

Prayer Alert

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The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. (Psalm 29:3)

We are pleased to enclose this week's edition of Prayer Alert.

Thy Kingdom Come: 14-24 May 2026

Thy Kingdom Come has been running for 10 years now - encouraging us to be praying from Ascension to Pentecost - for more people to know Jesus. We encourage you to register your interest so that you and your church family receive the updates and resources!

National elections: Let's be praying for national and presidential elections taking place in Laos (22 Feb) and Kosovo (5 March).



JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT - BLESS - GROW

We invite the Prayer Alert community to join us on the free online Interseed House of Prayer app where we are praying and sharing thoughts on the weekly prayer guide issues and themes.

Interseed is available on the Android and iOS platforms. More info [HERE](#).

Invitation - to serve with the PA team!

Would you like to join our Prayer Alert team?

We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England, India, and USA. If you appreciate what we do and are confident with browsing the internet, discovering relevant articles and basic editing, we would love to hear from you! Please hit 'reply', introduce yourself, and we will be in touch.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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Praise Reports

'Snowdrops' pause for thought from Archbishop Stephen

On Shrove Tuesday, instead of speaking about pancakes or fasting, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell reflected on snowdrops in his 'pause for thought' on Radio 2. Walking through his garden in Bishopthorpe, he was struck by their fragile beauty and quiet strength. Blooming in winter's cold earth, snowdrops herald the coming of spring, offering hope when the landscape still seems lifeless. Yet they are fleeting; by March they have faded. He recalled a deeply personal memory from thirty years ago, when he took the funeral of his one-year-old godson. The Sisters at the hospice placed snowdrops on the small coffin. To him, they spoke more eloquently than words of a life that was short, fragile, and beautiful. Linking this reflection to Lent and Easter, he reminded listeners that every human life has a beginning and an end, each miraculous and precious. Snowdrops, appearing in winter and disappearing quickly, invite us to reflect on mortality, hope, and the abundant life brought through Christ's death and resurrection.

Praise: God for the fragile beauty of life and for the resurrection hope that we have in Jesus. (John 11:25)

More: www.archbishopofyork.org/bbc-radio-2-pause-thought-shrove-tuesday

Philippines: angels direct operations for UK missionary

Yorkshire missionary Andy Newlove has shared remarkable stories of God's faithfulness during fifteen years serving in the Philippines. His life, he says, began with a miracle. After a miscarriage, doctors doubted his mother would carry a child to term, but she prayed and dedicated her son to God. Andy was born, though tragedy followed when his father died while he was still a baby. Growing up, he witnessed many answers to prayer and came to believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit remain active today. As a child he experienced

healing after a severe scald, and later prayed for a girl dying of meningitis who recovered and eventually became his wife, Tracey. When she was 33 weeks pregnant with their first child, they moved 7,000 miles to the Philippines. There they survived earthquakes, typhoons, and dangerous journeys while planting churches and training local believers. Miracles, unity among pastors, and revival marked their years of service. Today their legacy continues through family and Filipino leaders serving Christ worldwide.

Praise: God for angelic protection and enduring fruit from faithful missionary obedience. (Hebrews 1:14)

More: www.godreports.com/2026/02/angels-direct-operations-for-uk-missionary-to-philippines/

British Isles

Andrew arrested on suspicion of misconduct

Following an investigation by Thames Valley police, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor has been arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office. Officers detained the 66-year-old at the Sandringham estate and are searching properties in Norfolk and Berkshire, including Royal Lodge in Windsor. The arrest follows a number of complaints that he shared confidential material with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew has consistently denied wrongdoing, and has not commented on the latest allegations. Misconduct in public office involves a public official wilfully neglecting duty or abusing the public's trust without reasonable justification. To protect the integrity of the investigation, the police are limited in what they can disclose due to contempt of court laws and privacy rules. In a statement, King Charles III said he learned of the arrest 'with the deepest concern' and stressed that the law must take its course, pledging full cooperation while continuing royal duties.

Pray: that the investigation will reveal truth and expose wrongdoing. Pray for God to protect the innocent and turn hearts toward repentance and righteousness. (Proverbs 14:34)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/c70kjr9wjw0t?page=2

Local council elections reinstated after government U-turn

Thirty English councils are scrambling to reinstate local elections after the Government reversed plans to delay them until 2027. The ballots, affecting more than 4.5 million voters, will now go ahead on 7 May following legal advice sought after a challenge from Reform UK. The ministry of housing and local government confirmed the U-turn, alongside a £63 million fund to support council reorganisation. Nigel Farage described the decision as a 'victory for democracy', claiming the Government had backed down. However, election administrators warn that months of essential preparation have been lost. Officials had paused planning to avoid unnecessary expense and now face an intense period of catch-up to secure polling stations, staff, and smooth operations. Councillors across parties have expressed frustration, citing confusion and instability caused by repeated changes. Some fear wider plans for devolution and local government reform are now uncertain, leaving councils and residents seeking clarity.

