



WERRIBEE BAPTIST CHURCH PRAYER BULLETIN APRIL MAY 2021

The Age of Miracles is forever here!
Thomas Carlyle

There are 61 days in the months of April and May. This year the dates for the celebration of Easter and Pentecost all fall within these two months. This Prayer Bulletin is in two parts. The first part is a guide for meditation and prayer on the events from Maundy Thursday to Pentecost. The second part is a seven-day guide for prayer that can be used each week for the two months.

PART ONE.

Pray that this Easter season that the good news about Jesus would be proclaimed with power and that people would respond to the call to repent. Pray particularly for the combined service on Good Friday and for the Easter Sunday service at WBC.

April 1 Maundy Thursday.

We remember that this is the day when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, washed their feet, and gave his final teaching. It is the night when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. It is the dark night of Jesus' betrayal, his arrest, and his trial. As you think about these events, or as you read relevant portions of the Gospels, ask your heavenly Father to give you a fresh understanding of what these events mean for you as a follower of Jesus.

April 2 Good Friday.

This is the most solemn day in the Christian Calendar. We remember the condemnation of Jesus, the horror of the crucifixion, his death, and his burial. We also remember his words from the cross that did not condemn those who had condemned him. We remember the words of the dying criminal and Jesus' promise to him. We remember the humiliation Jesus suffered in being stripped naked and being brutalised by those who carried out the execution. We also remember the declarations of Pilate, Herod, the Roman Centurion that Jesus was innocent. We remember the courage of Joseph and Nicodemus in stepping forward to place the body in the tomb and the love of the women who took note of where Jesus was buried. Give thanks for the salvation that has been granted to you through the death of Jesus. Meditate on the love of God.

April 3 Easter Saturday.

This was the darkest day in the lives of the disciples. They had deserted Jesus in his hour of need, and they had lost all hope. They were hiding from the Jewish authorities. Give thanks to God that because we live this side of Easter, we have hope.

April 4 Easter Sunday.

This is the day when we remember that Jesus rose from the dead. Not one of the disciples expected this to happen. The women went to embalm the body. The tomb was empty and a new era in the history of the world began. Sorrow turned to joy. Give thanks that Jesus rose from the dead and that he is alive today. Ask God to make the risen presence of Jesus increasingly real in your life.

April 4 to May 13 Jesus Proves He is Alive.

For forty days Jesus proved to his disciples that he was alive. He met with his disciples, ate with them, and taught them about the kingdom of God. He gave them instructions about the mission he was commissioning them to undertake when they were empowered by the Holy Spirit. Give thanks that the four Gospels and the Book of Acts record what Jesus taught and what he did.

May 13 Ascension Day.

On this day we remember that Jesus ascended into his Father's presence. One day he will come again. The work that Jesus had been given to do was complete. His physical presence on earth was no longer necessary for the work that the disciples would be doing. Give thanks that the work necessary for our salvation was completed. Give thanks that the offer of salvation is open to all. Pray for those you know who have not yet been saved.

May 13 to May 23 Ten Days of Obedience

Jesus instructed his friends to wait in Jerusalem until they received the empowering of the Holy Spirit. Then they would begin the mission he had commissioned them to fulfil. They spent their time together in prayer and mutual encouragement. Give thanks for those who are an encouragement to you in your discipleship.

May 23 Pentecost Sunday.

This day we remember the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on 120 men and women which began a whole new chapter in the history of the world. Jesus was proclaimed as Lord and Messiah. He was declared to be the only Saviour of the world. The coming of the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples. Ask God to pour out his Spirit on your life and on the lives of all believers. If we are to fulfil the Great commission of telling people about Jesus, we need a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit.

PART TWO

In previous bulletins we have listed the names of those leading the various ministry teams at WBC. Please refer to those bulletins for the names of leaders.

Monday

Pray for the leadership of WBC. Give thanks for the new Church Council (Matt, Nancy, Vlad, Annisa, Frank, Stan, Justin and Keryn). Ask God to give them wisdom as they seek to understand God's guidance for both the immediate and long-term life of WBC. Pray for Stan as he leads the Pastoral and Administration teams during this time of adjusting to the changing health guidelines.

Tuesday

Give thanks for all who serve in the various ministry areas of WBC. There are ministries to the whole family of WBC (the tech teams, music teams, welcoming teams). There are ministries to toddlers, primary age school children, teenagers, young adults, seniors, men, women, aged care homes, life groups, bible studies, prayer ministry, food relief, chaplaincy in schools, Kid's Hope in schools, the care and visitation of the sick. Some ministries are structured, and some are informal. Some occur each week and some as required. Pray that all who are involved in the ministries were be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday

Pray for the Worldwide Church. Pray for our brothers and sisters who live in those nations where the roll out of COVID vaccinations will be problematic. Pray that the wealthy nations will be generous in helping the poorer nations. Pray for those fellow believers who are being persecuted for their faith. Give thanks for the freedoms we currently enjoy.

Thursday

Pray for a fresh outpouring of your Spirit on the Church in every nation so that the people of God will be empowered for mission. Pray for an outpouring of the Spirit on the people of WBC (from the youngest to the oldest).

Friday

Pray for Jacqui, who has returned to Thailand, for Lisa on home assignment, for Deanna as she works alongside the SIM missionaries to help them deal with the challenges they face. Pray for the Loftis family in Thailand, Phil and Carol, missionaries in residence at the Sydney Missionary Bible College. Pray for others associated with our fellowship Dan and Cam in Germany in sports ministry, Melissa working with an NGO in development work in Africa.

Saturday

Pray for those who are in the Local, State and Federal Governments. Pray that there would be given wisdom to deal with the many challenging issues facing them in the post lockdown era. Pray for World leaders as they deal with an increasing willingness to settle differences with a threat of confrontation rather than negotiation.

Sunday

Pray for the family of WBC. Pray for the WBC family in the workplace and in places of learning, in retirement and in the home. Pray that we will all be witnesses for Jesus. Pray that those people who are connected to WBC (in person or on-line) who are seeking to know the truth about Jesus would come to know him as their Saviour and Lord. Pray that we would be united in Christ so that our combined witness would impact our community.

Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key.

R. A. Torrey