

PARISH OF SHERE SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER TOPICS

Take two minutes to focus on each of these 10 prayer topics, which are based on *How to Pray* written by Dick Eastman and published by HOPE Together's partner Hope for Every Home.

1. Praise. Start by praising God. 'Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you' (Psalm 63:3).
2. Waiting. Take time to be still in God's presence. Waiting is a time of quiet worship. The Bible speaks frequently about waiting on the Lord. 'Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength' (Isaiah 40:31).
3. Confession. Before we share our personal petitions with God—and even before we lift the needs of others in intercession—it is important that we confess our sins and failures to God. 'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me...' (Psalm 139:23, 24a).
4. Prayer for The Church. Pray that 2020 will be a year of harvest even though so much has changed because of Coronavirus. Pray for your church, asking God to equip every member to spread hope through their words and actions as they offer support to neighbours, family and friends. Pray for the churches in your village, town or city, that there will be a fresh spirit of unity as we work together to serve our communities. Pray we will be known for acts of kindness backed up by words that proclaim Christ.
5. Families and Marriages. Research shows that the majority of people come to faith in the context of their own family. Pray for families, particularly the healing of broken relationships in marriages and families, especially among believers and those in Christian ministry. Pray that the Christian parents you know will be equipped to lead their children to Jesus. Pray for creative ways to serve families whose relationships might be strained by prolonged self-isolating.
6. Education. Pray for pupils and students who are worried about their futures as exams have been cancelled. Pray for them, for teachers and other educators, praying for those you know by name. Ask God to give opportunities to Christian staff, pupils and students to talk about the hope they have in Christ with others as they interact online.
7. Business. Pray especially for Christians in the workplace that God will use them to influence others and point them to Jesus, offering hope when so many feel despair. Write a list of the people in your church congregation alongside their places of work and pray that they will know how to share the hope they have with gentleness and respect. 'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect' (1 Peter 3:15).
8. Government. Pray for the leaders in local, county and national government that they will be wise. Remember to intercede for the judiciary, the military, and all those involved in law enforcement as well as other service officials, such as firefighters and civil servants. Pray that churches will work effectively with local and national government to serve communities, making Jesus known through loving actions.

9. Media. Ask God to show us how to use all aspects of the media and information technology to become tools in his hands to influence the culture around us for his honour and glory. Pray that the influence of the internet and social networking will be used by Christians to connect with a new generation of young believers. Pray for your local newspaper journalists and local radio broadcasters, that they will feature the many good news stories of Christians putting faith into action.

10. Sport, Arts and Entertainment. Pray for Christians in any field of the arts or entertainment, including sports. Ask God to use the influence of those who know him in these arenas so they might impact many around them, when so many are not able to work at this time. Pray for those you know by name who have a strong Christian testimony. Ask God to expand their influence.

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