



7 Days of Prayer

Day #1: Pray for Leaders

Rev Daniel Bullock

Hi everyone, over the next week the BUV leadership team are going to share with you a series of short prayers during our 7 day lockdown, and we invite you to join us.

Today I am going to commence by Prayer for leaders

God almighty

We come before you in obedience to your Word which implores us to pray for all people and in particular those who serve in positions of leadership.

Give to leaders your divine wisdom.

In the exercise of their authority, might they always seek to serve with humility and to act justly.

Broaden the vision of all leaders so that they will see beyond the parochial borders, politics and personal interest.

May your love and compassion envelope their hearts, enabling them to look after the interests of others with diligence.

May they not grow weary in doing good, in serving all with joy and a sense of purpose?

We pray for leaders who serve in every capacity and at every level:

churches, governments and civic organisations, finance, health, education.

As they lead, we pray that your Holy Spirit will grant them wisdom and courage in these times.

In particular we pray for our political leaders here in Victoria. Lord, we pray that they will be equipped with reliable and accurate information and advice to navigate us through this current lockdown. We pray that they will have the courage to make the right decisions for the wellbeing of society and not be swayed by the loudest voice of protest.

Yet, we know that many are hurt by lockdowns, be that financially, through mental health challenges, the threat of domestic and family violence and isolation. SO in light of these concerns, may you soften the hearts of our political leaders to be compassionate to the most vulnerable in our society.

Lord, we pray that you grant each of us the grace and courage to take our responsibility and leadership in our contexts diligently, to act with deep compassion and care for the people and creation we have influence over.

Amen.



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Day #2 Pray for Vulnerable

Rev Gayle Hill

Dear Lord,

We lift to you our concern for those who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID 19. The elderly, and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.

You say in your word, *to cast all our anxieties on you, because you care for us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, your Spirit fills us with hope, and lights the path to fullness of life.

Hear us we pray, as we cry out to you in these uncertain and anxious times.

In your mercy Lord, give us the strength to rebuild when all seems lost, and the courage to reach out to those affected by COVID 19.

In your name, in the might name of Jesus, we pray these things.

Amen.

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Day #3 Church

Rev David Devine

On the traditional Church Calendar, this is Trinity Sunday. A day when the church reflects on the revelation that God is relational – Father, Son and Spirit together as one in love. And we rejoice that God has drawn us into this relationship of love – into life with God and one another. By God’s grace through Christ and in the Spirit, we are God’s family – daughters and sons; sisters and brothers – filled with God’s Spirit and following Jesus together. Today, as we celebrate this love and relationship we are physically separated from one another, in social isolation. This separation is challenging for our churches. So let us pray for churches today.

Loving triune God, we thank you that in your grace you have revealed yourself to us and drawn us into relationship with you. We thank you for life shared with you every day and for ever. We thank you that nothing can separate us from you and your love. During this time, while we are physically separated from one another, help us to draw closer to you – to follow the lead of your Spirit into experiences of intimacy with you – to reflect further on your nature and will as revealed in your Son – and to respond with worship in our words, deeds and relationships.

We thank you that in drawing us into relationship with you, you have adopted us into your family; included us in the Body of Christ; given us life in your Spirit that is shared with others. We thank you for Church – the people we do faith, hope and love with.

We miss gathering together for worship, fellowship and mission. We pray that we will soon be able to gather again. But meanwhile, we are thankful for opportunities to connect with one another – participating in online groups and congregations or just talking on the phone. We pray today that you will equip and encourage those who support such connections – running the technology; being creative with music and video; those who preach to us through camera and screen and those who seek ways to involve us in prayer and discussion. Lord, equip and encourage your church in these challenging days.

We pray that you will help us to be mindful of those who are feeling particularly isolated or stressed at this time. Help us to reach out to one another in love. Enable us to find ways to encourage one another in life and faith – and to care for one another with acts of kindness.

In the midst of isolation and anxiety, help us to be beacons of love and hope. May your churches experience and radiate the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen



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Day #4 Prayer for the elderly and those in the margins

Debbie Uy

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.

Today, we remember the elderly and those who are doing it tough during this time. Let's pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for your faithfulness, especially when we feel anxious because we cannot control the things happening around us.

We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to help us in our times of weakness, and to guide us as we pray. We praise you.

Holy God, we remember and pray for those who are most vulnerable during this time. We pray for the elderly and those who are struggling with symptoms of dementia in its many forms.

In the midst of their confusion, memory lapses, helplessness and frustrations, we pray that you grant them peace in their hearts.

As they struggle to remember names, events and even memories, may they know and feel that they are still loved.

Almighty God, we pray for those who care for the elderly in our society, for family members, for friends, for our Baptist agency - Baptcare, their leadership, their staff and volunteers who selflessly serve and love the elderly under their care. We pray for grace and strength as they perform their daily service.

