

St Peter's Rectory,  
67 Church Road,  
Woolton,  
Liverpool  
L25 6DA  
phone: 0151 428 1853  
email: rector@stpeters-woolton.org.uk  
www.stpeters-woolton.org.uk

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Dear friends

### **National Day of Reflection 23rd March**

You are invited to support the National Day of Reflection on 23 March, the first anniversary of the UK lockdown, to commemorate the tragic loss of life and to stand together with everyone who's grieving.

Organised by Marie Curie, the National Day of Reflection looks to reflect on our collective loss, support those who've been bereaved, and hope for a brighter future.

At some point on Wednesday, you may find this Act of Prayer a helpful way to join in remembering the beginning of the first lockdown and all that has happened since.

*A candle may be lit.*

#### **A prayer**

*Lord God, the maker and redeemer of all,  
as we come before you in thanksgiving for the gift of health and life,  
we grieve for the thousands who have died:  
comfort us with your presence,  
sustain us with the hope of your kingdom,  
and give us grace to live our lives well;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

#### **Psalm 23**

*The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.  
He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.*

*Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

**Matthew 11.28-30**

*'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you  
will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'*

**Romans 8.38-39**

*I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor  
things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be  
able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**1 Peter 5.7**

*Cast all your anxieties upon God, for God cares for you.*

**Reflection and prayer:**

You may wish to:

- *share thoughts about the last year;*
- *remember those who have died;*
- *pray for those who care for others;*
- *pray for all who are in need;*
- *share hopes for the future.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, when fear and anxiety besiege us  
and hope is veiled in grief, hold us in your wounded hands  
and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God. Amen.*

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.*

*Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.*

### **Closing prayer**

*Christ the Good Shepherd enfold us with love,  
fill us with peace, and lead us in hope,  
to the end of our days;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. Amen*

God bless, take care.  
With my love and prayers.

Kíp

**And finally .....**

### **EARTH HOUR – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 8.30 – 9.30 pm**

As we continue our journey as an Eco church we would love for you to join us in the simple act of turning off your lights on Saturday 27 March 2021 from 8.30-9.30 pm in support of Earth Hour. St Peter's church lights will be switched off for this time. Started by WWF in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. We can join together with millions of people across the world as we switch off our lights to show support for the beautiful world God created, increasing awareness and sparking conversations on how we protect nature and tackle this climate crisis. How might you spend your hour? An opportunity for a candlelight dinner? A game of hide and seek by torchlight with your children? Re-connect with your favourite tunes and a good book? Or maybe a time to spend in God's presence as we light our candles or switch on our torches and remember that Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness and darkness cannot overcome it, John 1:5"