



Anglican Church of Southern Africa



DIOCESE OF JOHANNESBURG

MAY PRAYER DIARY

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
- ⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and
going
both now and forevermore

“A special edition looking at some Life lessons from women of the Bible.”

Sunday, 1 May EVE, the Mother of All Living

Genesis 2:4b and 3:1-24

God created Adam and found him wanting. Enter Eve, formed from Adam's rib, made of the same raw materials as he, and given the power to choose between good and evil?. In the creation story we find a strong, interdependent Eve, fully engaged with the world around her. She explored the Garden, dialogued with a serpent, decided on the forbidden fruit, and liked it enough to share the experience with Adam.

Eve's story reminds us that women can be both creative and destructive. She teaches us to weigh our choices carefully, tempering our desires with wisdom.

- We pray for the Diocese of Angola.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Monday, 2 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Christ the King and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Peter Lee.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with

wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Tuesday, 3 May

Schools Re-open

Prayer for Educational Institutions

Eternal God

Bless all schools, colleges, and universities, especially ***Bishop Bavin School, St John's College, St John's Prep School, St Mary's Junior School, St Mary's School for Girls, St Peter's College, St Peter's Prep for Girls, St Peter's School and Vuleka Schools,*** that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, USA, 1979

- We pray for the Diocese of False Bay and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Merwyn Castle.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Wednesday, 4 May HAGAR, the stranger welcomed by God

Genesis 16:1-16 and 21:1-21

After God promised He would make of Abram a great nation, Sarai, past childbearing age, suggested he impregnate her maid Hagar. Be careful what you ask for. Once Hagar was pregnant, Sarai regretted her scheme, and heaped so much abuse on Hagar that the weary woman fled. There, in the wilderness, the slave, whose name means, "stranger," received a comforting message. "The Lord has heard you. God has answered you." Hagar returned to her abusive mistress with a promise that her own son's descendants would be too many to count.

If you are disenfranchised, despised, or despairing, listen for the voices of angels. You may find your courage is only a prayer away.

- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Thursday, 5 May

- We pray for the Diocese of the Free State and their Bishop the Rt Revd Patrick Glover.

- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world. We pray for Archdeaconry Region 6; for the Archdeacon Trevor Prince; for Gail his wife and for their family. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry: Alexandra, Diepkloof: St James, Diepkloof: St Stephens, Emndeni, Krugersdorp, Munsieville, Moroka, Orage Grove, Parktown, Rabie Ridge, Sophiatown, Sunninghill, Westonaria, St Peter's School and St Peter's College.

Friday, 6 May RAHAB, a Harlot with a heart of gold

Joshua 2:1-24

Centuries before the tart with a heart became Hollywood fodder there was Rahab's story. She single-handedly saved two of Joshua's spies by hiding them, lying to the authorities, and helping the pair to escape. As shrewd as she was gorgeous Rahab knew an opportunity when she saw one. "Swear to me by the Lord, that since I am showing kindness to you, you will in turn show kindness to my family."

Lest you think her actions were manipulative, consider how offering assistance to the spies put her own life in peril. But Rahab recognized the divine favor that rested upon the men. She boldly asked for and received what she desired. Rahab teaches us to use our wiles effectively and with great love. After all, the life you save may be your own.

- We pray for the Diocese of Grahamstown and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Ebenezer Ntlali.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

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A Mothers' Day Prayer

We thank you, Creator of us all, for our mothers. We thank you that they gave us life and nurtured us all those years. They gave us faith, helping us to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. They taught us how to love and how to sacrifice for others. They taught us that it was okay to cry and that we should always tell the truth.

Bless them with the graces they need and which you want to give them today. Help them to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that we love them. Give them strength and courage, compassion and peace.

Bless them this day with your love.

Saturday, 7 May Institution Of Bishop of Diocese of George

- We pray for the Diocese of George and their Bishop The Rt Revd Brain Marajh.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Father God, we pray for Brian Marajh. Teach him to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Church, that it may be more effective for ourselves and for the world as the sacrament of salvation. Lover of mankind, inspire him to work for human progress, seeking to spread your kingdom in all he does. May his heart thirst for Christ, the fountain of living water. Forgive his sins, and direct our steps into the ways of justice and sincerity. Amen.

