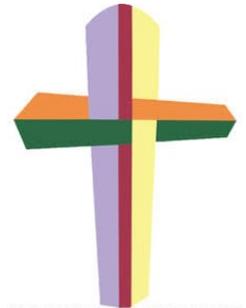


Kidderminster East - Lent 2021

Here is a selection of prayers from pray-ers of many centuries ago as well as those from more recent times. One has been set for each day of Lent, so that you can reflect on it through the day, but use them in whatever way you find helpful.



KIDDERMINSTER EAST PARISH
Five Churches One Parish One Lord

Ash Wednesday 17th February

Collect for today

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord

18th February

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts
are restless till they find rest in you.
Grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
and no weakness hinder us from doing it;
but that in your light we may see light,
and in your service find our perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
after St Augustine of Hippo

19th February

O Christ,
tirelessly you seek out those who are looking for you
and who think that you are far away;
teach us, at every moment,
to place our spirits in your hands.
While we are still looking for you,
already you have found us.
However poor our prayer,
you hear us far more than we can imagine or believe.
Brother Roger of Taizé

20th February

Lord Jesus, I am not an eagle.
All I have are the eyes and the heart of one.
In spite of my littleness, I dare to gaze at the sun of love,
and I long to fly towards it.
St Thérèse of Lisieux

21st February

Collect for today

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

22nd February

Circle me, O God,
Keep peace within
keep turmoil out.

Circle me, O God,
Keep calm within
keep storms without.

St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) was a Spanish noblewoman who felt called to convent life in the Catholic Church. She was a Carmelite nun, prominent Spanish mystic, religious reformer, author, theologian of the contemplative life and of mental prayer.

John R. W. Stott (1921 - 2011) was an English Anglican presbyter and theologian who was noted as a leader of the worldwide evangelical movement.

John Wesley (1703 - 1791) was an English cleric, theologian and evangelist who was a leader of a revival movement within the Church of England known as Methodism

Kate Mcllhagga was a minister and member of the Iona Community. She was a regular contributor to Wild Goose books until her death in 2002.

St. Richard of Chichester (1197 - 1253), also known as Richard de Wych, was a saint (canonized 1262) who was Bishop of Chichester.

About the writers of the prayers:

St Augustine of Hippo (354–430) was a theologian, philosopher, and the bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa (modern-day Algeria).

Brother Roger of Taizé: Roger Schütz (1915-2005), popularly known as Brother Roger, was a Swiss Christian leader and monastic brother. In 1940 Schütz founded the Taizé Community, an ecumenical monastic community in Burgundy, France, serving as its first prior until his murder in 2005

St Thérèse of Lisieux , born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin (1873 - 1897), was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun

David Adam (1936 - 2020) was an English clergyman and writer. He was vicar of Danby-Castleton-Commondale in North Yorkshire for over twenty years, where he began writing prayers in the Celtic pattern, and he later became Rector of Holy Island, Lindisfarne.

St John of the Cross (1542–1591) was a Spanish Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar of converso origin, and is known for the phrase “Dark night of the soul”.

St Francis of Assisi (1182–1226) was an Italian Catholic friar, deacon, mystic, and preacher.

William Temple (1881–1944) was an English Anglican priest, who served as Bishop of Manchester , Archbishop of York and Archbishop of Canterbury.

Circle me, O God,
Keep strength within
keep weakness out.
David Adam

23rd February

O sweetest love of God, too little known,
whoever has found you will be at rest.
Let everything change, O my God, that I may rest in you.
How sweet to me is your presence,
you who are the sovereign good!
I will draw near to you in silence,
and will uncover your feet,
that it may please you to unite me with yourself,
making my soul your bride.
I will rejoice in nothing until I am in your arms;
O Lord, I beseech you, leave me not for a moment.
St John of the Cross (cf Ruth 3:1-8)

24th February

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
attributed to St Francis of Assisi

25th February

O God of love, we ask you to give us love;
love in our thinking, love in our speaking,
love in our doing,
and love in the hidden places of our souls;
love of those with whom we find it hard to bear,
and love of those who find it hard to bear with us;
love of those with whom we work,
and love of those with whom we take our ease;
that so at length we may be worthy to dwell with you,
who are eternal love.

William Temple

26th February

Lord, I am yours, I was born for you;
what is your will for me?
Let me be rich or beggared,
exulting or lamenting
comforted or lonely;
since I am yours, yours only,
what is your will for me?

