for those who have been affected by these events, we also ask for God's guidance in how we can respond with love and compassion.

We invite you to join us in prayer this season as we seek God's wisdom and grace to help us grow in our faith and to make a positive impact in the world. May this season of Lent be a time of transformation and renewal for us all.

Blessings,
The Reverend David Ruthven

Individual needs *Please pray for the following people each week:*

(Please check E-News or the Weekly News for updates to the Prayer List.)

Immediate & Urgent Prayer Needs: Peta Turner; Peter Weldon; Chris Weldon; Glen Weldon; Barbara Cooke; Tim Forrest; Amanda Mercieca.

Please continue to uphold: Alma Gibb; Bruce Gibb; Catherine Walker; Yvonne Chapman; June Holmes; Nancy Parsons; Joan Baker-Winn; Karen Wilson; Ashley Jones; Elaine Brown; Wilma Cotterall; Paul Lorroway; Barbara Lorroway; Jane Harbour; Janet Haddon; Dawn Acworth; Harrison Brough [13yrs]; Pam & Darryl Kilby; Tiahn Welsh.

LENT 1 BEGINNING SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Prayer of the Day

*Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:
give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will;
that, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for:

The world and its people

- Give thanks and pray for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, its Prime Bishop of and Bishop of Northern Philippines the Most Rev'd Brent Alawas, and the bishops, clergy and congregations of the seven dioceses.
- Give thanks and pray for the church's Episcopal CARE [Community Action for Renewal and Empowerment] Foundation. The Foundation has a "from receivers to givers" policy. Under this policy, communities receiving external grants to support their respective projects are enabled to eventually give back and pass on what they received so that, from being receivers, they in time also become givers.
- Pray for the estimated 1,77 million Filipinos who work outside their country mainly due to economic hardship.
- Pray that Christians everywhere will turn to God this Lent, remembering the words of Psalm 139 :23-24
*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, The Right Rev'd Dr Peter Stuart, and the clergy and parishioners.
- Give thanks and pray for Samaritans, the welfare arm of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, assisting thousands of locals in need by providing disability care, youth, family, mental health and community support.
- Give thanks and pray for the Mission to Seafarers in Newcastle and Port Kembla. Missions around Australia actively respond with loving care to the many challenges and dangers faced by seafarers.
- Give thanks and pray for the parish of Green Hills, the Reverend Canon Bruce Boase and the wardens and congregations of St John's Anglican Church Enoggera and St James Anglican Church Kelvin Grove.
- Pray that every parish fosters and develops a culture that encourages everyone, no matter what their age, circumstances, or life experiences to continue the journey towards God this Lent.
- Pray for the World Day of Prayer service at Dayboro on 3 March. The theme is God's promise in the letter to the Ephesians 1:15-19.
- Pray for all attending the Amplify youth and Children's Leaders conference on 4th March.
- Give thanks and pray for NPAC Men's Group. Pray that they continue to pray for, care for and encourage each other. Pray that their work continues to bless this parish, and beyond our parish boundaries.
- Pray for our parish Man Camp taking place from the 3rd to the 5th of March. Pray for Guest Speaker Dave Hockey SU Chaplain from Pine Rivers State High School and all participants.

Individual needs

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LENT 2 BEGINNING SUNDAY 5 MARCH

Prayer of the Week

*Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us
and not what we deserve,
and, as you have called us to your service,
Make us worthy of our calling:
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for

The world and its people

- Give thanks and pray for the Anglican Church of Korea, the Primate of Korea and Bishop of Seoul the Most Rev'd Peter Kyongho Lee and the bishops, clergy and lay workers. The Church is made up of three dioceses.
- Pray for the church's aim for 2023 to be the Lord's church of pastoral and missionary work together in unity with holy fellowship.
- Pray for the Anglican Theological Seminary at Sungkonghoe University (South Korea).
- Pray for the work of the *Christian Aid Mission* which seeks to establish a witness for Christ in every nation by assisting indigenous ministries based in areas of poverty and persecution, giving priority to ministries sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with unreached people.

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Most Rev'd Archbishop Kanishka Raffel, Archbishop of Sydney, and metropolitan of the Province of New South Wales.
- Give thanks and pray for the bishops, clergy, and congregations of the 5 regions within the diocese.
- Give thanks and pray for *Anglican Aid*. *Anglican Aid's* work in Australia supports local churches to provide emergency relief to communities devastated by natural disasters such as bushfire, drought, or flood.
- Give thanks and pray for the Grovely parish, the Rev'd Stephen Briggs and the wardens and congregations of St Matthew's Mitchelton and All Saints' Arana Hills.
- Pray for the planned Trivia Night that it will be an entertaining time of sharing with our NPAC family.
- Give thanks and pray for Bishop Jeremy visiting our parish next week. Pray for those preparing for Confirmation, and preparing by God's grace to strive their whole lives a disciple of Christ.
- Pray that we heed the words of Joel 2:12-13 and return to the Lord this Lent; *"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." 13 Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity."*