Pray: for stability, integrity, and orderly preparation for these elections. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

More: news.sky.com/story/farage-claims-victory-as-councils-face-race-against-time-to-reinstate-plans-after-elections-u-turn-13508404

UK inflation falls to 3%, helped by lower cost of petrol and bread

The UK inflation rate has fallen to 3% in the year to January, down from 3.4% in December, according to the ONS. Economists had predicted the drop, which was driven partly by lower prices for bread, cereals, petrol, meat, and airfares. However, inflation remains above the Bank of England's 2% target, meaning prices are still rising, just more slowly. Rachel Reeves said government decisions in the November Budget are helping ease pressure on households, while Keir Starmer described cutting the cost of living as his top priority. Critics argue many families are still struggling, pointing to higher unemployment and ongoing business pressures. Some small business owners say transport, employment, and ingredient costs continue to squeeze margins. Energy bills may also fall this spring, with forecasts suggesting a 7% drop in the price cap. Analysts now believe the downward trend could prompt an interest rate cut in March. While the direction is encouraging, many households remain mindful that prices are still significantly higher than five years ago.

Pray: for economic balance, relief for cash-strapped households, and responsible stewardship in national financial decisions. (Proverbs 22:7)

More: www.bbc.com/news/live/cg4gzz56wd2t

Trump tells Starmer: 'Do not give away Diego Garcia'

Donald Trump has cast fresh doubt on the UK's planned Chagos Islands agreement with Mauritius, urging Keir Starmer not to 'give away Diego Garcia'. The deal would see Britain transfer sovereignty of the islands to Mauritius while leasing back Diego Garcia, home to a vital joint UK-US military base, for 99 years. Although the US State Department recently backed the agreement, Trump criticised the plan on social media, arguing that long-term leases are inadequate for strategically important territory. He described Diego Garcia as crucial in the Indian Ocean, suggesting it could be needed for a future attack on Iran. His remarks come ahead of US-Mauritius talks and follow previous shifts in his stance. The Government insists the agreement is essential to secure the base's long-term future and maintain allied security. Opposition politicians have condemned the proposal, while some Chagossians are protesting against the handover, arguing that Mauritius never rightfully owned the islands and calling for restoration of their homeland. [See <https://www.gbnews.com/news/world/chagos-island-leader-keir-starmer-surrender-territory>](https://www.gbnews.com/news/world/chagos-island-leader-keir-starmer-surrender-territory)

Pray: for discernment, national security, and just resolution regarding the future of Diego Garcia. (Psalm 33:12)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c309qqyer8yo

Many Londoners to vote tactically to stop Nigel Farage becoming PM

New YouGov polling suggests large numbers of Londoners are prepared to vote tactically at the next general election to prevent Nigel Farage becoming Prime Minister. The survey indicates that in several potential Reform UK versus Conservative contests, voters may shift support strategically rather than back their first-choice party. In Outer London seats, Conservative support appears significantly stronger when tactical voting is factored in, while Labour and Liberal Democrat backing falls sharply in head-to-head Reform-Tory scenarios. In Labour versus Reform contests, Labour maintains a clear lead, with Conservative support collapsing. Where Labour faces the Conservatives, Reform voters appear willing to switch to the Tories, while Lib Dem and Green supporters may lend votes to Labour. However, Green voters show less inclination toward tactical shifts. The findings challenge earlier projections suggesting Reform could secure major gains or even a Commons majority.

Pray: for integrity in political discourse and wisdom among voters in the future. (Proverbs 29:2)

More: www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/nigel-farage-stop-prime-minister-tactical-voting-labour-reform-b1271499.html

Universities face Covid-related compensation claims

At least 36 universities are facing compensation claims from more than 170,000 current and former students who argue they did not receive the full educational experience they paid for during the Covid pandemic. The legal action follows a confidential settlement between University College London and the Student Group Claim, which represents thousands of students on a no-win, no-fee basis. UCL has not admitted liability. The claims are being brought under consumer law, focusing on the difference in value between in-person tuition and remote learning. During lockdowns, universities shifted rapidly to online delivery, with limited access to campus facilities. Students on practical courses, including fine art and laboratory-based subjects, say they were particularly disadvantaged. Universities UK describes the pandemic as an unprecedented challenge requiring swift adaptation. Some institutions say they provided established routes for compensation at the time. However, legal firms argue students borrowed heavily at high interest rates for an experience that was significantly altered, and more claims may follow before the September 2026 deadline.

