

Pray with us

Anna Chaplaincy | Living Faith
Messy Church | Parenting for Faith




BRF
Ministries

5 JANUARY – 3 MAY 2025

Prayer diary

*Inspiring people of all ages to
grow in Christian faith*

‘[The] disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray”’ (Luke 11:1).

The followers of Jesus had watched him pray. They had heard the words he used and noted the places and times he chose to talk to his Father God. They wanted to pray like Jesus prayed and so they asked him to teach them.

There is no better school of prayer than this and no better words to use than the ones Jesus gave us in what we know today as the Lord’s Prayer. As I was preparing this new prayer diary, I read through some recent BRF Ministries Bible reading notes and other publications. The Lord’s Prayer came up again and again. It is the primal inspiration for our praying and a template for our prayers, as Chris Gillies writes in *On the Way to Work*:

‘The Lord’s Prayer provides a very helpful template around which to build more specific prayers about the daily situations we face. The practice of carving out time to pray alone is one that Jesus modelled. In praying things through with God, we cannot help but reflect on how God sees these situations. This helps us to discover fresh perspective, revealing alternative courses of action and more godly ways of dealing with things.’

Revisiting this prayer helps us deepen our own prayer life and I’ve woven its words from Matthew 6:9–13 through the entries

for each week in the coming months. Inspired by this, may you, with us, pray as Jesus prayed, for the work of BRF Ministries and for the staff and volunteers who are so grateful to have prayer supporters like you working alongside them every day.

With thanks and prayers



Martyn

Martyn Payne

BRF Ministries volunteer prayer advocate

**Holy Father,
we seek your will.
We long for your kingdom.
We trust in your provision.
We ask for your forgiveness,
as we pass on your grace.
We trust in your protection.
We rejoice in your beauty.
Now and always. Amen.**

We would love to hear what you like about this prayer diary.
Please complete our short online survey tinyurl.com/prayerdiaryfeedback

Sign up for our latest news to keep up-to-date with what’s going on at brf.org.uk/keep-in-touch.

For God's blessing on the BRF Ministries family

Prayer is the key means by which Christians listen to and communicate with God. In doing this, we follow the example of Jesus, who prayed to his Father and who taught his disciples how to pray. It is vital that we pray about our work.

Chris Gillies, *On the Way to Work* (BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Our Father in heaven: when we pray, we kneel in the presence of a pure love that knows each of us by name and who loves to bless our togetherness.



Pray with us for

- God's blessing on planning for BRF Ministries in 2025, asking that each team will feel inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit
- God's blessing on BRF Ministries writers and editors, asking that they be led to the themes and topics God has planned
- God's blessing on BRF Ministries finances, asking that we might have faith that God will provide for all our needs
- God's blessing on each staff member, asking that they be assured of God's presence
- God's blessing on Richard Fisher, the chair of trustees, the trustees and the senior leadership team, asking that every decision made is in step with God's Spirit

Father God,
 you invite us to call you 'Abba'
 and to experience you as family.
 Help us to follow your example
 and welcome all we meet this week
 into the same warm embrace of love
 that we have found in knowing you.
 Amen.

For prayer as the foundation of BRF Ministries

Prayer works. In big situations and small situations, prayer changes things. Whether we are the pray-er or the prayed-for, we can take great comfort in – and challenge from – that beautiful truth. What seemingly impossible situation can you pray for today, in faith and with hope that God will work a miracle?

Alianore Smith, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024



Thought for the week

Hallowed be your name: when we pray, we come into the presence of all that is good, true and perfect; and where there is no darkness.

Pray with us for

- those who are using this Prayer Diary today, as you join in with them in united prayer for BRF Ministries
- those who prepare and those who use the weekly prayer email sent every Sunday morning
- the staff who select the prayers and quotations that are posted daily on our social media channels and used in church services by our prayer supporters
- the trustees and senior staff who on Thursday are taking part in a morning of prayer for BRF Ministries' part in God's kingdom-work in the year ahead
- those who read and those who write BRF Ministries' many different prayer resources

Heavenly God,
whose eternal rest
comes to us through Christ,
help us to be so heavenly-minded
that we truly are of earthly use,
bringing earth to heaven
and heaven to earth
through our words and works this week.
Amen.



Work with other organisations to grow God’s kingdom

Pray the Lord’s Prayer slowly. Let it frame your time with God. Include pauses to add things you would like to say. Become aware of God listening to you attentively.

