

Prayers for February 2024

Lent is a special time for Christians: a time of grace, of conversion, of renewal. Praying for each other; praying with each other as we enter the Holy Season of Lent.

1. *At the start of a new month, we pray - All praise to you, Father, Creator of all that was, all that is, and all that is to come. We pray for all who live in Conghurst Lane, Ridsen, Foxhole Lane. In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of Headcorn and The Suttons, and the Vicar, Revd Fiona Haskett. We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.*
2. ***Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas).*** *Today we remember Joseph and Mary taking Jesus to the temple. We give thanks for the tradition of Baptism in our churches. We pray for all making this promise in the sight of God. Amen. We pray for the people living in Delmond Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingham and Hurst Green. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.*
3. *To pray, we must first learn to listen: for in the silence of the heart God speaks. Bless all the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Benenden Hospital and the Hawkhurst Cottage Hospital. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.*
4. *Help us in the stillness of our prayers to enter your peace, which passes all understanding. We pray for all who work in the shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, and in our village. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.*
5. *Everything begins with prayer that is born in the silence of our hearts. We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road. Bless and guide the King and all members of the Royal family.*
6. *Today let us move about and work prayerfully, quietly and gently. We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.*
7. *If we are careful of silence, it will be easy to pray. We pray for the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst and with St Mary's Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Hearten Oak Road.*
8. *Silence came before creation, and the heavens were spread without a word. We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and the Vicar Revd. Rachel Robertson.*

9. *Turn to the Lord your God again, for He is all tenderness and compassion. We pray for all who live in Cranbrook Road and Sandrock Cottages. We pray for the parish of Cranbrook and their Vicar Revd. Richard King.*
10. *God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. Bless and guide those living in Fairview and Northgrove Road. We pray for all who worship in the Parish of Marden and the Vicar, Revd. Nicola Harvey.*
11. *Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you, O Lord. We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury. We pray for all members of the Methodist Fellowship in Hawkhurst.*
12. *“Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.’” John 4:34. We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and for Father Ethelbert Ukpabi. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street.*
13. ***Shrove Tuesday.*** *On this Shrove Tuesday, Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the bounty you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others. As Lent begins tomorrow, prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that means for us. Amen. We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartenokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell during their interregnum.*
14. ***Ash Wednesday.*** *All powerful and ever-living God, give us grace to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow you through Christ your Son, more closely in this **holy Season of Lent**. We pray for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk. We pray for all who worship in the Baptist Church in our village, and for the Minister Revd. Ben Gotts and his family.*
15. *Holy Spirit, come to us in times of great challenge, to accompany us on the journey through this Lent, to understanding our true selves. Amen. We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park and Highgate Hill.*
16. *Our prayer, fasting and almsgiving must be less to benefit us than to draw us closer to God and to improve the lives of those around us. We pray for all the schools in our village, for the Headteachers, Staff and pupils and in particular for the Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School and the Headteacher Jodi Hacker.*
17. *Lord Jesus Christ, we ask you to walk this path beside us, as you have done before. Help us to be unwavering in our faith, so that we are never tempted from your road.*

Amen. We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.

18. **First Sunday of Lent.** *Compassionate Father, help us to see you in all those who need our support and may we continue to do your work, wherever it is needed. Amen.* We pray for all living on Slip-mill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sobers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam and the Rector Canon Christopher Irvine.
19. *Loving Lord, we thank you for forgiving our sins and ask you to give us the peace that comes from being able to forgive others and ourselves. Amen.* We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.
20. *“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” Matt 25:40.* We pray today for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
21. *Alms giving: “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”* We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
22. *“When the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life”. Ezekiel 18:27.* We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close. We pray for the parish of Staplehurst, and the Vicar Revd Silke Tezlaff.
23. *“Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you”. Matt 5:44.* We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.
24. *Lord may we turn humbly to your word, so that we do not lose sight, in our outward display of faith, of your command to be compassionate. Amen.* We keep in prayer those living in Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
25. **Second Sunday of Lent.** *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Mic 6:8b.* We pray for all living in Attwater Lane and Potters Lane. We pray for Revd. David Commander, Rector of the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst, and Area Dean of the Weald Deanery and also for Revd. Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Assistant Priest and all the parishioners.
26. *“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you”. Luke*

6:37-38. We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village.

27. *Merciful Father, you welcome all who forsake their sins and turn to your Son with faith and a contrite heart - pour out your mercy and forgiveness on all who are penitent, so that we may praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen* We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.

28. *Jesus makes it clear that if we follow his way, we need to embrace his model of humility. "It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave". Matt 20:26-28.* We pray for Justin Welby, our Archbishop, Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover and Stephen, Archdeacon and acting Diocesan Secretary, Andrew, Archdeacon of Maidstone. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.

29. *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone". Matt 21:42. Happy those who endure in peace, By you, Most High, they will be crowned. Amen.* We pray for our Vicar, Fr Rodney Dreyer and his family. We also pray for our Churchwardens, and all the members of our PCC. We remember all the members of our fellowship who live outside the parish.

***Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.
When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart.
[Jer 29:12-13]***