Help us, dear God, never to take for granted the elderly in our community and enable us to always treat them with dignity and respect that they deserve.

We pray all of these, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, Amen.



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Day #5 Prayer for Essential workers and Businesses

Rev Jonathan Stark

Jehovah Jireh, our provider. God who loves to hear our prayers, we pray today.

We pray especially for health care workers, those who are manning the vaccination sites across Victoria and giving vaccinations to people. We pray too for those who are doing COVID testing today. As thousands come through we pray that you will give the staff energy and strength and that they would do their jobs well. Protect them from the virus we pray and give them strength as they work. Lord we would pray today for all health care workers and those in aged care and we would lift up all of them as they serve others at this time.

God we pray for those essential workers that have to keep going through this crisis. Lord, would you strengthen them? Give them energy as they do the important work that they have to do.

God we pray for businesses that aren't able to work at this time. We pray that you would provide for their needs as they cry out, worried about whether they will be able to have the funds to keep going and whether they will be able to keep on staff. And we pray that they would get the assistance that they need through different packages at these times.

God want to pray particularly for our own Baptist Camping and we pray that you will provide all that they need as they will have lost bookings this week and in the weeks ahead. God watch over them we pray.

And we lift up these prayers to you, Jehovah Jireh, our provider, in Jesus name. Amen.



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Day #6 Prayer for Children, Students, Parents and Schools

Melissa Rule

Today we are praying for our schools and unis, school children and parents – why don't you join me as I pray and we agree together.

Sovereign God – we come to you today in the knowledge of your almighty power and also your love for children. This week, we want to bring before you the students and teachers in kindergartens, early learning centres, primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions, knowing that you know each one of them and the circumstances they face. We ask that that you would be with each of these groups of people and their parents through this lockdown.

We know that, although necessary, this lockdown can produce a variety of responses in children and students and we ask that you would bring hope and peace in the face of uncertainty and fear, patience and resilience to keep going when the future seems uncertain.

Lord for the school students who are missing out on special experiences like camps, excursions, sporting commitments, or just being with their friends, we pray that you would give them fun times at home with their families and new memories

For those children who need the routine of school to be able to focus and get through the day, we pray you would give them structure and

For those children who may come from homes where there is domestic or family violence and school is a refuge, bring them peace, safety and security

For the children for whom this lockdown will bring back anxiety from the experience of 2020 or mental health struggles, we pray you would bring them hope for the future and deep sense of calm

During this time of lockdown we also think of the all Victorian schools who are pivoting once again – we think particularly of our Baptist schools – Strathcona, Kilvington and Carey, and pray that your blessing would be upon the principals, school management and staff teams as they reorient to online learning.

For the teachers we pray that you would give them a double portion of inspiration to make the online learning fun and engaging for their students and for the chaplains and counsellors we pray for opportunities to shine your love into the lives of the students who are in particular need of support.

For all parents of school aged children who have to become home school teachers and tutors again this week, mostly in addition to their own working from home themselves, we pray you would bring them an extra portion of patience and tolerance.



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And Lord, as we are reminded of how precious this life is, we pray that you would tighten family bonds and create deeper relationships, fun family moments and opportunities for memories.

In the precious name of Jesus we pray

Amen



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Day #7 Pray for the World

Rev Daniel Bullock

As we finish our 7 days of lockdown prayer, I invite you to pray with me for the countries facing much more severe situations due to the pandemic than us here in Australia.

Let's pray

Compassionate God, we bring before you today those within our global family who are suffering the most due to this global pandemic. For those countries who are suffering from severe food shortages due to the pandemic and conflict. Countries like Afghanistan Yemen, Congo, Somalia and South Sudan. And other low and middle income countries. May these countries Lord receive compassion and generosity from the rest of the world, and we ask that you meet their basic need for food and nutrition.

Lord for the children in our world who have been put at risk of exploitation due to this pandemic we pray. We pray that you will protect the most vulnerable, protect them from enforced labour, involuntary marriages, and from the terror of violence.

We pray for countries such as India for whom physical distancing is impossible. We pray for your gracious protection upon the people of this nation and many others in a similar predicament.

Lord God we pray that the wealthy nations of our world will be generous with our resources to provide medical support and vaccines to the neediest countries of the world.

We pray God for the work of Baptist World Aid Australia and Global Interaction that you continue to provide for the work they are doing around the world so that Christian partners throughout the world can care for the needs of the oppressed, the most vulnerable and the sick.

Lord God as faith communities, and individual followers of Jesus, may we find ways to show witness and the love of God, to all among us who are hurting, hungry and thirsty. May we have the courage, show generosity and faith to truly be the body of Christ in the world today, in this time of great suffering for so many.

We pray in Jesus name Amen.