

# Prayer Alert

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**Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be over all the earth. (Psalm 108:5)**

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

We are all invited to join the World Prayer Centre, Birmingham's weekly Revival Prayer Hour each Wednesday morning at 9.30am. If you share our calling to pray into issues affecting our nation and a heartfelt desire to see revival in the British Isles - do join us! [More Info and Sign-up Here](#)



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

### Actor shares faith: 'God wants all of you'

Actor Gavin Casalegno, best known for his role in 'The Summer I Turned Pretty', is gaining recognition not just for his acting but for boldly sharing his Christian faith. The 25-year-old regularly posts on TikTok, speaking openly about prayer, repentance, and living wholly for God in Hollywood. He warns against complacency, saying, 'God wants all of you, not just the Sunday version', and testifies that real strength comes from relying on God, not self. Casalegno has spoken vulnerably of repentance as a turning point, describing how admitting his need brought a clear experience of God's love. Raised in a Christian family, he says stepping back from social media to focus on God and family keeps his perspective healthy. Last year he married nurse Cheyanne King, who also celebrates her faith publicly, bringing Christ's light into healthcare. Together, they launched a clothing line inspired by biblical truths, designed to spark meaningful conversations. Casalegno joins other Hollywood figures unashamedly professing Christ, demonstrating that faith is becoming more visible in mainstream culture.

Praise: God for Gavin's bold witness in Hollywood; may his life inspire others to live unashamed for Christ. (Romans 1:16)  
More: [www.christianpost.com/news/the-summer-i-turned-pretty-star-gavin-casalegno-shares-faith.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/the-summer-i-turned-pretty-star-gavin-casalegno-shares-faith.html)

### He turned to God after thief stole his Bible

Matt Williams of Tennessee was heartbroken when his Bible case, filled with family photos and treasured memories, was stolen from his vehicle. In that moment, he turned to God in prayer, surrendering the situation: 'Not my will but yours'. Astonishingly, his Bible was later discovered inside another stolen car, placed alongside a second copy of the Scriptures. The chain of events that led to its recovery seemed providential: the mother of the woman whose car had been stolen posted online about finding the Bible, and Williams recognised it as his. The unexpected return of his precious Bible reminded him of God's intimate care: 'Not even a sparrow falls without His notice.'

Apparently not even a Bible gets stolen without His response.' This showed Williams that God is attentive to the details of His children's lives and answers prayer in personal, unexpected ways. His testimony is a reminder that God values His people deeply and delights to show His faithfulness.

Praise: God for hearing Matt's heartfelt prayer and showing His care in restoring what was lost. (Matthew 10:29-31)

More: [www.faithwire.com/2025/08/25/i-said-a-quick-prayer-man-turns-to-god-after-thief-steals-his-bible-and-a-miracle-unfolds/](http://www.faithwire.com/2025/08/25/i-said-a-quick-prayer-man-turns-to-god-after-thief-steals-his-bible-and-a-miracle-unfolds/)

## British Isles

### Farage says Church leaders 'out of touch' on immigration issue

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage has defended his hardline immigration plan, 'Operation Restoring Justice', which would see all illegal Channel crossings - including those by women and children - met with deportation if his party won power. He argued that the proposals align with Britain's Judeo-Christian heritage, despite opposition from Church leaders, whom he accused of being 'out of touch' with ordinary believers. Farage suggested that criticism from bishops and 'The Establishment' was inevitable, but insisted meaningful change often comes through struggle. His plan includes withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights, scrapping the Human Rights Act, and suspending treaties used by courts to block deportations. Labour dismissed the proposals as an 'unworkable gimmick,' while Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch accused Reform of copying Tory policies. The announcement follows rising protests near asylum seeker accommodation and record asylum claims in 2024. Reform UK claims it could deport up to 600,000 people in its first term. See <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/aug/27/nigel-farage-rolls-back-on-vow-to-deport-all-small-boat-arrivals-to-the-uk>

