

The Parish Church of St Matthew
Northampton



Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

Praying at home

Prayers for those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.
Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
for as long as it takes
wherever you call us. Amen.

Lord Jesus,
when you walked with us on earth
you spread your healing power.
We place in your loving care
all who are affected by Coronavirus.
Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.
Bring relief to our sick,
console our bereaved,
protect those who care for us.
We lift our prayer to you Lord,
and trust in your infinite mercy,
as we wait for the daybreak. Amen.

CAFOD

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

God of healing and hope,
in Jesus you meet us in our places of pain and fear.
Look with mercy on those who have contracted the new virus,
on any who are vulnerable,
and on all who feel in danger.
Through this time of global concern,
by your Holy Spirit bring out the best not the worst in us.
Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other,
and of the strength that comes from being one body in you.
Through Christ our wounded healer. Amen.

*The Rev'd Dr Sam Wells
Vicar of St Martin's in the Field*



Our Lady of Walsingham, pray for us.

O Mary, recall the solemn moment when Jesus,
your divine son, dying on the cross,
confided us to your maternal care.

You are our Mother,
we desire ever to remain your devout children.
Let us therefore feel the effects of your powerful intercession
with Jesus Christ.

Make your name again glorious in this place
once renowned throughout our land by your visits,
favours and many miracles.

Pray, O holy Mother of God for the conversion of England,
restoration of the sick,
consolation for the afflicted,
repentance of sinners,
peace to the departed.

O blessed Mary, Mother of God,
our Lady of Walsingham,
intercede for us. Amen.

This booklet has been prepared in particular to aid those who are self-isolating at this time. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

We are never alone, and we never pray alone. By praying the same words as the rest of the Church, even if we cannot see our brother and sister Christians physically, we know that we join with all the angels and saints of heaven whenever we pray.

Prayers will be still be said daily in St Matthew's Church, for the Church of God, and for all creation.

We are 'streaming' services online via Facebook and our Parish Website, where you will find instruction what to do. Please keep an eye on these electronic outlets.

Please let us know if you are shielding so that we can pray for you, help you in any way we can, and keep in touch by telephone or email. Ring the Parish Office on 01684 791251 (please leave a message if the Office is closed) or office@stmatthews-northampton.org.uk. **Please call one another on the telephone, and stay in contact online, so that we can support and bring succour to each other.**

Recommended Online Prayer Resources

Daily Prayer – Church of England

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> *Services of Daily Prayer which are available in both contemporary and traditional forms and for all times of day.*

Daily Prayer – Universalis (Roman Catholic)

<http://universalis.com/> *Another app. for the mobile phone giving the Order of Morning, Midday and Evening Prayer together with information about the day.*

The Ordinary Office – alone together

<http://anordinaryoffice.org.uk/> *Designed to be as accessible for the disabled and able-bodied.*

Pray As You Go

<http://www.pray-as-you-go.org> *A Jesuit resource with a reading, reflection, and music each day.*

Churches TV

<https://www.churchservices.tv/> *A range of daily services and other resources from around the UK.*

Daily Meditations – Richard Rohr

<https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/> *Developed by this well-known Franciscan this site is well-stocked with useful information including a*

Daily Meditation for active contemplatives

Sacred Space

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/> *A ministry of the Irish Jesuits. The pages guide you through sessions of prayer in six stages, including preparing your body and mind, and culminating in reflection on a scripture passage chosen specially for the day.*

Coptic Church in Britain

<https://birminghamcopts.org/> *The Egyptian Orthodox offer some excellent resources via this website.*

¶ Morning and Evening Prayer

Morning and Evening Prayer is said every day in the parish.

The 'Daily Prayer' app can be downloaded onto a smartphone or tablet, and each service is available to view online at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Using these links means you will be saying the same Psalms and readings as those praying in church day by day.

A simple service can also be followed below:

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognise God's presence with us now.

Keep a short silence, still your heart.

As God's people we have gathered;
let us worship God now together,
across the miles yet joined.

