**Bromsgrove Parish Prayer Diary for July**

*Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139.23-24*

**Wednesday 1st July – 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 July – Church opening**

We ask for wisdom for Church Wardens as they look to open our churches for private prayer. Safety of everyone involved is paramount and we ask that everyone adheres to all of the requirements to make these visits with you as fulfilling and safe as possible

**Friday 3rd July – 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 July - 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.

**Sunday 5th July - Teachers**

At this critical time when more children may be returning to their classes in school, we give thanks for all the teachers and support staff whose commitment has sustained our children during the pandemic.   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.

**Monday 6th July– Wedding**

This is the time of the year when a lot of couples look to cement their relationship by committing themselves to each other by entering into the holy state of matrimony. We pray that they will remain positive as so many of these special occasions have been postponed, and that they will look forward to be able to celebrate with family and friends.

**Tuesday 7th July – 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.

**Wednesday 8th July – 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.

**Thursday 9th July – 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. We thank you for the intervention of Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford in changing the governments mind with regards to children’s food vouchers during the summer break

**Friday 10th July – 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.

**Saturday 11th July – 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.

**Sunday 12th July– 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

**Monday 13th July – 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 July – 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 other high street businesses can operate fully

**Wednesday 15th July – Race relations**

Lord I am sure you look on with sadness at the breakdown in relations between different sections of our communities. We look on and learn with sadness the level of racism that still seems to pervade our communities and we pray that the Black Lives Matter movement will have a positive impact on the situation, and that our societies will be healthier places to live in.

**Thursday 16thJuly - All Saints**

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. We pray for your guidance at today’s DCC and that your spirit will be at the heart of our decisions.

**Friday 17th July– 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. We pray for your guidance at today’s DCC and that your spirit will be at the heart of our decisions.

**Saturday 18th July – 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 were 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. We also think of university graduates who are sitting their finals with no real vision as to what the future will hold for them.

**Sunday 19th July – 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.

**Monday 20th July – 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 July – Exercise and the open air**

Let us praise God for the glorious gift of our parks  woodland and river walks, and the opportunity they provide 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 parks and may they know what joy their labour gives to others.

**Wednesday 22nd July – 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.

**Thursday 23rd July – 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

**Friday 24th July –St Andrews**

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.

**Saturday 25th July -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.

**Sunday 26th July – 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.

**Monday 27th July – 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 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

**Tuesday 28th July - 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. 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.

**Wednesday 29th July – Aston Fields**

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 July – Dodford**

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 31st July - 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.