Fiona Barnard, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Father, may they be one, even as you and I are one: when we pray, we remember that our choosing to love others is the answer to Christ’s most heartfelt prayer.



Pray with us for

- those working for unity within and between church denominations and structures in this Week of Prayer for Christian unity
- new opportunities for fruitful partnerships between BRF Ministries and other publishers, in the UK and overseas
- Karen Laister, as she explores new relationships with other Christian organisations
- a growing sense of unity and purpose among all who work for BRF Ministries
- God’s blessing on two new publications this week: *Reimagining the Landscape of Faith* (Mary and Charles Hipsley) and *All Shall be Well: Visions of salvation with Julian of Norwich* (Emma Pennington)

**Holy God,
you not only make us whole individually,
but you also love to bring us together in community.
Help us to be active in peace-making,
reconciling and community-building,
as we turn away from ‘I’ and ‘me’
to ‘us’ and ‘others’ in all we do and say.
In Jesus’ name, who prayed that we might be one.
Amen.**

For all who work for BRF Ministries

Prepare yourself for prayer. Sit comfortably with both feet on the ground and hands open on your lap as if waiting to receive a gift from God... Entrust yourself and everything to God. Pray that you will be receptive to what God has to say to you.

Jonathan Arnold, *The Everyday God* (BRF Ministries, 2024)



Thought for the week

Your kingdom come: when we pray, we join in with the longing of all creation to be under the kingly care of the One who made all things.

Pray with us for

- the gift of good teamwork between staff across BRF Ministries, that all might know they are serving God within the wider mission of the church
- the marketing and communications team: Karen Laister (head), Iona Gray, Simon Haynes, Stuart Holley, Tracey Jones and Eley McAinsh
- John Chapman (business transformation officer) and Maria Kemae (operations and ministry officer)
- the supporter services team: Maddie Jane (lead), Taura Wood (supervisor), Laura Fry and Heidi Johnson
- Penny Clarke (head of finances) and Jules Morgan (head of people, pictured)

God, whose name is above all names,
and before whose name every knee shall bow,
we choose now to name you as our Saviour and Lord.
Help us this day in all we do and say,
not only to reflect your likeness,
but faithfully to bear your name,
so that we might be the good news
that we seek to share with others.
In your name. Amen



For the BRF ministry of Anna Chaplaincy

At the heart of Jesus' teaching on prayer is a simple encouragement: come to the God who is more loving than any earthly father. He wants to give good life-giving gifts, so speak to him, not using clever or manipulative language, but with direct child-like requests.

Fiona Barnard, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Your will be done: when we pray, we acknowledge that the best we can long for, in ourselves or for others, is the gift of Godself and the security of God's ways.



Candlemas service Portsmouth

Pray with us for

- those speaking on behalf of BRF Ministries at the Hand in Hand children's ministry conference in Birmingham this week
- God's blessing on the over 370-strong, nationwide team of Anna Chaplains
- inspiration and wisdom for the Anna Chaplaincy team: Debbie Ducille (ministry lead), Julia Burton-Jones and Marian Muskett
- those involved in Candlemas services this week in their local churches
- Debbie Thrower and her continuing advocacy for Anna Chaplaincy as a vice president of BRF Ministries



Lord Jesus,
who lay as a babe in Mary's arms,
who was held by old man Simeon as he prayed
and whose glory was proclaimed by elderly Anna,
may you always be at the centre
of our households, churches and communities,
and there, be held close, lifted in praise
and be made known to all.
For with you, and in you, we find our true family
and our eternal home. Amen.

For the BRF ministry of Messy Church



The Lord's Prayer teaches us to value simplicity and humility. Its context in the sermon on the mount is often forgotten. Jesus teaches prayer as an antidote to hypocrisy. It... acknowledges that 'Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.' Prayer is not solely a practice of petition but a discipline of worship.

Stephanie Addenbrooke Bean,
Guidelines, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

On earth as it is in heaven: our best prayer is that earth should become like heaven, so that all creation better reflects the love of God.