Pray: for leaders to balance justice with compassion, and for the Church to speak truth with courage and grace. (Micah 6:8)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/farage-accuses-church-leaders-out-of-touch-immigration](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/farage-accuses-church-leaders-out-of-touch-immigration)

### Two sides of England's 'flag wars', from a town at the heart of the debate

A surge in flag-flying across Blackley, north Manchester, has sparked fierce debate about patriotism, immigration, and racism. England and Union Jack flags now line lamp posts and homes, part of a wider campaign called 'Raising The Colours'. Supporters argue it is a proud display of national identity and frustration with government failures on illegal migration, insisting the flags are not racist. Don and Anne Lees, who joined the movement, said it made them 'proud to be English'. Yet critics see the campaign as intimidating, echoing past racial tensions. One resident compared the masked men who put up flags at night to the far right of the 1970s, warning that Polish neighbours might feel threatened. While some shopkeepers welcome the extra sales, others worry that it risks division. Labour MP Graham Stringer said patriotism has deep roots in Blackley and insisted national flags 'shouldn't feel threatening', urging people not to see them as owned by extremists. Rising asylum numbers and strained services fuel the controversy.

Pray: for unity in diverse communities, and for love to triumph over division and fear in this debate. (Ephesians 2:14)

More: [inews.co.uk/news/two-sides-englands-flag-wars-town-heart-debate-3878237](http://inews.co.uk/news/two-sides-englands-flag-wars-town-heart-debate-3878237)

### More than 500 arrested at Notting Hill Carnival

This year's Notting Hill Carnival saw more than 500 arrests over two days, a sharp rise from 349 in 2024. Police deployed over 7,000 officers daily, supported by CCTV, knife searches, and live facial recognition technology, which directly led to 61 arrests, including a registered sex offender, a machete attacker, and a fugitive wanted for a decade. While four stabbings occurred, none were fatal - a reduction in serious violence compared to recent years when murders took place. Arrests included 167 for drugs, 50 for offensive weapons, 21 for sexual offences, and 55 for assaults on police, with two officers requiring hospital treatment. Deputy assistant commissioner Matt Ward praised both proactive policing and carnival organisers for discouraging violence. Despite improvements, concerns remain over crowd safety and overcrowding risks. An independent review is expected to report in October.

Pray: for safety, peace, and positive community expression at the carnival and at other large public events. (Psalm 122:7)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kensington-and-chelsea-council-cctv-b2814387.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/kensington-and-chelsea-council-cctv-b2814387.html)

### 67 people charged over Palestine Action support

The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that 67 people have been charged under section 13 of the Terrorism Act for allegedly showing support for Palestine Action, a proscribed organisation. Those charged, aged between 21 and 83, were arrested during central London protests on 5 and 12 July. They face a maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment and are due to appear for trial in September and October. Since the group's proscription on 5 July, more than 700 arrests have been made nationwide. Critics argue the ban infringes free speech, but Yvette Cooper insists Palestine Action has been responsible for serious crimes, including aggravated burglary and violent disorder. Commander Dominic Murphy rejected claims that protests had stretched police resources, stressing that law enforcement remained robust. The group has been granted permission to challenge the ban in the High Court in November, setting up a legal battle over the boundaries between protest and terrorism.

Pray: for truth, justice, and peace to prevail amid contested protests and counter-terrorism measures in the UK. (Romans 12:18)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj0y3n14r51o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj0y3n14r51o)

### Trump predicts 'bad awakening' for UK in unhinged TV rant

In a televised cabinet meeting, Donald Trump launched a furious tirade against the UK, blaming wind farms for rising energy costs. Reviving his long-standing grudge against offshore turbines near his Scottish golf course, he falsely claimed that 'windmills' had sent UK energy prices 'through the roof' and were 'ruining every country'. He also repeated discredited conspiracy theories linking turbines to whale deaths, despite scientists attributing recent strandings to climate change and warming seas. Experts note that wind power is in fact one of the cheapest energy sources, significantly undercutting gas, coal, and nuclear power. Surveys show it is the UK's second most popular form of energy generation, just behind nuclear, while fossil fuels remain the least favoured. Trump also criticised solar farms for taking up too much land and suggested the UK faced a 'bad awakening' for closing down oil operations. His comments marked a rare direct attack on a US ally, stirring debate over his reliability on climate and energy issues.

