

# Believe in Bolton

*A person acts as leader; the other members join in the words in bold*

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry;

**All hold not your peace at my tears.**

## **Praise**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;

**you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.**

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;

**through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.**

Your warmth gives life to the dead,

**your touch makes sinners righteous.**

Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

**in your love and tenderness remake us.**

In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,

**for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.**

*Anselm (1109)*

**Bible Reading** (see diary for suggestions)

**Prayers** (see diary)

Watchful at all times, we pray

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

Among the nations and in peace

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

In the reading of your Word, in our prayer, our celebrations and fellowship

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

As we tell and retell in art, in song and in drama the story of your coming among us

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

In our care for the sick, the poor, the lost, the homeless, the displaced and the marginalised

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

As with all the saints, we seek to carry your light into and within your world

**Father, may we see your kingdom come.**

**Collect for the Week** (see diary)

**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.**

**The Believe in Bolton Prayer**

**Father in Heaven, mould me into Christlikeness; and stir up in me the fire of your love.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, renew my friendship in you; and help me to serve you with a quiet mind and a burning spirit.**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit, please keep me in the joy, simplicity and compassion of your Gospel. Amen.**

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## March 2020: Suggestions for Prayer and Bible Reading

<p><b>1 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>          Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert:          help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:15-17, 3.1-7           Romans 5.12-19           Matthew 4.1-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Christians to live in genuine repentance and forgiveness, offering that forgiveness to others.</li> <li>• For Faith Pictures courses starting this week to be well attended and helpful.</li> <li>• For Bolton Marathon on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May and the Churches' witness around it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>          Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Psalm 121           Romans 4.1-5,13-17           John 3.1-17</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For people who think they don't need God to be inspired by meeting Jesus.</li> <li>• For churches to come up with effective ideas for building up interest leading up to the weekend.</li> <li>• For the Civic Service on Sunday afternoon.</li> </ul>
<p><b>15 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>          Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.</p>	<p>Exodus 17.1-7           Psalm 95           Romans 5.1-11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those who are suffering to find joy in Jesus Christ.</li> <li>• For financial provision for Believe in Bolton.</li> <li>• For churches to follow up and disciple new Christians effectively</li> </ul>
<p><b>22 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>Mothering Sunday</b>          God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>1 Samuel 1.20-28           Psalm 127.1-4           John 19.25-27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For people who have left behind a childhood faith; for God to whisper in their hearts and call them back to Him.</li> <li>• For young people within and outside our churches and in between.</li> <li>• For the comedy night with Andy Kind</li> </ul>
<p><b>29 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent</b>          Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world: lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>	<p>Ezekiel 37.1-14           Psalm 130           John 11.1-45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For people who have no interest in God; for God to guide us to find ways to connect and spark their interest.</li> <li>• For <i>TryPraying</i> resources to prompt people who don't do God to give prayer a try.</li> <li>• For the curry night.</li> </ul>