

Thursday 1 February: For the bells and bell ringers – Father bless our newly recast bells that they may ring out to your glory calling people to church. Place blessings on the ringers that the bells may sound joyfully in sequence method.

Friday 2nd February: Candlemas – Presentation of Christ at the Temple. Jesu, light of lights, your word is our law and you are our lantern guiding our feet, in darkest times you illuminate our hearts with warmth of your great love, touching us, warming us within. Be thou, a bright flame within us, Lord of love.

Saturday 3rd February: Lord Jesus, when we are feeling hard done by, help us to think of those for once who are on the breadline and not be selfish, those who cannot afford basics for family and see how we can help.

Sunday 4th February: World Cancer Day Jesus, Saviour and healer, give renewed courage to cancer sufferers and hope to them and their families. Bring the peace of your healing, comforting love to those families who mourn loved ones the world over.

Monday 5th February: Lord give those who have currently lost jobs or who are unemployed, the perseverance and strength to go out and search for new work, trusting that you are with them all the way, loving them.

Tuesday 6th February: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Mutilation. Jesus, friend of little children, guard and protect young girls abroad, from the evils of being attacked and mutilated. May these attackers repent of their terrible deeds and seek forgiveness, we pray.

Wednesday 7th February: Father God, bless local council workers who appear to us to do menial tasks, such as bin emptying and sweeping streets. Teach us that every job is important and we should never look down on anybody but learn to be humble as you our saviour were.

Thursday 8th February: Father bless our brave emergency services, who save lives and show so much courage, often working under extreme pressure in intolerable situations.

Friday 9th February: Father God, help us as a congregation to be aware of problems in our nearby church community and through our actions of Christian charity or aid, do our work among it.

Saturday 10th February: Jesu, born of Mary mild, bless and guide our talented midwives who work long hours, calming new mums and bringing new lives into the world.

Sunday 11th February: Lord, we give thanks for the emergency on call electricity and gas engineers who come out into the cold of night

from their warm beds to make sure the vulnerable have warmth and power.

Monday 12th February: Father God, be with and bless the staff and children as they break up for half-term at St Margaret's school, keep them safe.

Tuesday 13th February: Shrove Tuesday Jesu, fill us with the light of your love and let strength and courage develop innermost our hearts full of love, spirituality so we want to cry out "I love you Lord"

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday – 1st day of Lent – Teach us thy way O Lord and forgive us our transgressions. St Valentine's Day – Lord Jesus assure all of your servants of your hand clasping theirs and your constant love till the end of time.

Thursday 15th February: God and Father, bless and guide those volunteers involved in our night shelter, bringing hope to the lives of those who have nothing.

Friday 16th February: Father, bless Headmistress, Jo Kidby, her pupils and staff at St Margaret's school as they return to start school again; help them to work hard.

Saturday 17th February: Lord, bless carers and grandparents who care for young people during school holidays.

Sunday 18th February: Father, we pray for the elderly on cold winter nights, for the homeless and the lonely. O Lord they may be cold, vulnerable and lack company but teach us not to shun them and give that kind word that means the world.

Monday 19th February: Bring peace and meeting of warring nations for end of war and healing Lord. Where natural disaster wreaks havoc bringing mourning heal, mend and rebuild lives plus nations.

Tuesday 20th February: World Day of Justice. Father God, your beautiful world is scarred by war and crime. Give our police and criminal justice system the strength and fortitude to punish lawbreakers.

Wednesday 21st February: Father God, guide and bless our Government and politicians in the making of new laws, decisions on local safety and funding local councils.

Thursday 22nd February: Lord, we ask you to bless our Ipswich Hospital NHS, who are often understaffed and therefore pressurised but regardless provide a high standard of care, with good humour and courage.

Friday 23rd February: Lord Jesus, you were often a stranger where you visited, like the Israelites, so you know how refugees feel – be a friend where they have none. Teach us to befriend a person wherever he is from, not being prejudiced.

Saturday 24th February: Father God, greatly bless our Heritage Project, and all the people who are involved that our church may be open, and its history enjoyed.

Sunday 25th February: FIND – Lord, bless the work of FIND and help us to be generous, donating to families in need this winter.

Monday 26th February: I will magnify thee O God my King and praise thy name. O God our King, we thank you for our choir and director Christopher, our music group and band, please bless all.

Tuesday 27th February: Father, bless and guide our Vicar David and our Associate Ministers, John and Keith, so that they may lead us in worship according to your will.

Wednesday 28th February: We ask you, Father, to send down your blessing upon the flower committee, the churchyard cleaning team and the church cleaning team who keep your house so clean.

St Margaret's Prayer Diary

February 2018

Prepared by Sarah Boggis