**Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for March**

*God is our refuge and strength,
    an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46.1*

**Thursday 1st April- Schools**

We pray for our young people and their teachers as they prepare for their Easter break, that they will enjoy their holiday and will return to school refreshed and ready for the rest of the spring term

**Friday 2nd April – Good Friday**

Today we kneel in silent adoration of You, our God.  We sit quietly, beholding the great mystery of our faith.  We behold God, beaten, bruised, mocked, tortured and killed.  But in this act, we see all grace and Mercy flowing from Your wounded Heart.  Bathe the world in Your Mercy, dear Lord.  Cover us with Your grace and draw us to new life through Your death.  We love You, dear Lord.  We love You with all our hearts.  Jesus, we trust in You.

**Saturday 3rd April – Clergy**

Father we pray for our clergy at this trying time as they attempt to keep the parish working and worshipping. We give thanks for the work they continue to do to ensure we have online services.

**Sunday 4th April – Easter Day**

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

**Monday 5th April- Pharmacies/Doctor’s surgeries**

We thank you, Lord, for all the people working on the front line in pharmacies and surgeries.   We pray for their safety as they serve others and for their anxious families at home.  We pray that the people who visit these places seeking help will be responsible and avoid putting these dedicated people at risk.  May their religious faith sustain and inspire them?

**Tuesday 6th April–** **Those who keep our community functioning.**

We ask God to bless all those who must work at this time for the good of the whole community.  Especially we remember those who deliver milk or post and those who collect our rubbish and our recycling materials.   We remember the lorry drivers and van drivers who keep our supermarkets and homes stocked with essential goods. May they realise how we value their work. Thank you for those who have continued to work to stock supermarket shelves, serve on deli counters, work on the tills, and generally help around the stores. Without their selfless attitude and commitment to turning up to work in conditions that see them exposed to the Corona Virus to a greater degree than any of us, except for the NHS, we would not have the ability to feed ourselves and our families.

**Wednesday 7th April – Catshill and North Marlbrook**

Pray for all people in Catshill and North Marlbrook that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Thursday 8th April- Christ Church Catshill**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet together and safely in this cherished place of worship

**Friday 9th April – Finances**

Over the coming indefinite period money will continue to be an issue. On a personal level jobs will be lost incomes will be lost or at best reduced. Churches and the Diocese of Worcester will not be immune to this, and we pray that severe hardship in all areas can be avoided.

**Saturday 10th April- Food banks**

An increasing number of people have come to rely on these establishments as we have had to come to terms with the period of austerity that the country has had to live through. Please ensure these priceless community assets continue to receive the support that is vital to the work they do. We also give thanks for those who have been moved by the plight of people struggling and have contributed financially or by providing items of food.

**Sunday 11th April – Dodford**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet together and safely in this cherished place of worship.

**Monday 12th April– Lockdown**

We give thanks for this small step towards normality with the opening of so many of our cherished institutions. Barbers and hairdressers opening will ensure we look less the wild men and women of Borneo

**Tuesday 13th April – All Saints Mission Committee meets**

We pray for the valuable work that is achieved through this group and we pray for a positive outcome to their deliberations

**Wednesday 14th April – St Godwald’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet together and safely in this cherished place of worship

**Thursday 15th April – Refugees**

Our community has been assisting the work done by a local charity to provide much needed clothing and toiletries etc to this group of people, strangers to this country, a number of which are fellow Christians. They have been hosted at St Luke’s and we pray that people in the community will be able to help with the supply of such materials when the current restrictions are relaxed

**Friday 16th April – Sidemoor**

Pray for all people in Sidemoor that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve.

**Saturday 17thApril– Farmers**

We give thanks for those who continue to work tirelessly to produce food that makes its way onto our supermarket shelves. Once again this is a group of people who we have tended to take for granted because somehow the food we eat continues to arrive on our table. Once we are through this time of struggle lets ensure that we place buying from our own farmers ours, and this country’s priority. Please ensure that there are sufficient hands to pick all the produce that needs to be harvested.

**Sunday 18th April – Aston Field**

Pray for all people in Aston fields that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve.

**Monday 19th April– Care Homes**

There are a few care homes throughout the parish for which we would ask you that you wrap your arms around. Enable the carers in those places to have sufficient protection to be able to provide the level of care that is needed to ensure the residents maintain a level of physical and emotional wellbeing. We give thanks that people living in these homes are now allowed to see one of their loved ones.

**Tuesday 20th April– High Street shops bars restaurants and cafes**

For so long we have taken for granted our ability to shop, eat and drink where we like at almost any time we want. These establishments are facing unprecedented strains on their ability to survive this storm. Perhaps we can take this time to appreciate what we have, cherish it, and invest our money in these businesses to help in their recovery. We give thanks that our high street shops are back trading in somewhat restricted circumstances and look forward to a time when all high street businesses can operate fully.

**Wednesday 21st April– Those living alone.**

Lord we think today and pray for those people who have had to self-isolate and who hunger for the touch of a hand or to see a friendly face in their homes. We pray that there will be people who will give some solace by making a phone call or some form of social media to let them know they have not been forgotten. Thank you for the kind generous souls who have volunteered to shop for essential food items.

**Thursday 22nd April – Lickey End**

Pray for all people in Lickey End that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve.

**Friday 23rd April–Anita Davies**

We pray for and remember this much loved member of the All Saints congregation on this St George’s Day

**Saturday 24th April – Local Hospitals**

For the sacrifice and work undertaken by Nursing staff, paramedics, porters, cleaners, catering staff. Keep them safe and make sure they have all the protective equipment they need and give thanks that they are working to keep us all safe.

**Sunday 25th April- All Saints ADCM**

We pray for a positive outcome to this meeting

**Monday 26th April- Charford**

Pray for all people in Charford that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and that a loving caring community will evolve

**Tuesday 27th April – St Godwalds**

We pray for your spirit to be present at this DCC

**Wednesday 28th April- Rock Hill**

Pray for all people in Rock Hill that they will remain calm and secure during this time of national emergency, and a loving caring community will evolve

**Thursday 29th April - All Saint’s**

In these trying times we give thanks for ways that the church family can find a way to meet together and safely in this cherished place of worship

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**Friday 30th April- St John’s and St Andrew’s**

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