Let us pray:

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful people,
and kindle in us the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In the light of Jesus, let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Keep a short silence, leave your sins at the cross

Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.
We are not worthy to be called your children.
We turn to you again, have mercy on us,
bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead
but now have life through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the Father forgive us by the death of the Son,
and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.

Amen.

Read a passage of the scriptures.

We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God:

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

We intercede for others in the quiet of our hearts.
Lord, meet us in the silence
and hear our prayer.

Silence for prayer is kept

Pray for yourself in your isolation, that God would sit with you

Pray for others in their loneliness

Pray for our country

Pray for the world

**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.**

Silence is kept

Faithful God, may we who share in this time of worship
glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
our salvation and hope, who reigns as Lord now and forever.

Fill us, Good Lord with your Spirit of love;
and as you have fed us with your presence,
so, make us one in heart and mind, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Spiritual Communion – *short form*

Please note that a longer form may be found on the parish website

It is an ancient practice of the Church that, when you are prevented from attending the Holy Eucharist, people are invited to express, in the words of St. Thomas Aquinas, “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Therefore, during this time you are invited to pray this prayer, which may be said as often as you desire:

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament.

**I love you above all things,
and I long for you in my soul.**

**Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.**

As though you have already come,

**I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;
never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

¶ Collects and Readings for each Sunday:

The First Sunday of Advent (29th November)

Isaiah 64.1-9

Psalm 80.1-8, 18-20

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 13.24-37

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Second Sunday of Advent (6th December 2020)

Isaiah 40.1-11

Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3.8-15a

Mark 1.1-8

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

The Third Sunday of Advent (13th December 2020)

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

John 1.6-8, 19-28

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (20th December)

2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

Psalm 89.1-4, 19-26

Romans 16. 25-27

Luke 1.26-38

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Eve (24th December 2020)

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly remembrance
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Night

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Christmas Day (25th December 2020)

Isaiah 52.7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1.1-12

John 1.1-14

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The First Sunday of Christmas (27th December 2020)

Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.15-21

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Second Sunday of Christmas (3rd January 2012)

Jeremiah 31.7-14

Psalm 147. 13-21

Ephesians 1.3-14

John 1.10-18

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Epiphany of the Lord (Wednesday 6th January 2012)

Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 72.10-15

Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 2.1-12

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Baptism of the Lord (Sunday 10th January 2012)

Genesis 1.1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Second Sunday of Epiphany (Sunday 17th January 2012)

1 Samuel 3.1-10

Psalm 139.15, 12-18

Revelation 5.1-10

John 1.43-51

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 your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Third Sunday of Epiphany (24th January 2012)

Genesis 14.17-20

Psalm 128

Revelation 19.6-10

John 2.1-11

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (31st January 2012)

Deuteronomy 18.15-20

Psalm 111

Revelation 12.1-5a

Mark 1.21-28

God our creator,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

**The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) Tuesday 2nd
February**

Malachi 3.1-5
Psalm 24.7-end
Hebrews 2.14-end
Luke 2.22-40

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Second Sunday before Lent (7th February 2012)

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
Psalm 104. 26-37
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

The Sunday Next before Lent (14th February 2012)

2 Kings 2.1-12

Psalm 50.1-6

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

Mark 9.2-9

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

¶ Compline

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning 'completion' (*completorium*). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

**Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**

Hymn

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

Psalmody

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I
call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.

He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.

Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,

There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder;
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

They will call upon me and I will answer them;
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

With long life will I satisfy them
and show them my salvation.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 134

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.

The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

Prayers are offered, which may conclude with

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.

Angelus Domini

(Luke 1:28 ff)

All The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary,
and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
All **Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death.**

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
All **Be it unto me according to thy word.**
Hail Mary ...

And the Word was made flesh,
All **and dwelt among us.**
Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
All **that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Lord, open our hearts to your grace.
Through the angel's message to Mary
we have learned to believe in the incarnation of your Son.
Lead us by his passion † and cross
to the glory of his resurrection.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All **Amen.**