Pray: for fairness, accountability, and restoration for students and institutions impacted by pandemic disruption. (Micah 6:8)

More: www.lbc.co.uk/article/universities-compensation-covid-studies-5HjdSQD_2/

Tommy Robinson announces rally to unite UK 'under God'

Far-right activist Tommy Robinson has announced plans for a new 'Unite the Kingdom' rally in central London, promoting the theme 'Four Nations. One Kingdom. Under God.' In a promotional video, Christian language and imagery feature prominently, echoing a previous rally in September which included public prayers, worship songs, wooden crosses, and banners declaring biblical slogans. Some Christian leaders have criticised the movement's use of Christian symbols. One minister described it as an attempt to 'churchwash racism', arguing that the cross should represent Christ's inclusive love rather than division. Former archbishop Rowan Williams was also among those condemning the earlier march. While it reportedly drew large crowds, a subsequent carol event saw lower attendance. The rally is scheduled for 16 May, coinciding with the FA Cup Final, raising logistical concerns for policing. The announcement follows Robinson's claim that he left the UK after being named on an extremist target list.

Pray: for unity rooted in Christ's love, rejecting division, extremism, and misuse of Christian symbols. (Ephesians 4:3)

More: premierchristian.news/en/news/article/tommy-robinson-announces-rally-to-unite-uk-under-god

Europe

Ukraine: ceasefire negotiations make no substantial progress

After two days, negotiations between Russia, Ukraine and the USA ended without a ceasefire agreement, highlighting how far apart both sides remain. Discussions addressed military monitoring and possible prisoner exchanges, yet the central dispute over territory continues unresolved. Russia insists on control of the eastern Donbas region, while Ukraine rejects surrendering sovereign land and seeks security guarantees against future invasion. The status of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant also remains contested. After years of war, millions remain displaced and daily attacks continue to endanger civilians. Diplomats describe the talks as substantive but difficult, with further meetings expected. European representatives have struggled to be included in the negotiations, and Zelensky said European participation was 'indispensable' for any final agreement. 24 February will be the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Pray: that the negotiations will make good progress and lead to ceasefire, justice, and protection for civilians. (Psalm 34:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k1xj0d708o

EU leaders face difficult decision on Russian steel

Across Europe, leaders face a difficult decision over Russian steel imports. Although finished steel was banned after the invasion of Ukraine, semi-finished steel continues to enter the EU because several countries rely on it for infrastructure projects. Nearly three million tonnes arrive each year, worth billions of euros. Some lawmakers argue these purchases indirectly strengthen Russia's war capacity, while others warn that a sudden ban would harm industries and delay construction. Negotiations are now under way to decide whether imports should end immediately or continue until 2028 as previously planned. The debate reveals a deeper struggle: balancing economic stability with moral responsibility during wartime. The outcome could shape Europe's unity, economic resilience, and witness to justice, reminding believers that political decisions carry spiritual weight.

Pray: that European leaders will act with wisdom, justice, and understanding. (James 3:17)

More: www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/02/17/fight-to-ban-russian-steel-intensifies-in-brussels

Worldwide

China: top carbon emitter becomes renewable energy superpower

While Donald Trump's administration is pedalling back on American commitment to green energy, China is rapidly expanding renewable energy across its vast landscapes, building huge solar and wind installations to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. In some desert regions, solar panels are not only providing shade but also slowing land degradation, giving farmers renewed hope. The country now produces more solar panels than the rest of the world combined and aims to peak emissions by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2060. Yet the transition brings tensions. Oversupply has hurt manufacturers, while some rural communities lose farmland or feel excluded from decisions. Concerns also remain about labour practices and environmental impacts linked to mining and construction. At the same time, coal still supplies much of the nation's electricity, meaning the shift must balance economic growth with environmental responsibility. The changes show both promise and hardship as society adapts to a new energy future.