Monday, 9 May

Sunday, 8 May HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.

- We pray for Diocese of Highveld and for their Bishop the Rt Revd David Bannerman.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.

- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for Archdeaconry Region 2; for the Archdeacon Vicentia Kgabe and for her family. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry: Auckland Park, Cathedral, Doornkop, Fochville. Hillbrow, Houghton, Jabavu, Noordgesig, Parkhurst, Phakamani, Pimville, Rosebank, Wedela and St John's College

Tuesday, 10 DEBORAH, the Warrior Princess

Judges 4 and 5

In a time in which it was improper for a woman to be alone in a house with a man, Deborah sat outside beneath a palm tree and judged Israel. After 20 years of oppression, it was she who summoned the military general Barak to take ten thousand soldiers and storm Mt. Tabor against their enemy Sisera. Barak answered, "If you go with me." Deborah agreed, but told Barak he'd receive no glory. "The Lord will have Sisera fall into the power of a woman." This prophecy would have dual meaning, for not only would Deborah be remembered as the real leader of this victory, Sisera would literally fall because of a woman.

Deborah inspires us to trust our wisdom and instincts and to humbly accept the credit due us. A canticle (Judges 5) is dedicated to her bravery. Her example admonishes us to always remember and respect the power of a woman.

- We pray for the Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Oswald Swartz.

- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Wednesday, 11 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Natal and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Rubin Phillip.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for the PA to our Diocesan Secretary, Ivy Matthews, her husband Basil and their family.

Thursday, 12 May

- We continue to pray for the Diocese of Natal and for the Bishop Suffragan the Rt Revd Nkosinathi Ndwandwe.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

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Friday, 13 May RUTH, the lovely friend

The Book of Ruth

Their names say it all. Ruth, believed to be a short version of “retut,” or lovely friend, was the widowed daughter-in-law of Naomi. Naomi, also a widow, was exiled from Moab because of a famine and had returned to Bethlehem after the death of her sons. She told old friends, “Call me Mara, for the Lord has made it very bitter for me.” What Naomi missed is the sweetness of a special gift: Ruth. Naomi had released her grieving daughters-in-law to return to their people, but Ruth declared, “Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”

Fortunately for Ruth, Boaz, a close friend of Naomi’s husband’s family, noticed her charms and blessed her. That got Naomi’s attention, which goes to show you: a lovely friend can turn the heart of a bitter women. Naomi hatched a successful plan to bring her kinsman, Boaz, and Ruth together. The couple later had a son, Obed, the grandfather of David. Ruth disappeared from the story, only to be remembered later as one of four women named in Matthew’s lineage of Jesus.

Ruth’s lesson to us? Steadfast love and loyalty may just lead you into a glorious destiny.

- We pray for the Diocese of Lebombo and for their Bishop Dinis Sengulane.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with

Saturday, 14 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Lesotho and their Bishop the Rt Revd Taaso.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Joint Insurance Fund Administrator Olga Raphoto and her family.
- We pray for Archdeaconry Region 4; for the Archdeacon Steve Moreo, for Liziwe his wife and for their family. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry; Brixton, Mayfair, Dobsonville, Ferreirastown, Fourways Gardens, North Riding, Orlando: Holy Cross, Parkview, Randfontein, Ruimsig, Sandton, Toekomsrus, Yeoville and Vuleka Schools.

Sunday, 15 May

- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Meadowlands, Newclare, Orlando: St James, Orlando:
St Mary, Randburg, Rangeview, Senaone, Tladi.

Monday, 16 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Matlosane and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Molopi Stephen Diseko.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for the Assistant to the Bishop's PA, Noxolo Sihlangu and her family.

