



PASTORAL LETTER 18/10/2020



Whatever happens conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ
Philippians 1: 27.

So here we are back again in 'lockdown', and many of us will be getting restless. So think of Paul's words and the mantra 'stick with it!' It's been a funny old weekend with lots of strange things happening, and sometimes the world just appears to make no sense. Be reassured, that as we conduct ourselves in an appropriate manner we are giving examples to our different communities. During the course of these 17 days, there will be time for prayer and reflection, and also to pause, let us use the time wisely.

I've been reading about prayer this week, and so I'm sharing some words from an article in the Irish Methodist Newsletter.

Regarding prayer at this difficult time the article urges us to pray for:

- Those who have the virus and their loved ones for a real sense of God's presence;
- All who are grieving the loss of loved ones that they might know God's comfort;
- All who are anxious because of Coronavirus, that they might know God's peace;
- Healthcare workers that they might know God's protection and strength;
- Politicians, and those with responsibilities in the community that they might know God's wisdom in their decision making;
- Our whole community, for economic stability and that we might be good neighbours to one another.

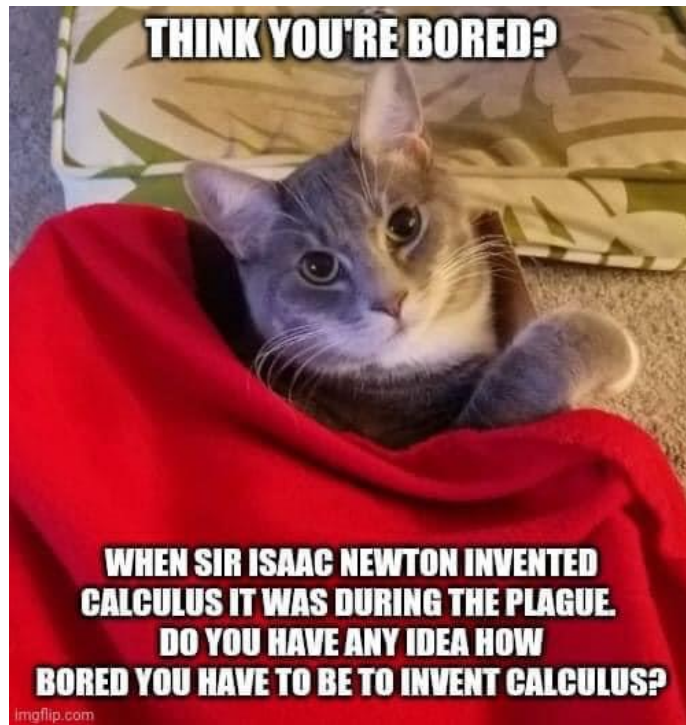
I'm sure there are other prayers that you could add to this list, but it gives us a good starting point for thinking about what and who we need to pray for. In thinking about the NHS we might want to think about what the letters NHS would mean if we reversed them – STAY HOME NOW! Doesn't that give us food for thought every time we hear the letters NHS?

A prayer:

Heavenly Father ,

We thank you for all that you give to us. For the beauty of the change of season occurring all around us, we thank you. For the friendship offered unconditionally to us all, we thank you. For the strength that you give us by being our constant companions we thank you. Amen.

I'd like to close with a smile. A minster friend of mine has put lots of crazy pictures up on Facebook which do much to illustrate the strange times that we are living in. I thought that you might like this one....



Stay safe, every blessing,

Jacquie