

# Wednesday Prayers

## 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."*

(Romans 12:12)



Thank you for joining us in especially praying for our land today.  
Please feel free to allow this guide to help you as we pray together

### Opening Reflection

**Reading:** Exodus 14v10-31

**Reflection:** This evening's 'Wednesday Wandering' is based upon the Exodus of Moses and his people through the Red Sea. What a journey this would be! Standing on the shore whilst being pursued by the Egyptians, the Israelites feared the worst and Moses declared these incredible words; <sup>13</sup> *"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. <sup>14</sup> The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still."*

Moses words of utmost confidence were not in vain. God demonstrated His incredible power by parting the waters to make way for His people, granting them safety from the terror of their oppressors.

We live in an atmosphere of continuing fear from an invisible enemy. That its presence might increase with devastating effect is of credible concern. We should not be complacent, we should follow good advice. But we can take encouragement from remembering the God spoken of in Exodus is the unchanging God, whom we pray to in faith today. Stand firm!

Let us give thanks that locally the 'R' value remains low.

Please continue to pray for :-

- For our Government and the NI Executive as they further consider policies for public protection and the encouragement of our economy
- For world leaders in their national and international response to Covid-19. May balanced decisions be made which will be for well being of people in all nations and may countries where infection rates are growing know wisdom in applying steps to reverse this trend
- For scientific research into developing a vaccine. May effective treatment be soon available to all
- For the work of Tear Fund, Christian Aid and other agencies seeking to help people in developing nations amidst crises including Covid19
- For the Diocese of Shyogwe (Rwanda) as churches seek to minister amidst the complexities restrictions and assist in the effort to help and protect vulnerable people
- For Hospitals and Care Homes as limited visitation takes place. May measures taken protect residents and staff from any incursion of illness
- For churches in our land as many approach reopening. May steps taken enable safety for all who worship in our church and all churches, and may what God's people offer in worship be to His glory

- For people taking holidays at present. May they know enjoyment and amidst the restrictions that are commonplace and necessary at present
- For people who have lost ones in recent months and for whom support has been constrained by current restrictions

Some prayers which you may find helpful :-

Gracious God, we thank you for all who make decisions for the well being of our community and commend them to your care. May you guide our political leaders and enable them to make the very best decisions for the benefit of our communities and beyond. We ask for protection from future 'waves' of this illness. We pray for national and international cooperation and that ambition and pride would be subsumed by a desire to guide and help, especially those who are most vulnerable. Amen.

Gracious God, we thank you for our health care professionals and pray for your continued blessing to be upon all who strive for the mental and physical health of us all. At this time of reduced impact of Covid19, we pray for all who suffer illness of any kind and ask that they would receive the care and help that is required. Give wisdom beyond their own to all medical researchers at this time, as they seek to find a vaccine and may its availability be granted to all. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gracious God, may you resource and enable the Church to faithfully bear witness to the Gospel, especially at this time of much concern and fatigue. Help all who lead your people in faith to be faithful to their calling to teach and to serve. As church buildings reopen for in church worship, may you protect us and enable us to worship and learn together. By your Holy Spirit, may you help us to glorify your name. Amen.

Gracious God, be close to all who manage businesses amidst the complexity of a suffering economy. As staff return from furlough, may measures taken offer protection to customers and staff and may trade be encouraged by a resurgent economy. May creativity and support be available to help businesses flourish amidst this very testing time. Amen.

Gracious God, you are ever present and always good. May all who are lonely know your presence and those who grieve know your comfort. May all who are sorrowful know that they are not forgotten, nor is their pain ignored. May the ministry of your Spirit be evident in all of our lives and help us to be thoughtful especially of those who are experiencing burdens of heart. Amen.

Gracious God, as you are compassionate to us, may we exercise selfless care towards one another. Help us not to prioritise ourselves, but look beyond. Help us to do our very best to restrict avenues of infection and always be mindful of the impact of our actions on others. Save us from selfishness. Amidst the fear and confusion, help us to trust you. Amen.

Please do pray all week long, but feel free to especially join us again in prayer next Wednesday when a new Prayer Sheet will be available for use. Please know our continued prayers.

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