Pray with us for

- the Flourish project which seeks to support schools who wish to start a Messy Church this year
- those working on the preparations and logistics for the Messy Church Conference happening in June
- the Messy Church training team delivering online Masterclasses this term
- Aike Kennett-Brown (lead), Jane Butler and Sally O'Hare as they plan and deliver training, pursue networking opportunities and write new materials for Messy Church
- opportunities to work with the other denominational networks and churches

**'God-to-the-rescue' in Christ,
thank you for reaching out in love
to those on the margins and without hope.
Help us in our turn
to care for the last and least among us
with the love you pour into our hearts.
May more and more people
find refuge in the shelter of your presence.
For the sake of the kingdom. Amen.**



For the BRF ministry Parenting for Faith

My prayer for you and for myself is that we constantly reflect on God's plan for salvation through Jesus' life, death on the cross and resurrection, and marvel that we have a part to play, alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Lakshmi Jeffrey, *New Daylight*, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Give us today our daily bread: when we pray, we know that our God, who longs to give us all we need, loves to hear us talk with him about everything.



Pray with us for

- the preparation and delivery of season 11 of the Parenting for Faith podcast
- the Parenting for Faith team: Anna Hawken (ministry lead) who will be building up her hours to full-time this term following her maternity leave, Kate Irvine and Becky Sedgwick
- churches who are running Parenting for Faith courses this spring
- the ongoing ministry of Parenting for Faith books, courses, online articles and social media posts
- the editing and finalising of a book based on the Parenting for Faith podcasts to be released in October this year



**Bread from above,
we bring our wilderness hunger to you,
trusting you to feed us
with all we need
to be truly alive,
this and every day.
Amen.**

For BRF Ministries authors, editors and designers

If we want to imitate Christ in our speech, actions and attitudes, we need to spend time with him. We can do this by learning about his life through the gospels, by sitting quietly in his presence or by talking to him in prayer.

Joy Margetts, *The Upper Room*, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Father, thank you that you've revealed these things to little children: when we pray, we come as children, full of wonder, delight and trust in God's presence.



Pray with us for

- wisdom and inspiration for Rachel Tranter, the team lead for content creation
- God's blessing on those in the content creation team: Ben Bloxham, Rose Edwards, Felicity Howlett, Daniele Och and Becca Turnbull
- the wider team of freelance editors and proofreaders who support all our publications
- good working relationships with those who print and distribute BRF Ministries Bible reading notes and books
- God's blessing on two BRF Ministries publications this month: *The Works of the Lord* by Ruth Bancewicz and the new edition of *Rhythms of Grace* by Tony Horsfall

Living Lord,
 as we open the pages of our Bibles,
 reflect on the thoughts in our Bible notes,
 read insights from Christian writers
 and spend time in prayer,
 may we hear your Spirit's voice
 speaking through these stories from long ago,
 showing us the next step
 on our journey home.
 Through Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.



For our own discipleship through Lent



A disciple is someone who learns the ways of Jesus: someone who spends time with Jesus, who seeks to become more like Jesus and who tries to follow the teachings of Jesus in their own life.

Chris Gillies, *On the Way to Work*
(BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Forgive us our debts: when we pray, we trust that God looks at us through the cross, so sees us cleansed and whole.

Pray with us for

- those who will be using BRF Ministries Lent resources starting this week, and in particular our new Lent book, *The Whole Easter Story* by Jo Swinney
- those churches and home groups using Holy Habits discipleship resources during Lent this year
- ourselves as we seek to deepen our own discipleship on our Lenten pilgrimage towards Holy Week and Easter
- Messy Church teams as they plan Lent and Easter sessions for their communities
- Anna Chaplains as they accompany older people in their lifelong discipleship on the journey home



**Companion in our wilderness,
comforter in our temptations,
counsellor in our struggles,
we lean into your strengthening presence
for the weeks ahead,
trusting that you know our weaknesses,
share our sorrows
and pay for all our sins,
with a love that is stronger than death
and which will never let us go. Amen.**

For BRF Ministries volunteers and supporters

God can speak to us in unexpected ways... and through a variety of means: through other people, circumstances, dreams or in quiet moments of prayer and reflection. It's important to keep our minds and hearts open to these unexpected encounters with God.

Catherine Butcher, *Day by Day with God*, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

As we also have forgiven our debtors: when we pray, we remind ourselves that the answers to our prayers are bound up with our willingness to forgive others.



Pray with us for

- friends of BRF Ministries who support us with regular giving and for those considering giving a gift to our work
- supporters and champions of our Parenting for Faith ministry, with their passion to help Christian families pass on faith to their children
- those who volunteer their time, energy and ideas to run local Messy Church sessions that reach out with God's love to people of all ages in the community
- volunteers who are Anna Chaplains or Anna Friends, giving their time and prayers as they serve among the elderly in our communities
- those who volunteer their time to write articles, social media posts and prayers for us, and those who support our events

**Forgiving God,
who through your Son set all records straight
by the mystery of the cross,
help us to receive
the grace of your forgiveness
and then freely to give to others
what we have freely received.
Amen.**



For the council and trustees of BRF Ministries

It is so easy for us to equate the state of our relationship with God with the extent to which our prayers are answered... Whereas if we make our relationship with God the key issue, we are less likely to be knocked off course if our prayers appear to be unanswered.

