

**Subject:** Prayers 19th March 2020  
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**Dear all,**

**I enclose today's prayers and readings**

**These readings are from the lectionary for 2020 so Christians all over the world will be using the same words to worship today - Let us all be united in Christ**

**Lord our God**, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

Psalm 89:26-36

He shall cry to me, "You are my Father,  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation!"

I will make him the firstborn,  
the highest of the kings of the earth.

For-ever I will keep my steadfast love for him,  
and my covenant with him will stand firm.  
I will establish his line for ever,  
and his throne as long as the heavens endure.

If his children forsake my law  
and do not walk according to my ordinances,  
if they violate my statutes  
and do not keep my commandments,  
then I will punish their transgression with the rod  
and their iniquity with scourges;  
but I will not remove from him my steadfast love,  
or be false to my faithfulness.

I will not violate my covenant,  
or alter the word that went forth from my lips.  
Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness;  
I will not lie to David.

His line shall continue for ever,  
and his throne endure before me like the sun.

## **Matthew 1:18-end**

### **The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord  
commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had  
borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

It may seem strange to have this reading as we are in Lent but today is the feast of Joseph of  
Nazareth

Let us now say together the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

And finally a Prayer from The Archbishop of Canterbury

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **AMEN**

**May you have a blessed day - Vicky**