

Prayers for April 2026

Loving God, during this time of vacancy, we give thanks for your church in our community, for the many who work together and worship you faithfully. Help us to stay true to our mission prayer for growth in your church and, as we serve you, may we see lives radically transformed.

Grant wisdom and discernment to those who are to choose a new vicar for this parish, that we may welcome the priest you have prepared for us, to lead us with joy and loving obedience to your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

1. *Wednesday of Holy Week. True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory. 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. *Maundy Thursday. God our Father, your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end and drank the cup prepared for him: may we who share his table watch with him through the night of suffering and be faithful. We remember in prayer today those who live in Cowden Lane and Horns Road.*
3. *Good Friday. Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love: in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for the people living in Delmond Lane, and North Hill Road, and remember the parish of Holy Trinity, Hurst Green during their interregnum.*
4. *Easter Eve. Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. We pray for all living in Red Oak and Hensil Lane.*
5. *Easter Day. Alleluia, Christ is Risen!* We pray for all who worship and serve in the Roman Catholic Church of St Barnabas and Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi. We pray for families who live on The Moor and in The Chestnuts.
6. *Monday of Easter Week. When I look at the blood all I see is love, love, love. When I stop at the cross I can see the love of God. [Godfrey Birtill]. Bless and guide the King and all members of the Royal family. We pray for all living on Horns Corner and Horns Hill.*
7. *Tuesday of Easter Week. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. [1 Peter 1:18-20]. We pray for all living on Moor Hill, Talbot Road and The Hawthorns; Stream Lane and Hastings Road.*
8. *Wednesday of Easter Week. As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness. [Ps 17.15]. We remember in our prayers all living in All Saints Road, Smugglers, Smugglers Mews and Dickens Way.*

- 9 *Thursday of Easter Week. May God in His mercy lead us through these times; but above all, may He lead us to Himself. [Dietrich Bonhoeffer].* We remember the parishioners of Trinity Church, Sissinghurst with St Mary's Frittenden during their interregnum.
- 10 *Friday of Easter Week. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. [Rom 8.28].* We remember today the Food 4 Families food bank in Hawkhurst, for the volunteers and for all those who need its services. We pray for the families living in Barretts Road and Heartenoak Road.
- 11 *Saturday of Easter Week. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. [2 Cor 3.18].* We pray for all who live in Tongswood Drive and Whites Lane.
- 12 **Second Sunday of Easter.** *Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' [John 20.21-23].* We pray for all who work in and own shops, pubs, restaurants and businesses in the High Street, in our village. 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 *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire. [Heb 12.28-29.]* 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. Bless and guide those living in Fairview and Northgrove Road.
- 14 *Lord, you have always marked the road for the coming day and though it may be hidden, today I believe.* We pray for those living in Gills Green and Wellington Cottages, Tubs Lake and those living in Bedgebury. We pray for Revd. Nicola Harvey, Vicar of Marden and Area Dean of the Weald Deanery, Curate Rev Vicki Young and all the parishioners of Marden.
- 15 *Let us pray with open hand and not with clenched fist. Let us always be open to hear the voice of the Lord.* We pray today for all ordinands and those in training for Licensed Lay Ministry. Bless those living in Gingerbread Lane, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and The High Street and for the parish of Goudhurst and Kilndown, and their Vicar, Revd. Rachel Robertson.
- 16 *Isabella Gilmore, Deaconess, 1923. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. [Acts 2.46-47].* We pray for those living in Gunther Court, Hartnokes and Basden Cottages, and also for the parishes of Ticehurst and Flimwell and their vicar, the Revd. Canon Dr Jason Radcliff.
- 17 *Everything He gives you to do, you must do as well as ever you can. That is the best possible preparation for what He may want you to do next. [George MacDonald].* 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. *I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. [Ps 121.1-2].* We pray for all who live in Mercers, Lorenden Park, Herschel Place and Highgate Hill.
19. **Third Sunday of Easter.** *Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father.* We pray today for all the schools in our village, in particular for Hawkhurst Church of England Primary School, the Headteacher Jodi Hacker, the staff, governors, volunteers, and parents. We pray for all those living in Murton-Neale Close and Camerons. We also pray for all living in Oakfield and Theobalds.
20. *But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless. [Ps 141.8].* We pray for all living on Slipmill Lane, Slipmill Road and Sopers Lane. Pray for the parishes of Ewhurst and Bodiam during their interregnum.
21. *Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher of the Faith, 1109. But their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. [Ps 1.2-3].* We pray for all living in the area of Queens Road, Park Cottages and Dunlop Court.
22. *Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. [2 Tim 4.2].* We pray today for those who live in Copthall Avenue, Fieldways and Church Walk. We pray for all living in Queens Close and Hammonds.
23. **George, Martyr, Patron of England, c.304.** *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. [Joshua 1.9].* We bring to you in our prayers today, all living in Western Road and School Terrace, Rye Road and Highfield Close.
24. *Mellitus, Bishop of London, first Bishop at St Paul's, 624. Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. [James 5.13].* We pray for all living in Oaklands Road and Tates. We pray for all living in Winchester Road, Woodbury Road and Vale Road.
25. **Mark the Evangelist.** *And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. [Mark 13,10-11].* We keep in prayer those living in Ockley Road, Barretts Green and Norris Close.
26. **Fourth Sunday of Easter.** *Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.* 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 also for Revd. Ylva Blid-Mackenzie, the Assistant Priest and all the parishioners.

27. *Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894. Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, love to God and all men, love for plea and gift and sign. [Christina Rosetti].* We keep in prayer the residents of Water Lane and Gun Green.
28. *Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. [Isa 53.6].* We pray today for all living in Herschel Place, Woodham Close, Birchfield Grove and all new homes in our village. We remember today all those in care in the village. We pray for the staff and residents of Bowles Lodge and Hawkhurst House.
29. *Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380. But you, O Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. [Ps 3.3].* We pray for Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Estella Last, Archdeacon of Maidstone and Iain Blythe the Diocesan Secretary. We pray for the work and ministry of the Anglican Consultative Council.
30. *Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922. Lord Jesus, We know that you have plans for us and that these plans are good. We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.* We pray for our churchwardens, lay ministers, members of our PCC and also for those members of our fellowship who live outside the parish. We pray for all those clergy ministering to us during our period of vacancy.

Father God, in this time of transition, help us to see Your presence in our community and to listen to Your will for the way ahead. May our lips speak Your words, and our hands do Your work as we wait for your kingdom to come. Amen

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