John Ryeland, *New Daylight*, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Lead us not into temptation: when we pray, we come as broken and frail creatures who need help to navigate the unpredictable waters of this life.



Pray with us for

- for BRF Ministries trustees, asking the Lord to anoint them with gifts of wise counsel and spiritual understanding on behalf of the charity
- Karen Laister, attending the Churches Together in England forum from Monday to Wednesday this week
- BRF Ministries trustees: Andrew Barton (pictured), Alistair Booth, Paul Cox, Paul Goodliff, Sarah Hayes, Julian Hills and Andrew Howard
- BRF Ministries trustees: David Leeds, Verity Mitchell, Christina Proffitt, Mike Wilkinson
- those trustees serving on the finance and people sub-committees, as they make important decisions concerning the future direction of BRF Ministries



Saviour God,
 teach us the ways of heaven
 and how to live them out here on earth.
 Teach us the truths of heaven
 and how to share them faithfully here on earth.
 Teach us the beauties of heaven
 and how to reflect them better here on earth.
 Amen.

For BRF Ministries' advocacy for the care of creation

What a blessing it is, I thought, that our Lord offers frustration-free, two-way communication 24 hours a day, seven days a week! The lines are always open, and no password is required. A simple prayer uttered during a busy day never results in an error message.

Robert E. Boertien, *The Upper Room*,
May–August 2024

Thought for the week

Deliver us from the evil one: when we pray, we are choosing to flee into God's sheltering embrace where we can be safe from ultimate harm.



Pray with us for

- Messy Churches who are seeking to reduce their use of plastics, develop more eco-friendly resources and promote Messy Church Goes Wild initiatives
- the influence of BRF Ministries publications promoting climate change education, including *Changing the Climate*, *Messy Adventures* and *A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues*
- God's blessing on those advocating for creation care as part of their church's discipleship and call to mission, in the present climate emergency
- all readers and supporters of BRF Ministries affected by the climate emergency, particularly in the global south
- the publication this week of *Ignite: How to share faith, build community and do church, differently* by Debbie and Patrick Ellisdon

Creator God,
thank you for the wonder and variety of our earthly home.
Help us to value it as your gift to us,
and through faithful acts of sacrificial service,
to leave this earth a better place than we found it
and a little more like heaven.
For your name's sake.
Amen.



For all who are called to nurture others



The prophet Daniel's response to the prohibition on prayer is uncompromising... Every day, Daniel prayed, served and expected God to be involved. Every day God heard his prayers and was involved.

Chris Gillies, *On the way to Work*
(BRF Ministries, 2024)

Thought for the week

Love one another, as I have loved you:
when we pray, we remind ourselves that God loved us first and that we have that love to pass on to others.

Pray with us for

- God's enabling for all those called to be mothers, and for godmothers, aunts and grandmothers
- God's strength for those who are older, who are 'the mothers' of our church communities, that they may have opportunities to share the wisdom of years
- God's inspiration for the Messy mums and grandmothers who lead Messy Church teams with a heart for service, evangelism and discipleship
- God's presence to surround stepmothers, bereaved mothers, adoptive mothers, single mothers and foster mothers
- God's blessing on all those whose experience of motherhood or longing to be a mother has taken a difficult and painful path



**God of love,
from whom every family in heaven and earth is named,
may our homes
be places of faith and friendship,
freedom and fun,
as we each learn to give and receive from the other,
inspired by the community of family,
found in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

For God's provision of finance for BRF Ministries

There will be many times when what you want is not granted. Here you are called to draw on knowledge of God's passionate love for you... It is precisely because he wants to give us good gifts, that God may say 'no' to the slot machine approach to quick fixes.

Fiona Barnard, *Day by Day with God*,
May–August 2024



Thought for the week

Yours is the kingdom: when we pray, we are recognising God as our one true King.