Individual needs

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LENT 3 BEGINNING SUNDAY 12 MARCH

Prayer of the Day

*O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for

The world and its people

- Give thanks and pray for the work and witness of the Church Ceylon and their vision to be a Christ-like Community of Hope and Transformation in Sri Lanka
- Pray for the work of the Church of Ceylon's *Anglican Inland Mission Society* and its work of training of missionaries to work in mission in the inland areas, working together with Lanka Bible College and Colombo Theological Seminary and the sending of workers to assist Dioceses in Sri Lanka at their request.
- Pray for the people of Sri Lanka facing the worst economic collapse since it became independent. The nation is witnessing massive inflation, while basic goods like food and fuel are in short supply.
- Pray that people everywhere will, in the words of Isaiah 55:6-7; *"Seek the Lord while he may be found, call on him while he is still near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon."*

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Most Rev'd Donald Kirk Archbishop of Riverina Diocese, the clergy, and parishioners of the diocese. The Diocese is watered by 'Four Rivers' – Murray, Murrumbidgee, Darling and Lachlan. These rivers are a reminder of the river of life that flows from Christ into our Church and human lives.
- Give thanks and pray for *Bush Church Aid* in NSW/ACT, the Rev'd Paul Sampson and field workers and supporters.
- Give thanks and pray for *BCA ONTRACK* - a program for young Christian workers moving to the bush. The program aims to help young people find and adjust to a church in the bush, get involved in the community, understand the people and culture of the bush and share Jesus with others in their towns.
- Give thanks and pray for the parish of Stafford, the Ven Kevin Bourke, the assisting priests and deacon, the wardens and congregation of St Clement's on the Hill.
- Pray for the St Clement's Cancer Support Group which provides a warm and welcoming meeting place where men and women who have been diagnosed with cancer, as well as their families and friends, can join with others to be supported.
- Pray for our Mothers Union meeting this week. Please pray about what "Transformation - Now!" the 2023 Global MU theme can mean for our parish.
- Give thanks and pray for the newly elected parish council meeting this week. Pray that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Give thanks for the generosity of parishioners providing food and other goods for the Gayndah parish pantry. Pray that the planned visit will be a time of fellowship and sharing.

LENT 4 BEGINNING SUNDAY 19 MARCH

Prayer of the Week

*Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for

The world and its people

- Give thanks and pray for the Episcopal/ Anglican Province of Alexandria, the Archbishop of Alexandria and Bishop of Egypt the Rt Rev'd Samy Fawzy. The Province of Alexandria serves 10 countries as the official Anglican Communion presence: Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Chad, Mauritania, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia.
- Pray for the Province's mission to continue to support the poor, the needy, the marginalised, in particular refugees through its Episcopal Care Institution.
- Pray for the people of the Horn of Africa who have been facing famine, disease, civil unrest and civil war for the past 30 years.
- Give thanks and pray for the International Bible Society - Biblica Africa and its aim to provide the Bible in accurate, contemporary translations and formats so that more people around the world will have the opportunity to be transformed by Jesus Christ.
- Pray that this Lent the world will turn to Christ and know that, in the words of Jesus from Mark's Gospel 1:15, "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for Right Rev'd Rod Chiswell Bishop of Armidale and the clergy and congregations of the Diocese.
- Give thanks for the Archdeacons, clergy and parishioners in the deaneries of the Peel, New England, the MacIntyre, The Barwon and the Namoi.
- Pray for the vision that Armidale to become a curate training and sending diocese, whereby curates are recruited with the understanding that they will train within Armidale for two years and then go on to
- serve in the rural dioceses of Bathurst, or Rockhampton or the North-West or The Murray in South Australia.
- Give thanks and pray for the parish of Everton Park, Christ the Cornerstone Anglican Church and Rector Andrew Peters.
- Give thanks and pray for the Creative Arts Ministry at Christ the Cornerstone.
- Give thanks and pray for the Ladies Sunday Afternoon Group and the Table Tennis Group providing space where people can meet, enjoy share activities, and share their faith.
- Give thanks and pray for mothers this Mothering Sunday, for their love, compassion and the sharing of joys and sorrows. Give thanks for mothers who lead us to Christ.

Individual needs

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LENT 5 BEGINNING SUNDAY 26 MARCH

Prayer of the Day

*Life-giving God,
your son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for

The world and its people

- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Pakistan (United), pray for Bishop of Raiwind and Moderator of the Church of Pakistan the Most Rev'd Dr Azad Marshall. Pray for the bishops, clergy and congregations of its eight dioceses.
- Pray for Christians in Pakistan who are in a minority and who face discrimination and persecution and death in the name of religion. People belonging to minority communities are feeling increasingly unsafe with the rise of Islamic extremism.
- Pray for *Anglican Aid* working in Pakistan in areas of education, health, humanitarian, and emergency assistance.
- Pray for the estimated 14.6 million people of Pakistan who are still experiencing food insecurity and six months after devastating foods covered one third of the country. Pray for the work of Save the Children in Pakistan.
- Pray that Lent will be a time to focus on our need for God. Psalm 51 10-12 *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."*