Tuesday, 17 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Mpumalanga.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for Bishop Brian's PA, Claire Holden, her husband Jon and their family.
- We pray for Archdeaconry Region 1; for the Archdeacon Oupaki Moruthane. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry: Bosmont, Kagiso: St Bartholomew, Kagiso: St Thomas, Orchards,

Wednesday, 18 May

Special Prayer for our President and the Government

Most high God, Blessed and wonderful Savior, ever present Holy Spirit, precious Lord, our Governor, whose glory is in the entire world, we command this nation to your compassionate and merciful care as we are guided by you, may we dwell secure in your peace.

Grant the President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, and his government, your wisdom and strength to know and to do your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness. Make them ever mindful of their call to serve this people. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

- We pray for the Diocese of Mthatha and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Sitembele Mzamane.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Thursday, 19 BATHSEBA, from lust object to Queen Mother

2 Samuel 11:2, 3, 12:2, I Kings 11:31, 2:13-19, I Chronicles 3:5

Beautiful Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, bathed on her rooftop while the king of Israel watched in secret. The country was at war, and David should have been with his men, but the king had grown more self-indulgent in his mature years. He had no qualms about sending for another man's wife, simply because he lusted for her. And Bathsheba didn't hesitate to go to him. The king and Uriah's wife shared a night of passion, but not without consequences. Bathsheba became pregnant, and David had her soldier- husband killed. The prophet Nathan pronounced judgment upon the king. "Thus says the Lord, 'I will bring evil upon you out of your own house.'" The child Bathsheba carried died a week after its birth.

But God had mercy on the couple. Though they'd continue to have trials, God blessed the pair with Solomon. Bathsheba would be remembered not only for her early indiscretion, but also for her wisdom and leadership as Queen Mother. She teaches us that mercy can be the beginning of a brave new life, and that we all must carry our grief, release it, and live again.

- We pray for the Diocese of Namibia and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Nathaniel Ndaxuma.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being.

Friday, 20

- We pray for the Diocese of Niassa and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Mark van Koevering.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Diocesan Financial Manager John de Reuck, for his wife Diana and for their family.
- We pray for Archdeaconry Region 3; for the Archdeacon Doug Michaels; for Vanessa his wife and for their family. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry: Bramley, Carletonville, Discovery, East Bank, Florida, Khutsong, Mzimhlophe, Linden, Protea Glen, Protea South, Roodeport, Weltevreden Park and St Mary's Schools.

Saturday, 21

- We pray for the Diocese of Pretoria and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Johannes Seoka.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.

- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Sunday, 22 May MARY, Mother of Jesus

Luke 1:26-38, 1:39-56, 2:1-7, 2:21-38, 2:41-52, 4:16-30, 8:19-21

Much has been said about accepting Jesus as the personal savior, but no one accepted him in a more personal way than Mary, his mother. She literally “fleshed out” the unthinkable: Immanuel, God with us. The Scriptures tell us that the young virgin, betrothed to a carpenter, Joseph, was granted a very special favor. “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David... and of his kingdom there will be no end.” What is most notable is not the miraculous visitation, it’s that she said an unprecedented “Yes.”

Mary was the first disciple of Christ. She had to believe in him before anyone else. Her faith in Jesus was not a product of her extraordinary actions. It was a gift. Her lesson to us is that we must let go of the notion that we create faith based on our works. God gifts us with faith, which makes our good works possible.

- Together with the Worldwide Anglican Communion we pray for National Indigenous Bishops in Ruperts Land in Canada and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Mark Lawrence MacDonald.

- We pray for the Diocese of Port Elizabeth and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Nceba Bathlehem Nopece
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Salary Clerk Mandisa Nxumalo, her fiancé Gcabangani Mncube and their family.

Monday, 23 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Saldanha Bay and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Raphel Bernard Viburt Hess.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Tuesday, 24

- We pray for our Archbishop the Most Revd Thabo Makgoba.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with

wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Diocesan Secretary Rodney Taylor, his wife Anne and for their family.

