

Prayer Diary – July 2020

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8

1	Wednesday Loving God, help us even in these hard times, to trust that You are who You say You are, and that You are living and active in our lives, and the lives of everyone in prison.
2	Thursday While visits are still suspended, we pray for families who are unable to see loved ones. God of comfort, would you sustain them through this separation and preserve the relationships.
3	Friday More than 1,000 prisoners were released into homelessness over two weeks at the height of the coronavirus pandemic in England and Wales. This is a major issue facing prison leavers. Pray that solutions would be found, that ensures safe and stable accommodation for everyone leaving prison.
4	Saturday Last month, Prison Fellowship relaunched our <i>Letter Link</i> programme, with refreshed and new resources. Pray that even more men and women in prison would take up the opportunity to connect with a supportive volunteer through letter writing.
5	Sunday On this day of Sabbath rest, we pray that Christians in prison across England and Wales would be able to rest in God’s love, and know the refreshment that the Water of Life gives.
6	Monday We pray today for those in prison who are struggling together with the mental health impact of being in solitary confinement through this coronavirus lockdown. May God’s peace that passes understanding fill each one, and may they have resilience to endure.
7	Tuesday BAME individuals are less likely to be identified with problems such as learning difficulties or mental health concerns on reception at prison. Pray for those arriving in prison this week, that

	they will quickly access the support they need.
8	Wednesday As HMPPS plans to begin lifting some lockdown measures, we pray for wisdom for those in leadership, that the right balance can be found between safety and the activities so necessary for rehabilitation and improved mental health.
9	Thursday Children with a parent in prison have not been able to see them for nearly four months, which is having a devastating impact on their emotional health and wellbeing. God, you see and care for each little one. We pray for visits to be possible again soon, and the children to know they are loved and missed.
10	Friday A big challenge facing prison leavers is finding stable employment. That challenge is likely to be even greater during the current coronavirus crisis and resulting economic slump. Pray for those leaving prison this month, that God would open doors and facilitate connections.
11	Saturday Our Angel Tree programme allows parents in prison to send a Christmas present to their child. As our volunteers and staff begin the planning for the year’s programme, pray for wisdom and creativity to overcome any obstacles caused by coronavirus restrictions.
12	Sunday God of Joy, even in the challenge of lockdown, we pray that prison Chaplains might know the delight and joy of serving the men and women in their care.
13	Monday God our Shield and Fortress, as prisons begin to lift some lockdown restrictions, we pray that you would protect residents and staff from the coronavirus.

14	Tuesday Research suggests BAME prisoners are less likely to have a prison job or participation in offender behaviour programmes. Pray that any barriers to participation would be removed, allowing for real rehabilitation for all.
15	Wednesday Pray that some prisons may see a way for Sycamore Tree courses to begin again in prison, so that men and women get the chance to consider their past and make positive choices for the future.
16	Thursday Pray for those in leadership in our Government and HMPPS – for Robert Buckland, Lucy Frazer, and Dr Jo Farrar.
17	Friday Many who have renewed or come to faith in prison hope to find a local church once they are released. While churches are not currently meeting in buildings, pray that prison leavers would still find ways to connect with a local community to support them on their journey.
18	Saturday A small number of PF volunteers continue to go into prison as Lay Chaplains. Pray that God would protect them and give them renewed energy to support Chaplaincy teams that are very stretched at present.
19	Sunday We pray for Bishop James of Rochester and Bishop Rachel of Gloucester who are the “prison bishops” for the Church of England. Thank you God, for the passion you have given them for this work. Would you bless their ministry and their advocacy for those inside.
20	Monday We pray for those in prison struggling with addiction, for appropriate and effective support, and the hope that they can become and stay clean.
21	Tuesday Both BAME men and women in prison report poorer relationships with prison staff. We pray today for an increase in trust and respect.
22	Wednesday Children in prison, are likely to be particularly negatively affected by so much time in isolation in their cells. God of love, would you protect their hearts and minds from any negative impact, and give them hope.
23	Thursday Thank you for the many online trainings that

	PF has been able to run for volunteers over the past few months. Pray that, as lockdown measures lift, we will be ready and equipped to serve even more people in prison.
24	Friday We pray for men and women being released from prison this month, that they would be able to reconnect with family and friends and find a positive and supportive environment.
25	Saturday God of healing, we pray for every PF volunteer who is unwell right now. Would they know your loving presence with them in their pain, and would You return them to full health.
26	Sunday God, your church extends beyond walls and fences, encompassing all who trust Jesus as their Saviour. Thank you that we are united with our brothers and sisters in prison.
27	Monday We pray today for all the PF staff team, who are working from home. God of grace, would you renew their energy, give them patience and clarity in their work, and joy in the impact they are having.
28	Tuesday We pray for an increasing number of BAME prison staff to be recruited and promoted to leadership roles, to ensure equity and trust across the prison system.
29	Wednesday As the court system begins to return to normal, we pray against overcrowding in prisons, which decreases safety and the possibility for rehabilitation. We pray for just and wise decisions at all stages of the criminal justice process.
30	Thursday We pray for women being released from prison, who previously experienced abuse or coercion from a partner. God of love, we pray for strong support systems and the deep and unwavering knowledge of their own self-worth.
31	Friday Heavenly Father, You hold everything in Your hands. You enter into the chaos and brokenness of our world to redeem and transform it. We are Your hands and feet. Guide us in your way and fill us with your Spirit of Love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