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, the Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey Bishop, the clergy and parishioners.
- Pray for revival and growth for the churches of the diocese and the building of God's kingdom in local communities and networks.
- Give thanks for all in our parish who support Christian aid agencies financially and prayerfully.
- Give thanks and pray for the parish of Lutwyche, the Rev'd Jenny Simson locum priest, the wardens and parishioners of St Andrew's.
- Give thanks for the Small Groups in our parish. Pray that they continue to be places where people meet to pray together, to study God's word and to encourage each other.
- Give thanks and pray for the Liturgical Assistants in our parish. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be with them as they help lead people in worship and prepare intercessions.
- Pray for the preparations for our Easter services that the services will help us focus on God's purpose for us and bring the good news to our community.

Individual needs

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Prayer of the Week

*Almighty and everlasting God,
of your tender love towards us
you sent your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
to take upon him our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all should follow the example of his great humility:
mercifully grant
that we may both follow the example of his patience,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for

The world and its people

- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Bangladesh led by Moderator and Bishop of Kushtia, The Most Rev'd Samuel Sunil Mankhin. The Church of Bangladesh has 115 Congregations under three dioceses.
- Give thanks and pray for the Church of Bangladesh's mission to witness for Christ and bring wholeness to people through education health care and social development and in particular ensure the stability and security of youth and women and children.
- Give thanks and pray for *TearFund* -working across the globe in partnership with locally-based Christian agencies who understand the needs of their communities, and are in the best position to develop responses that are relevant and sustainable.
- Give thanks and pray for Christians across the world gathering this Palm Sunday to celebrate the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem and looking toward the cross of his sacrifice.
- Pray that Christians everywhere will seek Christ's way and humbly accept the gift of his undeserved, unending, and unfathomable love."

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Right Rev'd Mark Calder Bishop of Bathurst, and the clergy and people of the diocese. The diocese of 29 parishes covers about a third of NSW, stretching from the Blue Mountains to the Queensland border.
- Pray for the mission of the diocese, *Sharing Jesus for Life*. Pray for the teams and parishes seeking to be involved in communities in many and various ways.
- Pray that the churches will be a blessing to their communities with their presence and become a vital and valued part of the towns in the Diocese.
- Give thanks and pray for the generous partnership of Bush Church Aid assisting in rural areas in the diocese and the Cathedral.
- Pray that this Holy Week the congregations at NPAC will be faithful in prayer, bible reading and worshipping together.
- Give thanks and pray for the liturgy and worship team who have put together and will present a suite of services and experiences for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- Pray for David as he leads us on our journey to the cross this week. *May the God of hope fill him with all joy and peace as he trusts in the Lord, so that he may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Adapted from Romans 15:13)*
- Pray that we will know the joy that Christ won for us - John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Prayer of the Week

*Lord of all life and power,
 who, through the mighty resurrection of your Son,
 overcame the old order of sin and death
 to make all things new in him:
 grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you
 in Jesus Christ,
 may reign with him in glory;
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
 be praise, honour and thanksgiving, now and for all eternity. Amen.*

This week in your prayer time please be praying for*The world and its people*

- Give thanks and pray for the work and witness of the Church of South India (United), pray for the Most Rev'd Dharmaraj Rasalam, Moderator of Church of South India and Bishop of South Kerala.
- Pray for the bishops, clergy and parishioners of its 24 dioceses.
- Pray for the Anglican Church of South India's work in the areas of spreading the Gospel, peace and reconciliation, advocacy, education, health, literacy and financial education, and community development.
- Give thanks and pray for the *Anglicans in Development* organisation. *Anglicans in Development* operates ABM's Sustainable Communities program, working with church partners to deliver grassroots, community-driven development, and disaster preparedness and response.
- Give thanks and pray with Christians celebrating Easter. Share in Peter's rejoicing - 1 Peter 1:3 "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!*"

The Anglican Church of Australia, Our Diocese, North Pine Anglican Parish and our endeavours

- Give thanks and pray for the Anglican Church of Australia led by Archbishop Geoffrey Smith, Archbishop of Adelaide.
- Give thanks and pray for the 23 dioceses covering urban, rural and remote parishes.
- Give thanks and pray for Anglicare Australia which has the mission to engage with all Australians to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.
- Give thanks and pray for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council. This Council formally represents the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the Church nationally. It assists individuals and communities by providing pastoral care, and it also assists, encourages and resources Aboriginal and Torres ministries.
- The Bush Ministry Fund solely funds rural ministry in our Diocese, and it is the only fund that financially supports rural ministry in our Diocese.
- Pray for our online congregation at NPAC and any who are not able to worship in person at Easter.
- Pray for people who will experience loneliness or isolation this Easter.
- Pray that families will share their faith and be strengthened by time spent together this Easter.
- Pray that we all renew our commitment to live for Jesus, and that our lives testify to the truth of Jesus and point the world toward his sacrifice on the cross, his resurrection, and to his return.

*Individual needs**See page 1*