Pray: for discernment in global leadership, that truth would prevail over misinformation in energy and climate debates. (Proverbs 12:19)

More: [www.express.co.uk/news/us/2100589/trump-predicts-bad-awakening-uk-unhinged-tv-rant](http://www.express.co.uk/news/us/2100589/trump-predicts-bad-awakening-uk-unhinged-tv-rant)

## Fertility rates continue to fall, but number of births rise

Fertility rates in Great Britain have fallen to record lows, continuing a long-term decline seen since 2010. In England and Wales, the average dropped to 1.41 babies per woman in 2024, while Scotland recorded an even lower 1.25. Demographers say a replacement rate of 2.1 is needed to sustain population levels. Despite this, the number of births rose in 2024 due to immigration-driven population growth, with more women of childbearing age now living in the UK. Births to mothers from southern Asia and Africa have risen sharply, while births to EU-born mothers have declined since Brexit. Luton now records the highest fertility rate, with seven in ten babies born to foreign-born mothers. Fertility has fallen in all local authorities since 2014, though Birmingham has seen a recent rise. Experts warn that fewer babies combined with an ageing population will increase economic pressure, as fewer workers will be available to support rising healthcare and pension demands in the future.

Pray: for strong families, wise policies, and hope in Christ as the UK faces demographic and economic challenges. (Psalm 127:3)

More: [news.sky.com/story/fertility-rates-continue-to-fall-but-number-of-births-rise-13419236](https://news.sky.com/story/fertility-rates-continue-to-fall-but-number-of-births-rise-13419236)

## Europe

### Big Tech: Trump increases pressure on Europe over digital regulations

Donald Trump is intensifying pressure on the EU and other nations over digital regulations and taxes which he argues unfairly target American technology companies. Threatening new tariffs and restrictions on exports, he has warned that countries with policies he deems discriminatory will face consequences unless they roll back their measures. At the heart of the dispute are the EU's Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act, designed to curb monopolistic practices and require platforms to tackle harmful content, but viewed by Washington as an attack on US firms like Google and Meta (<https://www.prayer-alert.net/en/europe-pa-site/item/53774-eu-imposes-fines-on-two-us-firms>). The standoff raises tensions at a delicate stage in transatlantic trade talks, with many issues unresolved despite a preliminary agreement. Analysts caution that Europe is unlikely to reverse rules which represent long-sought goals of digital sovereignty, while Trump's negotiating tactic is seen as 'keep on pushing, keep on demanding: nothing is ever fully agreed upon.'

Pray: for wise and fair leadership in global trade. Pray that the continuing talks between the EU and the USA will have positive outcomes. (Philippians 2:4)

More: [katv.com/news/nation-world/trump-threatens-tariffs-on-countries-that-regulate-us-tech-companies-testing-europe-big-tech-digital-services-act-social-media-censorship-content-moderation](https://katv.com/news/nation-world/trump-threatens-tariffs-on-countries-that-regulate-us-tech-companies-testing-europe-big-tech-digital-services-act-social-media-censorship-content-moderation)

### Ukraine: Trump stirs more controversy, hopes for trilateral meeting

Donald Trump has stirred controversy by suggesting Ukraine is to blame for confronting a nation 'ten times' its size, despite Russia being the aggressor in the ongoing war. He downplayed Russia's responsibility for the invasion, instead criticising former presidents Joe Biden and Barack Obama for their handling of the conflict. He argued that Biden 'started' the war and accused Obama of 'giving away' Crimea in 2014. He also asserted that Ukraine had only been able to resist due to American weapons and aid. His comments followed the White House meeting on 18 August with Volodymyr Zelensky, European leaders, and NATO officials, at which he pledged US support for Ukraine's future security. Trump also touted his 'good relationship' with Vladimir Putin, saying that he had spoken to him about arranging a trilateral meeting with Zelensky. While he presented this as an early step toward peace, the question now is how Putin will respond.

