

CRAMOND KIRK



MAY PRAYER DIARY

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

(John 21 : 4 - 7)

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Topics are arranged over 7 days which you may find helpful.

Sunday

Pray for Russell & Tom & their ministry in teaching & in pastoral activities. Pray for Rev Stanley Okeke as he becomes involved in the ministry of Cramond Kirk. Pray also for Edith Butler as she becomes our new Session Clerk this month & give thanks for Sandra Watson & her ministry to the Kirk over the past 5 years.

Monday

Pray for the General Assembly 2019 meeting from Saturday, 18 to Friday, 24 May. Pray for Rev Colin Sinclair as he becomes Moderator & presides over the discussions. Pray for a spirit of unity & charity to be evident. Pray also for the success of the Heart & Soul event to take place in Princes Street Gardens on Sunday, 19 May.

Tuesday

Pray for the families of victims & also for church communities devastated by the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka. Rev Dr Liam Fraser, campus minister at the University of Edinburgh, has started an online Just Giving page to allow people to show solidarity & support for all those affected (see www.churchofscotland.org.uk). Pray that the support shown will help meet immediate needs & also provide long term aid.

Wednesday

Christian Aid Week takes place from 12 - 18 May. Pray for the success of all the events that have been organised & also for the door to door collectors. Pray that the monies raised will help to alleviate some of the suffering & poverty that many of the world's poor experience every day. For 2019 Christian Aid Week is supporting the medical needs of women & girls in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Thursday *(from the Christian Aid Prayer Diary)*

Give thanks for the faith leaders who help promote messages of healthcare & disease prevention across the world. Praise God for Reverend Christiana Sutton-Koroma who does this in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Give thanks for how she & her colleagues helped reduce the spread of Ebola in 2014 & now spread a message of maternal & infant health.

Friday

Jennie Chinembiri is the Africa & Caribbean secretary with the Church of Scotland's World Mission Council & was the guest speaker at our February Saturday morning Breakfast Club. Jennie has been diagnosed with metastatic paraganglioma, a rare form of cancer & she asks that we keep her & her family in our thoughts & prayers.

"Can I ask you to hold me & my family, husband Ainslie & children Anatswa (6 years) & Kupa (4 years) as well as my wider family in prayer.

Please pray that:

- we know the peace of God
- we choose the correct treatment options
- this genetic condition will stop with me & my two children Anatswa & Kupa will not have this.
- I will live a long & healthy life & importantly will see Anatswa & Kupa grown & settled.
- God will be glorified through this."

Saturday

In May Andy & Sally Cook will be cycling from St Columba's Hospice in Edinburgh to Iona to raise funds for & awareness of the work of the Hospice. Pray for safety & energy for Andy & Sally as they attempt this challenge & pray for the ministry of St Columba's Hospice.

REFLECTION

The disciples have been disillusioned. Their idealism had been assaulted by reality & the seeds of faith were now scattered in upturned soil. A consequence of the departure of Jesus, the delay of his promised return & a deficiency in their community - the place that was to be a safe harbour when everything else has come crashing down. One of their own had betrayed Jesus: handed him over to the enemy with a gesture of devotion. Peter had sworn he had no knowledge of the Galilean & certainly no allegiance to him. Disenchanted by the humiliating reversal of their plans to overthrow their political enemies, only John bothered to witness the crucifixion. Hindsight might suggest that Judas acted out of religious zeal but his suicide exposes his own disappointment. Peter surely feared for his own survival despite his recent promise to follow Jesus come what may. The other disciples enjoyed the thrills of being a part of the coming revolution but it hadn't occurred to them that the victory would not come to pass in their lifetime... Peter turns back to the life they once knew. He plans a late-night fishing trip & 7 of the 11 show up. This attempt to return to the way things were ignores that the encounter with Jesus gave them a greater mission. The writer presents this familiar activity as a distraction from the greater mission. Failing to move forward, career fishermen failed to catch anything all night long. So their impatience & confusion is marred with disappointment. This makes John's narrative allusion noteworthy. Failure in fishing brings back the failed mission felt on Friday night. Unachieved goals mirror the anti-climax when the resurrected Jesus appears with promises of power & then leaves again at the moment of their recognition. Confusion sets in as they realize they can't go back & they don't know the way forward. The entire narrative had been an invitation to join with Jesus in God's mission - a mission that is not about heaven when we die or converts to a religion. Jesus' disciples are doers. The disciples are still on a journey of discovery marked by relationships with respected friends & loved ones. They have to recover the habits of discipleship they practiced for 3 years: regular experiences of God intruding on the ordinary, followed by lengthy discussions about seeing the difference God's grace makes in the lives of people who encounter acts of love & kindness. Up close & personal ministry.

**Joy J Moore, Lead Pastor & Ecclesial Storyteller
Bethel United Methodist Church, Flint, Michigan**

(https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=4059)

If you have a prayer request or a favourite prayer which you would care to share in a future Prayer Diary, please e-mail cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk.