

Prayer Station 1: The Font

You are welcome in this place. Whether you are entering the Cathedral for the first time or returning after these last few months when the building has been closed, please feel free to pause for a moment at the beginning of your prayerful walk through the nave.

In the stillness, and as you listen to the water of the font flowing, the symbol of new life, you may like to reflect on all that has happened, either since the last time you were here or since the lockdown began on 23 March.

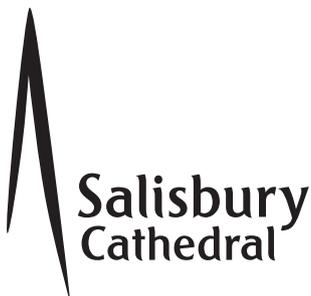
- What has been good about these days?
- What has been hard?
- Where has God been, for you, during the lockdown?

A prayer:

God of all time and eternity,
we thank you for the gift of this place, for its beauty and peace.
Still our hearts, as Jesus stilled the storm.
Make us thankful for the good things that have been,
bring us hope to face whatever has been difficult,
and courage to endure all that lies ahead,
for you are our God and we need you.

Amen.

If you would like to leave a prayer request, please email it to closepastoral@salcath.co.uk



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Prayer Station 2: The Spire Crossing

With the Spire towering above, pointing our thoughts towards heaven, the Crossing represents a crossroads, the point where the arms of the transepts intersect with the main building.

We are entering a time of transition and change, as the restrictions are slightly eased, and some places begin to re-open. And so, in the peace of this moment, we invite you to bring within the eternal embrace of God the challenges that you face in the coming weeks and months.

- What turning points lie ahead of you?
- What do you now need to confront?
- Looking back to what has been, and forward to what lies ahead, what are the problems you still need to solve and the hopes you long to fulfil?

A prayer by Ellen Clark-King:

Holy God,
who created us for and from love,
in this time of social distancing,
hold us close in your arms.
Comfort those who are afraid,
enliven those who are bored,
give courage to those who are distressed,
and warm those who feel the cold touch of loneliness.
Breathe in, with and through us
as we walk through uncertainty into a new future
knowing that you are with us now and await us there.
In the name of Christ the Beloved we pray.

Amen.

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Prayer Station 3: North Transept

As you near the end of your journey through the Cathedral today, we invite you to pray for all who suffer from Covid-19, both at home and across the world.

Please pray for places that are still severely affected, such as Sudan and South Sudan, with which our diocese of Salisbury is linked. And for all who are isolated or alone, including prisoners of conscience detained for speaking out about the virus or whose plight is worsened by it.

As you remember others in prayer, you may like to make one last prayer or resolution before you go.

- Pray for a place or someone you know who is sick or isolated
- Reflect on what God might be asking of you in the days ahead
- As you light a candle, for yourself or others, ask that God may strengthen your resolve to help in some way.

A prayer:

Almighty God,
you give us new life, new hope and new opportunities with each returning day.

Help us to use these blessings to the best of our capacity in doing the work which we have to do, and in giving of all that we have to give, devoting ourselves wholly to your service, and putting our own interests aside to seek the welfare of our neighbour, for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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