Pray: for wisdom and courage for leaders seeking peace, justice, and protection for Ukraine's people. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-ukraine-russia-putin-zelensky-fox-and-friends-b2810752.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-ukraine-russia-putin-zelensky-fox-and-friends-b2810752.html)

## Worldwide

### USA: two children killed in shooting at Catholic school in Minneapolis

Tragedy struck Minneapolis when a gunman opened fire during a worship service at a Catholic school, killing two children aged eight and ten and injuring at least seventeen others. The attacker, 23-year-old Robin Westman, heavily armed with a rifle, shotgun, and pistol, was later found dead. Authorities say he acted alone and had no extensive criminal history; his motive remains unclear. Ten victims remain in critical condition, with several requiring urgent surgery. The violent assault has devastated families, leaving parents grieving, children fighting for their lives, and a city grappling with profound trauma. Officials described the community's heartbreak as immeasurable, with the mayor calling for more than empty platitudes. The event has reignited anguished questions over gun violence, safety in places of worship, and the vulnerability of schools meant to be sanctuaries for children.

Pray: for comfort and healing for the grieving families, and for peace in communities shattered by senseless violence. (Psalm 147:3)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy40znde9eko](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy40znde9eko)

### Israel / Gaza: attack on hospital condemned, famine officially declared, Pope's plea

A deadly double strike on a hospital in Gaza has drawn sharp international condemnation. At least twenty people were killed, including five journalists and four health workers, when two consecutive strikes targeted the facility. The UN, describing the attack as 'unacceptable', called for those responsible to face justice. The IDF claimed the strikes were aimed at a Hamas-operated camera, but did not explain why a second strike was deemed necessary. There have been escalating protests inside Israel, with families of hostages and supporters demanding that Netanyahu agree to a ceasefire deal. The humanitarian crisis is deepening across Gaza: a UN-backed body has confirmed that a famine is taking place in Gaza city (a claim described as an 'outright lie' by Israel), and most of the territory's population faces dire shortages of shelter, food, and medical care after months of war. Pope Leo XIV has joined the Latin and Greek Orthodox patriarchs of Jerusalem in a powerful plea for an immediate end to the war: [see https://www.africanews.com/2025/08/27/pope-leo-xiv-jerusalem-patriarchs-demand-ceasefire-in-israel-hamas-war/](https://www.africanews.com/2025/08/27/pope-leo-xiv-jerusalem-patriarchs-demand-ceasefire-in-israel-hamas-war/)

Pray: for truth, justice, and mercy to prevail amid suffering, protecting civilians and opening the way for lasting peace. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6n97gj1nqo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6n97gj1nqo)

### **Iran: nuclear negotiations resume, executions mount, radicals battle reformists**

Iran's nuclear negotiations with the E3 countries (Germany, France, and the UK) have resumed in Geneva. With a packed agenda, the focus is on lifting sanctions, which have caused severe damage to the country's economy in recent years. Tehran's foreign minister indicated a willingness to engage in indirect talks with the USA, but only on condition that military options would be abandoned. Inside the country, deep divisions have sharpened between reformists, who are calling for suspending uranium enrichment, cooperating with the IAEA, and easing repression, and hardliners, who demand the continuation of nuclear activities and reject compromise. Human rights concerns are mounting, with executions surging to at least 160 in a single month - a 54 percent increase compared to the previous year - bringing the year's total to more than 800. Reformist voices, though accused of betrayal and sedition, continue to press for reconciliation and freedom for political prisoners.