St Teresa of Avila

27th February

O God, whose compassions fail not, whose faithfulness is new
every morning:
draw near, we pray thee, to those who are stricken with
sickness and pain.
Ease their discomfort, allay their fears, strengthen their faith,
be thou their salvation and their peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

John R. W. Stott

4th April

Collect for today

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned,
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

2nd April

O Holy and ever-blessed Jesus,
who being the eternal Son of God and most high in the glory of
the Father,
didst vouchsafe in love for us sinners to be born of a pure
virgin,
and didst humble thyself unto death, even the death of the
cross:
deepen within us, we beseech thee, a due sense of thy infinite
love;
that adoring and believing in thee as our Lord and Saviour,
we may trust in thy infinite merits,
imitate thy holy example,
obey thy commands, and
finally enjoy thy promises;
who with the Father and the Holy Ghost livest and reignest,
one God, world without end.
John Wesley

3rd April

I weave a silence on to my lips,
I weave a silence into my mind,
I weave a silence within my heart.
I close my ears to distractions,
I close my eyes to attractions,
I close my heart to temptations.
Calm me, O Lord, as you stilled the storm,
still me, O Lord, keep me from harm.
Let all the tumult within me cease;
enfold me, Lord, in your peace.
David Adam

28th February

Collect for today

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way come to share in his glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1st March

May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet,
so absorb our hearts as to withdraw them from undue
attachment to all that is under heaven;
grant that we may be ready to die for love of your love,
as you died for love of our love.
after St Francis of Assisi

2nd March

God of all time,
God beyond and behind time,
may we know what is too late
and what is too soon.
May we always recognize
the right time
in the light of
your timeless love.
Kate McIlhagga

3rd March

Thanks be to thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits
which thou hast given us,
for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for us.
O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly,
now and for evermore.
St. Richard of Chichester

4th March

Late have I loved you,
O Beauty so ancient and so new.
You called, and broke through my defences,
and now I long for you.
You breathed your fragrance on me,
and I drew in my breath
and now I pant for you.
I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst for you.
You touched me,
and I burn for your peace.
St Augustine of Hippo

5th March

Agreeing to lose everything for you, O Christ,
in order to take hold of you,
as you have already taken hold of us,
means abandoning ourselves to the living God.
Centring our life on you, Christ Jesus,
means daring to choose:
leaving ourselves behind so as no longer to walk
on two roads at the same time:
saying no to all that keeps us from following you,
and yes to all that brings us closer to you,
and through you, to those whom you entrust to us.
Brother Roger of Taizé

30th March

To you alone, O Jesus, I must cling;
running to your arms, dear Lord,
there let me hide, safe from all fears,
loving you with the tenderness of a child.
after St Thérèse of Lisieux

31st March

Breathe in me, Holy Spirit,
that I may think what is holy.
Move me, Holy Spirit,
that I may do what is holy.
Attract me, Holy Spirit,
that I may love what is holy.
Strengthen me, Holy Spirit,
that I may guard what is holy.
Guard me, Holy Spirit,
that I may keep what is holy.
St Augustine of Hippo

1st April

You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and your deeds are wonderful.
You are love, you are wisdom.
You are humility, you are endurance.
You are rest, you are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are all our riches, and you suffice for us.
You are beauty, you are gentleness.
You are our protector,
You are our guardian and defender.
You are courage,
You are our haven and hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation.
You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord,
God almighty, merciful Saviour.
St Francis of Assisi (abridged)

27th March

O blessed Jesus, give me stillness of soul in Thee.
Let Thy mighty calmness reign in me;
rule me, O King of gentleness, King of peace.
Give me control, great power of self-control,
control over my words, thoughts and actions.
From all irritability, want of meekness, want of gentleness,
dear Lord, deliver me.
By Thine own deep patience, give me patience.
Make me in this and all things more and more like Thee.
St John of the Cross

28th March

Collect for today

True and humble King,
hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
grant us the faith to know you and love you,
that we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path of glory.

29th March

Creator of rainbows,
come through the closed doors of our emotions, mind and
imagination;
come alongside us as we walk,
come to us at work and worship,
come to our meetings and councils,
come and call us by name,
call us to pilgrimage.
Kate McIlhagga

6th March

O God, who hast bidden us to worship thee with the sound of
the trumpet,
with psaltery and harp, with stringed instruments and organs,
and also to be glad in thee and to shout for joy:
Help us to contrive by all means to set forth thy most worthy
praise,
that the art of man may be tuned to the glory of God;
for the sake of him whose voice is as the sound of many
waters,
Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord.
John R. W. Stott

7th March

Collect for today

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

8th March

O God, you are the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
and the strength of the wills that serve you:
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
St Augustine of Hippo

9th March

Christ, I call upon your Name, for you are with me.
I am never alone, never without help, never without a friend,
for I dwell in you and you in me!
'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for you are with me.

