

Some prayers by Nick Fawcett

When you're struggling to pray during these dark days of the coronavirus pandemic

Here's some prayers that may help you to find words to articulate some of your thoughts and fears when you're struggling to pray during these dark days of the coronavirus pandemic, and remind you that, however much it may feel like it, you are not alone.

(1)

I'm not praying for me today, Lord,
but for others:
young people meant soon to be taking
exams,
their future now in doubt;
carers for loved ones,
striving to keep safe those at risk;
multitudes suddenly finding themselves
out of work,
worried about how to make ends meet,
financial pressures added to fears over
health;
owners of small businesses,
cafes, shops, bars and restaurants among
many others,
faced by the prospect of their livelihood
collapsing in ruins,
what had seemed a wise investment now
a millstone around their neck;
clergy, counsellors and chaplains,
seeking to give succour and support to
those reeling from recent events;
GPs, nurses, doctors, consultants, NHS
staff,
increasingly overwhelmed by massive
pressures
yet with limited resources to meet them;
politicians and leaders in this country and
beyond,

trying to work out the best way forward –
a way of safeguarding life as effectively as
possible,
while also limiting potentially devastating
economic consequences for us all.

Give help, Lord;
give strength;
guidance;
wisdom.

In our hurting world,
bring hope and healing,
love and life.
Amen.

(2)

Lord,
what can I pray for?
What should I say?
I'm frightened,
troubled,
confused,
everything in life having been turned
inside out
and upside down.
And whatever words I use in prayer seem
inadequate,
hollow,
even trite.
Help me,
hold me,
hear me,
and at this troubled time, encircle all –
myself,
my loved ones,
my friends and colleagues,
the wider world –
in the warm embrace of your love.
Amen.

(3)

I've been complacent, Lord,
my faith shallow,
ill-thought-through,
comfortably assuming that whatever life
brings,
everything will be all right.
It will, of course, in the context of
eternity,
but in terms of life now,
it's a different story,
for you do not promise your followers any
less trouble than the next person,
nor guarantee that anyone,
no matter how deserving,
will be immune to this world's trials and
tribulations.
I've grasped that with my mind,
but in my heart I foolishly imagined
otherwise,
daring to believe that you will protect me
from every danger,
whatever form it might take.
Teach me to trust,
not that you will deliver me from harm,
but that you will support me through it,
however testing it may be,
and that nothing in earth or heaven,
life or death,
will ever be able to separate me from your
everlasting love in Jesus Christ our Lord,
the same yesterday,
today,
tomorrow
and always.
Amen.