**Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for April**

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and be not wise in your own sight” Proverbs 3.5-6*

**Wednesday 1st 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 well

**Thursday 2nd April – Clergy**

We ask for support for them as our clergy come to terms with a change in roles and we ask that you support them as they give pastoral care and support throughout the parish, also we pray for the support and continued love from their families as they journey through these turbulent waters.

**Friday 3rd 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.

**Saturday 4th April - St Johns Church**

Though not able to visit this beloved building at the moment we pray that all will manage to stay in touch either by phone, email, or social media. Help us to remember that being church is more than a building, it is the people of God.

**Palm Sunday 5th April - Teachers**

At this critical time, we give thanks for all the teachers and support staff still working in our schools.   Guide and bless the work they do to keep the children occupied, happy and safe.  We remember particularly our Church schools that the Christian message and ethos may give comfort and inspiration to both staff and pupils.  Bless the parents of these pupils as they carry out essential work and keep them safe.

**Monday of Holy Week 6th April – Volunteers**

We thank you, Lord, that this time of crisis is inspiring many to come forward and offer their services for voluntary work.     Keep safe those who deliver food and medicines to the housebound and those who transport people to vital appointments.   Grant good humour and sensitivity to those befriending the lonely.    May all come to know your love for them.

**Tuesday of Holy Week 7th April - Listening Service**

Thank you for this invaluable means of supporting our local young people who suffer with many and varied emotional issues. We pray for a way to keep in contact with the young people during this difficult period.

**Wednesday of Holy Week 8th 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.

**Maundy Thursday 9th 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 have sufficient donations to keep going and that they will be able to distribute those supplies.

**Good Friday 10th 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.

**Holy Saturday 11th April – All Saints**

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**Easter Sunday 12th April – Funeral Directors**

This is such a painful time for those who lose not only loved ones to this dreadful disease but also those who lose their lives in other circumstances no less painful. Please be with our local funeral directors as they navigate the paths to ensure that those people receive a caring, respectful and loving journey to be with you. We look to the day when we can have times of memorial to remember those people who are no longer with us.

**Monday 13th 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 14th 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, when things return to what is classed as normality.

**Wednesday 15th 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 16th April – St Andrew’s**

Though not able to visit this beloved building at the moment we pray that all will manage to stay in touch either by phone, email, or social media. Help us to remember that being church is more than a building, it is the people of God.

**Friday 17th April – Exercise and the open air**

Let us praise God for the glorious gift of Sanders Park and the opportunity it provides for all of us, but, particularly at this time, for people without gardens, to enjoy the beauties of creation and breathe fresh air.   Bless all the people who work in the Park and may they know what joy their labour gives to others.

**Saturday 18th April – Children and young people.**

Today we pray for our young people for those who have left primary school and did not get the chance to say a proper goodbye to their friends and teachers. For the older children who have studied long and hard and are going to be denied the chance to sit their GCSE examinations. We pray for patience for their parents and a way to usefully fill their time when they have been asked to keep a distance from what they have known. We thank God for the children’s rainbow pictures brightening our urban streets.

**Easter 2 Sunday 19th 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 their 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.

**Monday 20th April – Christ Church Catshill**

Though not able to visit this beloved building at the moment we pray that all will manage to stay in touch either by phone, email, or social media. Help us to remember that being church is more than a building, it is the people of God.

**Tuesday 21st 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.

**Wednesday 22nd April – Those who keep our community functioning**

We ask God to bless all those who have to 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.

**St George’s Day Thursday 23rd April – Supermarket workers**

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, with the exception of the NHS, we would not have the ability to feed ourselves and our families.

**Friday 24th April – St Godwalds**

Though not able to visit this beloved building at the moment we pray that all will manage to stay in touch either by phone, email, or social media. Help us to remember that being church is more than a building, it is the people of God.

**St Mark Saturday 25th 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.

**Easter 3 Sunday 26th April – 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

**Monday 27th April – Care Homes**

There are a number of care homes throughout the parish for which we would ask you that you wrap your arms around. Enable the carers in those places to be able to provide the level of care that is needed to ensure the residents maintain a level of physical and emotional wellbeing

**Tuesday 28th April Weddings/Baptisms**

We bring before you today all of those who have had the disappointment of having weddings and baptisms cancelled throughout the parish. Give them the comfort of knowing that these joyous events will take place when the time is right and they will have the reassurance of having your presence with them.

**Wednesday 29th 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.

**Thursday 30th April – Dodford**

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