Pray: for a good outcome to the talks in Geneva. Pray also for wisdom, justice, and courage for those seeking peace and reform in Iran. (Matthew 5:6)

More: [www.asianews.it/news-en/Iran%E2%80%99s-nuclear-programme,-a-battleground-between-ultra-conservatives-and-reformists-63745.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Iran%E2%80%99s-nuclear-programme,-a-battleground-between-ultra-conservatives-and-reformists-63745.html)

### **South Africa: opposition leader found guilty of hate speech**

Opposition leader Julius Malema has been found guilty of hate speech by the country's equality court after inflammatory remarks he made at a 2022 rally. The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) chief, known for provocative statements, said that 'a revolution demands that at some point there must be killing', following an incident where a white man allegedly assaulted a party member. The court ruled that while condemning racism is acceptable, these words amounted to incitement to violence. Malema and his party rejected the judgment, saying the words had been taken out of context. The conviction adds to Malema's history of controversy, including a ban from entering the UK and criticism from Donald Trump for incendiary remarks and songs. His case underscores the continuing struggle with racial tensions in South Africa more than three decades after apartheid ended.

Pray: for South African politicians to speak with wisdom and restraint, promoting justice, healing, and reconciliation. (Colossians 4:6)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk8yyk01o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk8yyk01o)

### **Ecuador: closure of controversial mine splits community**

The story of Rio Blanco reveals both the promises and perils of large-scale mining projects in vulnerable communities. Initially welcomed by locals with hopes of jobs and development, a Canadian mining project quickly soured amid broken promises, environmental damage, and land disputes. Successive companies failed to deliver on social commitments while accusations mounted of arsenic contamination, drying wetlands, and loss of farmland. Tensions escalated, splitting the community between those desperate for employment and those fighting to protect land and water. Protests, blockades, and violence culminated in a court ruling suspending operations due to the government's failure to consult Indigenous communities. Yet conflict has persisted, with violence against activists and threats of illegal mining. Today, the people of Rio Blanco struggle with fractured trust, environmental scars, and ongoing uncertainty, as they seek sustainable alternatives and a future free from exploitation.

Pray: for protection of vulnerable communities, restoration of creation, and leaders committed to justice, peace, and sustainable livelihoods. (Psalm 9:9)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/8/27/a-pyrrhic-victory-an-ecuadorian-town-grapples-with-a-divisive-mine-closure](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2025/8/27/a-pyrrhic-victory-an-ecuadorian-town-grapples-with-a-divisive-mine-closure)

### **USA: Federal Reserve governor threatens to sue Trump for unfair dismissal**

The conflict between Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook and Donald Trump represents a profound clash over institutional independence and executive authority. Trump says he has dismissed Cook, alleging mortgage fraud, but her attorney insists the president lacks the power to remove a governor in this way. According to the Federal Reserve Act, governors should serve a fourteen-year term and may only be removed 'for cause', but what qualifies as 'cause' is unclear. Trump's move follows similar attacks against other prominent Democrats, raising concerns about politicising independent regulators. Legal scholars note that recent supreme court rulings granted broader executive authority over some agencies, but not over the Federal Reserve. Cook, refusing to resign, has vowed to challenge Trump's actions in court. The outcome of this struggle could potentially set a historic precedent. In a separate development, Trump has fired the head of the Centre for Disease Control, Susan Monarez, only a month after she was appointed: [see https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy3zjxy3dwo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy3zjxy3dwo)

Pray: for all involved to pursue integrity, accountability, and wisdom. Pray that vital institutions such as the Federal Reserve will be safeguarded. (Proverbs 11:3)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/lisa-cook-sue-trump-fired-fed-b2814786.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/lisa-cook-sue-trump-fired-fed-b2814786.html)

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