Wednesday, 25 May

- We pray for the Diocese of St Helena and for their Bishop the Rt Revd John Salt.
- We also pray for the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Martin Breytenbach.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for Archdeaconry Region 5: for the Archdeacon Xolani Dlwati; for Mathabo his wife and for their family. We pray for all the parishes in the Archdeaconry: Bedfordview, Bekkersdal, Belgravia, Bez Valley, Bryanston, Coronationville, Halfway Gardens, Jeppestown, Kensington, Malvern Mohlakeng, Simunye and Bishop Bavin Schools.

Thursday, 26 May PHOTINI, the woman at the well

John 4: 1-30

Like Jesus, the Samaritan woman came to the well thirsty. Jesus wanted to quench his bodily thirst; so did the woman, but the story hints at deeper layers of meaning. Perhaps Jesus thirsted for souls, and the woman for at-long-last love. "Give me a drink," Jesus said, a scandal; Jews were forbidden to share anything in common with unclean Samaritans. When she questioned him he replied, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

Living water must have sounded good to the ex-wife of five, now shackled up with a sixth paramour. She took a long, deep drink, never to thirst again. Photini became one of Christianity's earliest evangelists, telling everyone she knew what Jesus had done. She teaches us that no matter how parched our dry soul places, love can make a surprising appearance and quench all our thirsts.

- We pray for the Diocese of Swaziland and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Meshack Mabuza.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Friday, 27 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Table Bay and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Garth Quinton Counsel.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.

- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Saturday, 28 May

- We pray for the Diocese of Umzimvubu and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Mlibo Mteteleli Ngewu.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Receptionist Boitumelo Masemola and her family.

Sunday, 29 April MARY MAGDALENE

Matt. 27:55-56, Mark 14:40-41, Matt. 28:1-9, John 20:18

Poor Mary Magdalene. St. Gregory the Great ruined her reputation suggesting she was a prostitute. Scholars have since rejected his thesis, and today Mary Magdalene is seen as one of Jesus' most powerful allies. Sure, he may have had to cast seven demons out of her, or at least healed her of an undisclosed illness, but the grateful woman of means in turn led his female disciples and offered Jesus financial support. The four Gospels cite Mary as following Jesus to the end of his life, while his male disciples scattered. It was she who was

brave enough to go to the guarded tomb of a convicted felon and chat with angels, and she who first encountered the risen Christ. She became the Apostle to the Apostles, when she ran, not walked, to the men by proclaiming the good news, "I have seen the Lord."


With Mary as our example, we can follow our passions with everything within us, fearlessly, no matter what obstacles we encounter.

- We also pray for the Diocese of Zululand and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Dino Gabriel
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.

Monday, 30 May

- We also pray for the Diocese of Ukhahlamba and for their Bishop the Rt Revd Mazwi Tisani.
- We pray for Brian our Bishop and for Susan his wife.
- We pray for those who have authority and responsibility among the nations, that ruling with wisdom and justice, they may promote peace and well being in the world.
- We pray for all the members of staff in our Diocese. We pray especially today for our Diocesan Accountant George Boyce, his wife Shirley and their family

Tuesday, 31 May



God Give us women who know what it means
To pray and work behind the scenes,
Who know their God in such a way,
Who will cling to Him, let come what may.

God gives us women with hearts aflame,
Who will raise their children to be the same.
Who look to the ways of their household well,
Yet yearn for those who are headed to hell.

God give us women who will fast and pray,
For her husband and children night and day.
Whose heart is submissive in everything,
Who honors her husband, for he is her king!

God give us women who will stand the test,
Who in big or small things, will do their best.
Who know that all they say or do,
They do as they would do to You.

God give us women full of grace,
With hearts serene as they run the race.
Whose desire is not for a life of ease,
Who long the most their Master to please.

God give us women who find great delight,
In the lot that God gave them in life.
Who embrace with joy the little things,
Who fulfill their duty with a heart that sings.

God give us women with a vision clear,
Who live in reverence and Godly fear.
Who abide in Christ all through the day,
And seek to please Him in every way.

~Mary Troyer~