

Prayers for Saturday 27th June 2020

Dear Friends

Today we are looking forward to the opening of the church once again; for private prayer only at the moment, on Wednesdays 10am-12noon from 1st July. It is a special time as we rejoice that we may return to the building our church family calls home, but it is also a little daunting perhaps as we remember that the virus is still very present and we must take great care.

One of the Church's Five Marks of Mission is to safeguard creation and so our treatment of each other as we come back together, albeit in a pared down version for now, must be a considered effort. It is a gospel command to care for one another and so we are encouraged to come together with prayer and with care.

So, let us pray our church open over these coming days, praying for wisdom and discernment in our actions together. Praying for God's protection, yes, but not assuming that means we are invulnerable. We must take the necessary precautions to care for ourselves and for others – it is the gospel thing to do.

I encourage you to join with me in praying these prayers today. I will be in church to pray for the community, as Revd Gerry has been doing, and it is our privilege to do so. It would be lovely to think that we are all praying together – blanketing the town with prayer.

We celebrate that our church has been a symbol of hope for the town for centuries, but we also remember that WE as the people of God are His church and that "church" is wherever we are, living God's Word, safeguarding His creation.

Revd Kyla

St. Mary's Prayer

Dear God
Strengthen us to walk in faith
Open our ears, our eyes and our hearts
To the needs of the community
May your family grow
As we teach and reach out in your love.
Guide us to work through partnerships
In the power of your Holy Spirit.
For Jesus' sake and in His name we pray.
Amen

Prayer for opening church

Living Lord, God of Hope

We pray for our church and all churches
across this county,
this national and around the world,
as we start to think about how to come back
together to worship.

We pray for wisdom, for discernment,
we pray
for your will to come into our decisions
and our actions and interactions
as we seek to find the safest way possible to be together.

Loving God we have found joy in your love for us
during these difficult times.

We lift before you our church family at St. Mary's

Giving our thanks that we have known your protection and your safekeeping,

May we continue in prayer and care for each other

As we move forward

Acting with trust and patience

Held by your unending love and faithfulness.

Father, be with each and every one of us

we pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name

your kingdom come

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power

and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen.