

Prayer Alert

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Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 5:16)

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

Please also pray for the Philippine general elections taking place on 12 May. See also the [2025 elections prayer guide](#).



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!

How would you like to join our Prayer Alert team? We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England. 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

California: largest single-day baptism in US history

Over 7,750 believers were baptised at Huntington Beach, California, marking the largest single-day baptism in US history. The event, hosted by Oceans Church and Pastor Mark Francey, gathered 30,000 attendees from over 300 churches statewide. Held as part of the Baptise California initiative, it surpassed last year's record and is seen as a powerful spark for revival across America. The movement's vision is expanding through the upcoming Baptise America event on Pentecost Sunday, seeking to unite churches nationwide in synchronised water baptisms. Organisers say that this initiative is not about one church but the entire Body of Christ, standing together in obedience to the Great Commission. Testimonies included a 71-year-old woman baptised after forty years of waiting, a symbol of God's ongoing call to repentance and renewal. The team's ultimate goal is lasting fruit: connecting new believers into local churches and fostering a growing, united movement of faith across the nation.

Praise: God for thousands publicly declaring their faith in Christ; may revival spread across every US state and beyond. (Acts 2:41)

More: www.christianpost.com/news/over-7750-baptized-in-largest-single-day-baptism-in-us-history.html

Miner's joy touches lives after encounter with Jesus

Nearly fifty years ago, Yorkshire coal miner Russ Gill's life was transformed after a desperate prayer for his daughter's healing led him to Christ. When seven-year-old Jayne was critically ill with kidney failure, Russ cried out to God, promising to become a Christian if she recovered. After her healing, the family attended church, and Russ soon gave his life to Christ. His faith deepened, leading him and his wife, Jean, to Bible College and a lifetime of ministry. Russ boldly shared his testimony in an evangelistic paper, sparking seeds of faith in his mining colleagues. One colleague, initially dismissive, later wrote to him, recounting a powerful encounter with God which brought him to his knees and into

church. Despite challenges, including Jayne's later passing, the family's legacy of faith endures. Their son now pastors a vibrant London church, and granddaughter Jessica is studying at Bible college. Russ's joy-filled witness continues to inspire, as he declares: 'My God is a living God, Jesus - the same yesterday, today and for ever!'

Praise: God for Russ's faithful witness; may generations rise up bold and joyful in sharing Christ. (Psalm 145:4)

More: www.godreports.com/2025/05/miners-joy-touches-lives-after-encounter-with-jesus/

British Isles

Royals lead VE Day 80th anniversary celebrations

Britain commemorated the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with grand events led by the Royal Family. Crowds lined the Mall in London to witness an RAF flypast, echoing King George VI's historic 1945 balcony appearance. The King and Queen, joined by senior royals and veterans, paid tribute to those who fought for freedom. Prince George, 11, attended his first VE Day tea party with veterans, showing keen interest in their stories. Across the UK, tea parties and street celebrations honoured the sacrifices of wartime generations. The Bengali Association hosted a vibrant event in London's Docklands, reflecting the vital contributions of Commonwealth soldiers. Veterans shared memories of wartime bravery, from the D-Day landings to service in Churchill's secret army. Keir Starmer underscored the nation's enduring gratitude. These commemorations, blending solemn remembrance and joyful celebration, highlighted the resilience and unity forged in World War 2 - a legacy which continues to shape Britain's national identity and inspire future generations.

Pray: that new generations will cherish freedom, honour veterans, and seek lasting peace through Christ. (John 15:13)

More: www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/royals-lead-tea-parties-as-britain-celebrates-b2745210.html

Trump set to announce UK - USA trade deal

Donald Trump is poised to announce a significant new trade agreement between the USA and the United Kingdom, marking a key step forward in post-Brexit trade relations. A 'heads of terms agreement' - essentially a preliminary framework - has been reached, laying the groundwork for a full trade deal. The announcement, expected from the Oval Office, follows weeks of high-level discussions amid global trade tensions. While the deal's full details are pending, it is anticipated to address tariff reductions, particularly on UK steel and car exports, sectors hit hard by US tariffs. The British pound rose 0.4% against the US dollar following reports of the agreement. The deal comes as the USA also continues trade negotiations with other major economies, including China, South Korea, and Japan. UK officials have stressed the importance of balancing strong transatlantic ties with ongoing EU relations. The agreement is seen as a boost for UK industry and a strategic move to strengthen bilateral economic partnerships in an uncertain global climate. See also <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrvr1plxn6o>

Pray: for fairness, integrity, and God's guidance in shaping trade deals that bless both nations and protect livelihoods. (Proverbs 16:13)

More: news.sky.com/story/trump-set-to-announce-us-will-agree-trade-deal-with-uk-reports-13363630

Israeli embassy in London was target of suspected terror plot

Five Iranian men have been arrested in the UK on suspicion of plotting a terrorist attack, with the Israeli embassy in London understood to have been the target. Although police have not officially confirmed the embassy as the focus, multiple sources, including the BBC, report this as accurate. The suspects, aged between 24 and 46, were arrested in Swindon, west London, Stockport, Rochdale, and Manchester. Four remain in custody under the Terrorism Act; one has been released on bail. Counter-terrorism officers have searched several properties across England, and the investigation is described as fast-moving and sensitive. Iran has denied involvement but offered cooperation. Officials warn that Iranian-backed activities in the UK are often underestimated, with influence spread via religious institutes, media, and charities aligned with Tehran's aims. UK authorities have praised the swift response of hundreds of officers involved, highlighting the seriousness of this threat. Citizens are urged to remain vigilant as investigations continue, with further updates expected as operational security allows.

Pray: for protection over embassies and wisdom for security services to thwart every terror plot against innocent lives. (Psalm 121:7)

More: www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce8g8jlx33xo

Labour mutiny looming over new wave of benefits cuts

Labour MPs are warning of a brewing rebellion over government plans to deepen cuts to the welfare budget this autumn. Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves face growing dissent after announcing in March a £5 billion reduction in benefits, with additional cuts reportedly under consideration. The proposals, which include tightening eligibility for personal independence payments (PIP) and cuts to universal credit, have sparked concerns across the party. Backbenchers and activists report rising public anger, especially following poor results in local elections and the Runcorn by-election. Critics warn that further cuts could drive more people into poverty, particularly affecting disabled individuals and communities already struggling with high rates of benefit dependence. Two Labour MPs have vowed to oppose the reforms, emphasising the party's responsibility to protect society's most vulnerable. Disability advocates, arguing that the cuts prioritise financial savings over people's wellbeing, are urging the Government to reconsider. Ministers, however, insist reforms are necessary to sustain the welfare system for the future.

Pray: for compassionate governance that upholds justice, protecting the poor and vulnerable from deepening hardship. (Proverbs 31:9)

More: inews.co.uk/news/politics/second-wave-benefit-cuts-threatens-fresh-labour-mutiny-starmer-3678886

Cyber centre: 'beware phony IT calls' after retailer hacks

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has issued a warning following recent cyber attacks targeting major retailers including Marks & Spencer, Co-op, and Harrods. Criminal hackers have reportedly impersonated IT help desks to infiltrate company systems, a tactic known as social engineering. The NCSC urges organisations to review their password reset procedures and authentication processes, especially for senior staff with high-level access. Cybersecurity experts advise using multi-layered verification methods, including codewords, to prevent breaches. Although an anonymous group claiming responsibility, calling themselves DragonForce, denies links to the notorious Scattered Spider hacking collective, the methods used are strikingly similar. These hackers have previously carried out high-profile attacks, including on Las Vegas casinos. The NCSC emphasises vigilance against risky logins and unusual account activity. Law enforcement is investigating, with ongoing efforts to confirm links between recent attacks. The Co-op has admitted customer data was compromised, while M&S's breach is under investigation. Businesses are reminded to bolster security, as this wave of attacks highlights the evolving threat landscape in today's digital world.

Pray: for protection over digital infrastructures and wisdom for cybersecurity teams safeguarding vital services and personal data. (Psalm 46:1)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4grn878712o

Church of Scotland to take neutral stance on Scottish assisted dying bill

The Church of Scotland is set to become the first major UK denomination to adopt a neutral stance on assisted dying, marking a significant shift from its historic opposition. This move comes ahead of a crucial Scottish Parliament vote on a private member's bill seeking to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill individuals with mental capacity. While the bill has strict safeguards - requiring approval from two doctors - critics warn of potential future loosening of eligibility criteria. Scotland's first minister, John Swinney, a Church of Scotland member, has voiced concerns and is expected to vote against the bill. Proponents argue the change reflects broad public support, with polls indicating that two-thirds of Scots back assisted dying. Humanist and faith-based campaigners alike see the church's neutral stance as bridging divides between secular and religious perspectives. In contrast, other UK faith groups remain firmly opposed, citing fears of abuse and coercion. As debate intensifies, the Church's position is seen as pivotal in shaping future discussions on compassionate end-of-life choices in Scotland.

Pray: for God's guidance and clarity for lawmakers and churches as they navigate these complex life-and-death ethical decisions. (James 1:5)
More: www.theguardian.com/society/2025/may/07/church-of-scotland-neutral-stance-assisted-dying-bill

Europe

Vatican: a new pope is elected

On 8 May Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago in 1955, was elected as the new head of the Catholic Church, becoming the first North American, American, and Peruvian pope. A member of the Order of Saint Augustine, he is also the first Augustinian pope in modern times. Prevost's career included decades of service in Peru as a pastor, seminary educator, and diocesan official, before rising within his order's global leadership. He later served as Bishop of Chiclayo and was made a cardinal in 2023, shortly before becoming Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops - a critical Vatican post. His wide linguistic fluency and diverse cultural experience positioned him as a bridge between the global North and South. His leadership will be closely watched for how he navigates past controversies and leads a Church increasingly shaped by voices from the global south.

Pray: for Pope Leo, that he may lead the Catholic church with holiness, courage, and fidelity to Christ's gospel. (Jeremiah 3:15)
More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Leo_XIV

Ukraine: Putin announces three-day ceasefire

Vladimir Putin has announced a new three-day unilateral ceasefire, to run from 8 to 10 May, coinciding with Russia's World War II commemorations. It follows a previous thirty-hour Easter ceasefire, which critics say Moscow repeatedly violated. The Kremlin frames these brief pauses as humanitarian gestures; Ukrainian officials argue that if Russia truly sought peace, it would halt hostilities immediately. Foreign minister Andrii Sybiha called for a thirty-day truce instead. Observers question whether Putin's moves are sincere peace efforts or merely an attempt to influence Donald Trump, who has recently voiced frustration with both Russia and Ukraine. Trump has criticised Putin for continuing attacks on civilian areas and floated harsher sanctions. When in March he proposed a thirty-day ceasefire, Ukraine agreed, but Russia did not. In another development, the much-anticipated natural resources agreement between the USA and Ukraine has been signed:
[see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ypw7pn9q3o](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ypw7pn9q3o)

Pray: for discernment among world leaders, and for further progress towards a genuine end to bloodshed. (Psalm 34:14)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgpj3gddgno

Worldwide

India / Pakistan: claims and counter-claims as hostilities continue

On 8 May Pakistan claimed it shot down twelve Indian drones overnight amid escalating tensions following Indian airstrikes which have killed 31 people across Pakistan. General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, describing India's actions as a 'blatant act of aggression', said the drone incursions had targeted major cities including Rawalpindi, where Pakistan's military has its headquarters. Flights have been suspended in major cities of both nations, and a state of emergency declared in Pakistan's Sindh region. India has not responded to the drone accusations but claimed its earlier strikes targeted terrorist infrastructure connected with the deadly militant attack in Kashmir on 22 April (<https://prayer-alert.net/en/pray/regions/worldwide/item/53770-kashmir-26-killed-in-terrorist-attack>), even though Pakistan has denied involvement in it. Pakistan's prime minister has vowed revenge, while pressure builds on its army chief to respond. Both sides have exchanged shellfire along the contested Kashmir border. Iran has offered to mediate, as global concern mounts over the risk of broader conflict between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Pray: earnestly for peace, restraint, and wisdom between Pakistan and India's leaders. Pray for effective mediation so that hostilities will not escalate. (Psalm 34:14)
More: www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/08/india-pakistan-kashmir-tensions-airstrike

Gaza: Israeli airstrikes kill many Palestinian civilians

At least 33 Palestinians have been killed in two near-simultaneous Israeli airstrikes on a crowded restaurant and marketplace in Gaza City, according to medics and the Hamas-run health ministry. The ThaiLandy restaurant, operating as a community kitchen, and a busy market on al-Wahda street were struck, leaving horrific scenes of civilian casualties. Israel's military said it was investigating the reports. Two days earlier, there were airstrikes on two schools serving displaced families, killing at least 48 people. Israel says it is expanding its military campaign against Hamas, aiming to eliminate the group and rescue the remaining 59 hostages. Critics warn that civilian infrastructure is being targeted and mass displacement and famine are imminent due to a blockade. Gaza's Hamas-run government accuses Israel of war crimes. The UN has reiterated that Israel is responsible for ensuring access to food and medical aid, and cases of malnutrition are rising alarmingly:
[see \(https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrv5rl73zdo\)](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrv5rl73zdo) With over 52,000 Gazans reported killed since October 2023, international pressure is growing to halt the violence and resume ceasefire negotiations.