Pray with us for

- the BRF Ministries fundraising team as they prepare for the annual appeal and for God's blessing on those who generously support BRF Ministries
- Julie McNaughton (pictured), who is head of fundraising, and who coordinates projects, initiatives and strategic relationships with funders, trusts and donors
- the fundraising team: Harry Clough, Jane Dutton, Tabatha Griffiths, Helen Morrison and Phil Turner
- the sale and distribution of BRF Ministries Easter and everyday cards, that God will bless those who send and receive them
- God's blessing on those charitable foundations who receive funding bids from BRF Ministries and who choose to support us

Lord of Lords,
we long for your kingdom to come,
your glory to be seen,
your power to be revealed,
for the healing of the nations
and the restoration of all things.
In your mighty name, we pray.
Amen.



For all seeking Jesus this Holy Week



Part of our weekday routine for my wife and I is to set aside half an hour for silent prayer before breakfast... I rejoice that such silent worship is not something confined to earth, but that it forms part of the worshipping life of eternity.

David Walker, *New Daylight*, May–August 2024

Thought for the week

May this cup be taken from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will: when we pray, we remember what it cost Jesus to open heaven's door for us and bring us home.

Pray with us for

- God's blessing on all those who are reading our Holy Week social media posts
- all those using BRF Ministries resources in print or digitally as Easter draws near
- all volunteers in Messy Church, Anna Chaplaincy and Parenting for Faith teams who are helping others come close to the meaning of the cross this week
- those who are joining with you this morning praying these same prayers, that each one may come closer to Jesus today
- those you know who are leading Holy Week and Easter services, and those taking the story out on to the streets in your community



Holy and pain-bearing God,
who on the cross
experienced desolation and despair,
draw close to us in this life,
when we walk through the valley of the
shadow of death
and grant us a glimpse of your glory to come.
Amen.

For BRF Ministries' commitment to live the good news

We can come to God in prayer even with a burden that feels so big to us that we don't know what to say, and our heavenly advocate will present our requests to God. The more I learn about God, the more I realise how amazing God is.

Patricia Rhoadarmer, *The Upper Room*,
May–August 2024



Thought for the week

Your is the power: when we pray, we are acknowledging that God's strength is made perfect in weakness.

Pray with us for

- a renewal of joy as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Easter Sunday
- a renewal of faith as we hear and read again the timeless truths of Easter
- a renewal of evangelistic zeal as we take the opportunity to share with our friends and family why Easter is so important to us
- a renewal of vision for BRF Ministries staff and volunteers as they engage with the work to which they are called
- God's blessing on the publication today of *Discipleship: Start This Way* and *Discipleship: Walk This Way* by Guy Donegan-Cross

Lord of the empty tomb,
where darkness threatens
scatter it with your light.
Where evil triumphs
transform it with your goodness.
Where danger stalks
disarm it with your power.
Where oppression imprisons
break it with your resurrection.
Through him who conquered death
and lives forevermore. Amen.



For God's blessing on BRF Ministries and its staff

'Send us out in the power of the Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory.' This is our collective commitment to go out and be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus in our world. This is not an optional extra.

Jonathan Arnold, *The Everyday God* (BRF Ministries, 2024)



Thought for the week

Yours is the glory, forever. Amen:
when we pray, we are asking for God's signature to be on everything that happens in our lives.

Pray with us for

- the joy of Easter to fill our hearts and minds and inspire us to serve the Lord faithfully in God's world
- the power of Easter to energise all working in BRF Ministries, so that more and more people may come to God through Jesus Christ
- the truth of Easter to guide and shape the way we live, so that God's kingdom might come
- the story of Easter to refresh and reignite passion for Jesus throughout BRF Ministries
- the miracle of Easter to impact afresh those for whom we pray for in our family, among our friends and in our community



Lord Jesus,
you are heaven's 'amen'
to God's promises and prayers for us.
We offer you our 'amen'
as our faith-filled 'yes'
to God's grace and purpose for us.
Amen is not an end, but the certain fulfilment
of all God's prayers and ours.
Amen.

The prayer of BRF Ministries

Faithful God,
thank you for growing BRF Ministries
from small beginnings
into the worldwide family it is today.

We rejoice as young and old
discover you through your word
and grow daily in faith and love.
Keep us humble in your service,
ambitious for your glory
and open to new opportunities.
For your name's sake.

Amen.

As a charity, we rely on fundraising and gifts in wills to deliver
Anna chaplaincy, Living Faith, Messy church and Parenting for
Faith. Your gift helps us impact thousands of lives each year.

Please support our work.

brf.org.uk/give +44 (0)1235 462305

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