

Prayers for May 2025

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

Matthew 6:25-27

1. **Philip and James, Apostles.** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. [James 1:2-3].* 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 during their interregnum.
2. *Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373. 'He became what we are so that he might make us what he is.'* [Athanasius of Alexandria] We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.
3. *Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. [Ps 33:1]* We pray for the people living in Delmonden Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parishes of Etchingham and Hurst Green.
4. **Third Sunday of Easter.** *Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. [Ps 30:4-5]* We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.
5. *Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. [Ps 27:14].* We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and for their Minister Father Ethelbert Ukpabi. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.
6. *Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart! [Ps 32:11].* We pray for the members of the Crown Nominations Committee as they work towards the appointment of the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.
7. *Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together. [Ps 34:3].* We pray today for all the schools in our village as they return this week, in particular for Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School, the Headteacher Jodi Hacker, the staff, governors, volunteers, and parents. 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.
8. *Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417. 'And just as he does not stop loving us because of our sin, so he wills that we should not stop loving ourselves or our fellow Christians.'* [Revelations of Divine Love, Ch40]. We remember today the Food 4 Families food bank in Hawkhurst, for the volunteers and for all those who need its services. We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.

- 9 *Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. [Ps 31:24].* Bless all the doctors, nurses and staff who work at Benenden Hospital and the Hawkhurst Community Hospital. We pray and give thanks for all who work in the emergency services. We remember the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst with St Mary's Frittenden and the Vicar, Revd. Pete Deaves.
- 10 *Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. [Ps 42:11b].* We pray for all who work in the shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, in our village. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Hartenoak Road.
- 11 **Fourth Sunday of Easter.** *Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. [Ps 146:1-2].* We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane.
- 12 *Gregory Dix, Priest, Monk, Scholar, 1952. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul. [Ps 103:22].* 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.
- 13 *For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. [Ps 48:14].* 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.
- 14 **Matthias the Apostle.** *Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. [Acts 1:1-15].* 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.
- 15 *I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. [Ps 57:9-10].* We pray today for all ordinands and those in training for Licensed Lay Ministry. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane and The High Street and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and the Vicar Revd. Rachel Robertson.
- 16 *Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877. 'The best way to do ourselves good is to be doing good to others.' [Caroline Chisholm].* We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartnokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell during their interregnum.
- 17 *Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. [Ps 68:4].* 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 their Minister Revd. Ben Gotts and his family.
- 18 **Fifth Sunday of Easter.** *Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. [Ps 148:1].* We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park and Highgate Hill.
- 19 *Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, Restorer of Monastic Life, 988. 'The love of God is the highest wisdom, and the knowledge of God is the highest virtue.' [Dunstan].* We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.
- 20 *Alcuin of York, Deacon, Abbot of Tours, 804. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring for ever. [Ps 19:9a].* We pray for all living on Slipmill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sopers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam and the Rector Canon Christopher Irvine.

21. *Helena, Protector of the Holy Places, 330. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. [Ps 98:1].* We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.
22. *I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. [Ps 104:33].* We pray today for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk.
23. *Shout for joy to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. [Ps 66:1-2].* We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
24. *John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to thee by both be given: Thee we greet triumphant now; Hail the resurrection thou! [Charles Wesley].* 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.
25. **Sixth Sunday of Easter.** *May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. [Ps 67:3].* We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.
26. *Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605. Pray in the spirit and sentiment of love, in which the royal prophet said to Him, 'Thou, O Lord, are my portion.' [Augustine of Canterbury].* We keep in prayer those living in Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
27. *The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. [Ps 126:3].* 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.
28. *Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089. How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! [Ps 133:1].* We remember today all those in care in the village. We pray for the staff and residents of Bowles Lodge and Hawkhurst House. We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village.
29. **Ascension Day.**
*Hail the day that sees him rise
 Glorious to his native skies;
 Christ, awhile to mortals given,
 Enters now the highest heaven! Alleluya! [Charles Wesley]*
 We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.
30. *Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906. Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! [Ps 81:1].* We pray for the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, Iain Blythe the Diocesan Secretary and Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of Maidstone. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.
31. **The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.** *[Elizabeth said:] "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!". [Luke 1:42-45].* We pray for our Vicar,

Canon Fr Rodney Dreyer and for his family. We pray for our churchwarden, all members of our PCC and also for those members of our fellowship who live outside the parish.

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33