Pray: for protection of the innocent and an urgent end to this bloodshed. (Psalm 140:1,2)
More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3676r17gg4o

Australia: Albanese secures re-election with landslide majority

Anthony Albanese has defied the 'incumbency curse', securing a historic landslide re-election for Australia's Labour Party. At the start of the year polls had put Albanese's popularity at record lows, but he led a disciplined campaign focused on cost-of-living concerns, healthcare, housing, and reconciliation with Indigenous Australians. Voters rejected the opposition's Trump-style campaign led by Peter Dutton, who lost his own seat amid policy missteps and failed attempts to rebrand. With Labour projected to gain 86 seats, and the conservative Liberal-National Coalition reduced to around 40, Albanese becomes the first Australian leader in over twenty years to win back-to-back elections. He now faces pressure to act boldly on climate change, Indigenous reconciliation, and economic reform. International leaders welcomed the result, but there are now questions about whether Labour will now use its strong mandate to pursue lasting change. The campaign's tone and outcome suggest Australians have chosen stability over polarising rhetoric and disruption.

Pray: that Albanese and his party will govern with humility, justice, and courage, and know what to prioritise in the months to come. (Proverbs 2:6)

More: www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9djze015xlo

Sudan: new wave of refugees pour into Chad after RSF atrocities

Over 18,500 Sudanese refugees have fled into eastern Chad in the past two weeks, following devastating attacks on the Zamzam displacement camp and the city of al-Fasher in Darfur. The 11 April assault by Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) left at least 400 dead in Zamzam after months of starvation and siege. Eyewitnesses report widespread atrocities including executions, torture, and sexual violence. The RSF destroyed the camp's only medical centre, killing nine aid workers, and burned large sections of the camp. Once home to 500,000 people, Zamzam is now nearly abandoned. Many fleeing refugees, including children and pregnant women, are severely malnourished and traumatised. Chad, already hosting 1.3 million refugees - nearly 800,000 from Sudan - is overwhelmed and struggling to provide adequate shelter, food, and medical care. UNHCR officials, fearing more suffering ahead as the humanitarian situation deteriorates rapidly, are calling for urgent international assistance and intervention.

Pray: for healing, refuge, and deliverance for Sudan's displaced and suffering people. Pray that Chad will be able to cope with this huge influx. (Isaiah 25:4)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/05/06/new-wave-of-sudanese-refugees-flee-into-neighbouring-chad/

Rwanda: talks with USA about receiving immigrants

Rwanda has confirmed it is in early discussions with the Trump administration about potentially receiving immigrants deported from the USA. Foreign minister Olivier Nduhugirehe stated the talks are ongoing but not finalised. The move follows US efforts to find foreign partners for deportations as part of Trump's expansive immigration enforcement strategy, which includes invoking the 1798 Alien Enemies Act - granting the president wartime authority to deport noncitizens without due process. In April, the USA deported an Iraqi man accused of IS ties to Rwanda. Reports also suggest that migrants with criminal records might be sent to Rwanda or Libya. In 2022 Rwanda had agreed to accept asylum-seekers from the UK, but Keir Starmer's government scrapped the deal due to legal and human rights concerns. A spokesperson for UNHCR has said: 'People fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserve compassion and empathy. They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing.'

Pray: that all nations will act justly and compassionately toward vulnerable migrants today. (Psalm 82:3)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/05/05/rwanda-in-talks-with-washington-to-receive-immigrants-deported-from-the-united-states/?dicbo=v2-XGMUVy3

USA: Trump offers \$1,000 illegal immigrants to 'self-deport'

Donald Trump's administration has launched a voluntary 'self-deportation' initiative offering \$1,000 to illegal immigrants who choose to leave the USA. Homeland security secretary Kristi Noem described it as a safer, more cost-effective alternative to forced removal. In addition to the cash incentive, the government will cover travel costs and provide return assistance via an app called CBP Home. Participants would be 'deprioritised' for detention and only receive the payout after their return is verified. The Department of Homeland Security highlighted the fiscal rationale: removing someone through standard procedures costs over \$17,000. Trump, who made mass deportation central to his platform, argues this strategy fulfils his promises more economically. Critics, however, question its effectiveness and ethics. During his campaign, he repeatedly said that he planned to carry out 'the largest deportation operation' in American history, but so far the numbers have not matched his promises.

Pray: for justice, order, and mercy in national immigration enforcement policies. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

More: www.africanews.com/2025/05/06/united-states-trump-administration-offers-illegal-immigrants-1000-to-self-deport/

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