David Adam

10th March

It is well and good, Lord, if all things change,
provided we are rooted in you.
If I go everywhere with you, my God,
everywhere things will happen for your sake;
that is what I desire.

St John of the Cross

11th March

Eternal and gracious God, who art slow to anger and of great
kindness:

Have mercy upon thy faithless and backsliding Church.
We mourn, and confess to thee, our sins, the poverty of our
devotion and the weakness of our testimony.
Pardon, cleanse and restore us, we humbly beseech thee.
Fill us with the power of thy Holy Spirit,
that we thy people may be humbled and sanctified,
and that the multitudes who are lost to thee may be convicted
of their sins and converted to their Saviour;
for the glory of his saving name.

John R. W. Stott

24th March

Lord, Christ, you see us
sometimes like strangers on the earth,
taken aback by the violence,
by the harshness of oppositions.
And you come to send out a gentle breeze
on the dry ground of our doubts,
and so prepare us to be bearers
of peace and of reconciliation.

Brother Roger of Taizé

25th March

O Lord, take thou full possession of my heart,
raise there thy throne,
and command there as thou dost in heaven.
Being created by thee, let me live to thee.
Being created for thee, let me ever act for thy glory.
Being redeemed by thee, let me render to thee what is thine,
and let my spirit ever cleave to thee alone;
for thy name's sake.

John Wesley

26th March

Lord Jesus Christ, who prayed for your disciples that they
might be one, even as you are one with the Father;
draw us to yourself,
that in common love and obedience to you we may be united
to one another,
that the world may believe that you are Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

William Temple

21st March

Collect for today

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

22nd March

Most high and glorious God,
come and enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Give me right faith,
certain hope,
and perfect love,
that everything I do may be in fulfilment of your holy will;
through Jesus Christ my Lord.
St Francis of Assisi

23rd March

O God, our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that thou
didst give thine only Son to die upon the cross :
Pour thy love into our hearts, we humbly beseech thee;
that we loving thee above all things,
may give up ourselves, our time, our money, our talents, to
thy service;
for the sake of him who loved us and gave himself for us,
Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord.
St John of the R. W. Stott

12th March

At each beat of my heart I want, O my Beloved,
to renew my offering to you an infinite number of times,
until the shadows have disappeared
and I can tell you of my love face to face in eternity.
St Thérèse of Lisieux

13th March

O Jesus, King of the poor, shield today
those who are imprisoned without charge,
those who have 'disappeared'.
Cast a halo of your presence around those who groan in sorrow
or in pain.
Encircle us with your power,
compass us with your grace,
embrace your dying ones,
support your weary ones,
calm your frightened ones —
and as the sun scatters the mist on the hills,
bring us to a new dawn,
when all shall freely sit at table in your kingdom,
rejoicing in a God who saves them.
Kate McIlhagga (adapted)

14th March

Collect for today

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

15th March

Lord, may this room become a castle of prayer,
a place of communion with you,
from which my prayer may flow out in love to the world.
after St. Teresa of Avila

16th March

O Lord, to be turned from you is to fall, to turn to you is to
rise,
and to stand in your presence is to live for ever.
Grant us in all our duties your help,
in all our perplexities your guidance,
in all our dangers your protection,
and in all our sorrows your peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
after St Augustine of Hippo

17th March

In the evening of this life, I shall appear before you with
empty hands,
for I do not ask you, Lord, to count my works.
All our goodness is stained and imperfect.
I wish, then, to be clothed with your own goodness,
and to receive you yourself eternally, out of your love.
I want no other place or crown but you, my beloved.
Lord, even if my conscience were burdened with every sin it is
possible to commit,
I would still throw myself into your arms, my heart broken
with contrition.
And I know how tenderly you welcome any prodigal child of
yours who comes back to you.
St Thérèse of Lisieux

18th March

Heart of my shattered heart,
who will soothe the buried lament?
Who will pour oil on the biting pang that never dies?
Christ, do you hear the words held back?
You are there, a love most healing.
Brother Roger of Taizé

19th March

O living flame of love,
that wounds my soul so tenderly in its deepest centre;
since, by your grace, I can endure your touch,
perfect your work in me
according to your will.
St John of the Cross

20th March

Lord, you are a present help in trouble.
Come revive
redeem
restore.
In our darkness come as light,
in our sadness come as joy,
in our troubles come as peace,
in our weakness come as strength.
Come, Lord, to our aid.
Revive,
redeem,
restore us,
O Lord.
Open our eyes to your Presence,
open our minds to your grace,
open our lips to your praises,
open our hearts to your love,
open our lives to your healing,
and be found among us.
David Adam