Pray: that these energy transitions protect communities, workers, and the environment. (Genesis 2:15)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-8d2b6944-4f7a-45b4-96fd-2d92499ff97d

USA: Zuckerberg in trial to assess addictive effects of social media

A major court case has just begun, designed to examine whether social media platforms are intentionally designed to keep children engaged in harmful ways. A young woman, 'Kaley', alleges that after she began using Meta and WhatsApp as a child, she developed anxiety, distorted body image, and suicidal thoughts after prolonged exposure. Company leaders argue they implemented safety measures and relied on research showing mixed evidence about mental health harm. Parents, however, say their children were exploited through addictive features and inadequate age protections. The trial, which started by cross-examining Mark Zuckerberg, might influence hundreds of similar cases and could force changes to how social media platforms operate. The debate raises broader concerns about technology, profit, responsibility, and the wellbeing of young people growing up online.

Pray: that technology companies will do all they can to protect children and prioritise wellbeing over profit. (Philippians 4:8)

More: edition.cnn.com/2026/02/18/tech/meta-mark-zuckerberg-testifies-social-media-addiction-trial

Syria: Alawite women living with fear after targeted violence and kidnapping

In western Syria, families live with fear after reports of kidnappings targeting women from the Alawite minority. Survivors describe being seized by armed men, beaten, threatened, and sometimes assaulted while held in secret locations for days or weeks. Human rights groups have recorded dozens of cases since the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad (an Alawite) in December 2024, but many families say the authorities have failed to investigate properly. Some victims were questioned about their identity and accused because of their background, leaving deep trauma and stigma. Several families fled their homes, afraid of retaliation if they spoke publicly. Even after release, women struggle with nightmares, broken relationships, and isolation. The crisis highlights how instability can expose vulnerable people to exploitation and revenge.

Pray: for protection, justice, and healing for traumatised women and families. (Psalm 9:9)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn5g751pl7lo

Peru: congress ousts president after four months

There is continuing political instability in Peru after congress removed interim president José Jerí only four months after he was appointed. Secret meetings with businessmen and allegations of influence-peddling triggered public outrage and a parliamentary vote of censure. His departure makes him the latest in a series of leaders forced from office in recent years, leaving citizens weary and distrustful of institutions; they long for transparent leadership which addresses corruption, crime, and social unrest. The frequent changes of government have disrupted long-term planning and weakened confidence in justice and security. The situation highlights how fragile governance affects everyday life, especially for the poor who depend most on stability. Congress will soon name a new interim president, who will serve only until a new president is chosen by the people in a general election in April.

Pray: that the upcoming elections will bring honest leadership and renewed public trust nationwide. (Proverbs 11:14)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz7gvd457vo

Libya: UN report shows severe abuse of migrants

A United Nations report reveals severe abuse faced by migrants and refugees in Libya. Many fleeing war or poverty hope to cross the Mediterranean, but instead encounter exploitation. Testimonies describe detention in crowded centres, forced labour, trafficking, and repeated violence. Some are intercepted at sea and returned to conditions where dignity and safety are absent. Investigators say criminal networks often operate alongside officials, creating a system where suffering becomes routine. Thousands remain held without due process, and families are left uncertain about missing relatives. The crisis shows how vulnerable people can be when trapped between conflict, poverty, and political instability.

Pray: for safety, justice, and compassionate policies for displaced and exploited migrants. (Leviticus 19:34)

More: www.africanews.com/2026/02/17/un-calls-on-both-authorities-in-libya-to-protect-rights-of-migrants/

Myanmar: ASEAN leaders divided about how to deal with junta

Regional leaders in Southeast Asia are divided over how to respond to Myanmar's ruling military junta. After the coup in 2021, ASEAN called for an immediate end to violence, constructive dialogue, the appointment of a special envoy, humanitarian assistance, and a visit by a regional delegation – conditions that the junta has largely ignored. Some governments favour renewed engagement with the ruling authorities, hoping dialogue may reduce conflict. Others insist recognition should wait until violence stops and meaningful participation from all groups is possible. A third group tries to balance principles with diplomacy, maintaining contact while withholding full acceptance. The lack of agreement has stalled regional efforts to bring peace, leaving civilians caught in ongoing instability years after the military takeover. Humanitarian needs continue, refugees cross borders, and uncertainty weakens trust between nations. The situation shows how difficult peacemaking becomes when security, national interests, and justice collide.

Pray: for leaders who must navigate complex tensions with understanding of others' viewpoints, and for suffering communities longing for reconciliation and lasting peace. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

More: asianews.network/to-recognise-or-not-behind-aseans-lack-of-consensus-on-the-myanmar-polls/

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