

Prayer Diary – March 2020

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2

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1	Sunday Today is Self-Harm Awareness Day. We mourn the rise in incidents of self-harm in our prisons. We pray for every person self-harming, that they would find courage to ask for help, and receive the support they need to heal and find hope.
2	Monday There is a Sycamore Tree course finishing today at HMP Pentonville. Thank God for every learner who has engaged with the coursework and made a symbolic act of restitution. May this experience stay with them and sustain lasting change.
3	Tuesday There is a new Sycamore Tree course beginning at HMP Humber today. Pray for courage, openness and hope for every learner beginning a course this month.
4	Wednesday We pray for all our volunteers working to make Angel Tree Mothers' Day a success this year. May their path be smooth as they receive applications, get them through security, and get the cards and gifts sent out.
5	Thursday There is a new Sycamore Tree course beginning at HMP Ford today. We pray for our volunteer Tutors and Group Facilitators, that they might sense the Holy Spirit's presence in the room as they teach and guide.
6	Peter Holloway, our CEO, is speaking at the Keswick in Devon conference today, and some of our local volunteers will be manning a stall for PF, too. Pray that God would open hearts to hear Peter's message and that many people would be inspired to sign up as supporters and volunteers.
7	Saturday Today, we pray for the ten women's prisons in England: Drake Hall, Downview, East Sutton

Park, Eastwood Park, Foston Hall, Low

Newton, Send, Styal, New Hall, and Askham Grange. May the women who live here, and all the staff and volunteers who work with them, be surrounded by God's love and protection. Sunday Today is International Women's Day. We think of the 3,705 women currently serving a prison sentence, many of whom have been victims of crime more serious than that they committed. God of love, we pray for Your inner freedom for every woman in prison, that they might know that they are eternally loved.

9 Monday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing today at HMP Altcourse.

10 Tuesday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course ending today at HMP Preston.

11 Wednesday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses finishing today at HMP Norwich and HMP Wymott.

12 Thursday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses finishing today at HMP Hindley and HMP Risley.

13 Friday

An inspection last year at a Young Offender's Institution, reported that a third of young people said they got less than two hours out of their cell every day. Pray for the political will and budget to improve conditions and security in prison, so that they become places of connection, growth and rehabilitation.

14 Saturday

Pray for young people in prison who have decided to send an *Angel Tree* gift to their mum or carer this year. Pray that it might bring them happiness to know they can surprise and delight her in this way. Pray that these gifts might be a moment of healing and connection.

15 Sunday

Today is the third Sunday in Lent. Psalm 95 says, "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." As we make this our prayer today, we remember that every person in prison is also under God's care.

16 Monday

We continue to pray throughout 2020 against the continued high levels of violence in prison. God of peace, You remember those who society has forgotten; Your heart breaks at every act of violence committed. May we work for and see sustained calm in every prison we work in; may we be bringers of Your peace.

17 Tuesday

There is a new *Sycamore Tree* course beginning at HMP Downview today.

18 Wednesday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting today at HMP Northumberland, and two finishing at HMP Bullingdon and HMP Brixton.

19 Thursday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing today at HMP Wealstun.

20 Friday

We remember all the mums and carers who will be receiving gifts from young people in prison through *Angel Tree*. May God's love and comfort surround them at this difficult time, and may there be people to support and strengthen them.

21 Saturday

Today is the *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. Black, Asian and Ethnic Minorities are over represented in the prison system. And so we confess the racism still rooted in our systems in this country and in our own hearts. Creator God, You filled Your world with beautiful diversity. Give us wisdom, awareness and courage to bring about change and equality.

22 Sunday

On Mothering Sunday, we pray for women in prison who are separated from their children, and for mothers whose own children are serving a prison sentence. Loving God, bring comfort to those in pain, and strengthen our

volunteers working in women's prisons to show Your love and hope in those places.

23 Monday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course starting at HMP Garth today, and two finishing at HMP Hull and HMP Thorn Cross.

24 Tuesday

Peter Holloway is in Washington this week for Prison Fellowship International's *Global Capacity Initiative*. Thank God for the work of Prison Fellowship in countries across the world and pray that the meetings this week would identify wise and appropriate ways of supporting this global work.

There is a new *Sycamore Tree* course beginning at HMP Portland and two finishing at HMP Onley and HMP The Mount.

25 Wednesday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course finishing today at HMP Kirkham.

26 Thursday

There is a *Sycamore Tree* course beginning at HMP Swansea, and one finishing at HMP Feltham.

27 Friday

We continue to pray for the team at Oasis who will be running the new Secure School at Medway. May God give them wisdom, clarity and a bright vision for the work ahead.

28 Saturday

We pray for prisons running an Alpha or Christianity Explored course this month, that they might enable people to explore faith in a safe and inspiring way.

29 Sunday

This is the fifth Sunday in Lent. Psalm 130 says, "If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you." Thank God that this is as true for us as it is for the men and women in prison that we serve and pray for!

30 Monday

There is another *Sycamore Tree* course finishing today at HMP Onley.

31 Tuesday

There are two *Sycamore Tree* courses finishing today at HMP Lowdham Grange and HMP Styal.