

PRAYING WITH THE CELTIC SAINTS
SAINT DAVID



In the name of the Creator of light.
In the name of the Christ of the Cross.
In the name of the Spirit of the well-springs.
In the name of the Three-in-One.
Amen.

OPENING PRAYERS

If you come
in certainty or in confusion,
in anger or in anguish

This time is for us.

If you come
in silent suffering or hidden sorrow,
in pain or promise

This time is for us.

If you come
for your own or another's need,
for a private wound or the wound of the world

This time is for us.

If you come
and you do not know why;
to be here is enough

This time is for all of us.

Come now, Christ of the forgiving warmth
Come now, Christ of the yearning tears
Come now, Christ of the transforming touch

This time is for you.

Amen.

God of the hills, God of the streets, God of the people,

You are with us now in this holy place.

**Open our minds to your truth, our lips to your praise
and our hearts to your love.**

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14 : 27-30

Jesus said : ‘And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you saying, ‘this person began to build and wasn't able to finish’.

1 Corinthians 10 : 12-13

If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will also show you a way out so that you can endure it.

SAINT DAVID (DEWI SANT)

Celebrated on 1st March, St David was probably born early in 6th century on the western tip of Pembrokeshire. Son of a Welsh chieftain named Sant, his mother was Saint Non – a Welsh nun who appeared to have worked in Cornwall and Brittany. Following the guidance of an angel, he founded a monastery near to the place where St David's cathedral now stands. Interestingly, St Patrick, a few hundred year earlier, wanted to build a monastery there, but was told in a dream that the place was set aside for a saint as yet unborn.

Since 12th century, St David has been considered the patron saint of Wales and has been celebrated as such since 18th century. The association of daffodils with St David's Day is quite recent - Lloyd George wore one on 1st March and thus encouraged the tradition. Daffodils are perhaps more attractive than that other Welsh symbol - the leek! It's said that St David instructed Welsh soldiers to put a leek in their helmets to distinguish themselves from the Saxon enemy. Today, every Welsh regiment displays the symbol on their headwear. The popularity of the leek probably pre-dates David however, as they were used widely by the Druids to cure every ailment from colds to labour pains!



St David is an appropriate saint with whom to walk through Lent! David knew that the walk with God was not an easy one and that the temptation to follow the ways of the world was strong. When someone came to join his monastery, he wouldn't open the door to them for a few days until they were sure they were called to the monastic life. He understood completely Jesus' teaching that each person must weigh the cost of becoming a disciple.

His community was noted for its austerity. The monks cultivated the land without the use of animals. They spoke to each other only when necessary and were expected to pray constantly, even at work. They ate no meat – only bread and vegetables – mainly wild leeks - and, occasionally, fish. They drank only water which is probably why their abbot became known as David the Waterman – though he also bathed daily in icy water.

He was very humble and refused to attend synods. On the one occasion he was persuaded to do so, it is said that a white dove descended from heaven to sit on his shoulder (this is how he is often depicted).

REFLECTION

St David knew that living a life for God was not an easy ride. He understood that each person must allow God to work in and through them. Let's take a few moments to consider the difficulties we are experiencing at the moment. Which temptations are defeating us most often? Recognising and naming our weaknesses enables us to offer them to God and ask for the strength to overcome everything that keeps us from the fullness of life that awaits in him.

OUR PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Spirit of God, make us open to others in listening, generous to others in giving and sensitive to others in praying, as we bring before you now those people and situations that are on our hearts, trusting that you hear us and use our prayers in the mystery of healing...Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

We thank you, Lord, for St David and all the saints who brought your light to these islands and who were a living example of your love. Lord, draw us down into the depths of your love for us. As we rise to the surface, may we bring our love for others into this broken world. In that love, we place into your hands now all who are victims – those who suffer poverty, famine, conflict, homelessness, cruelty and abuse. Dear Lord, dismantle the political and social structures that support such suffering. Dismantle the disposition of the human heart that allows it.

Lord, in your mercy... **hear our prayer.**

We place into your hands our families and friends, our community and our church. We pray that where there is conflict, we will be bearers of healing and that all our relationships will be marked by peace. Lord, in your mercy

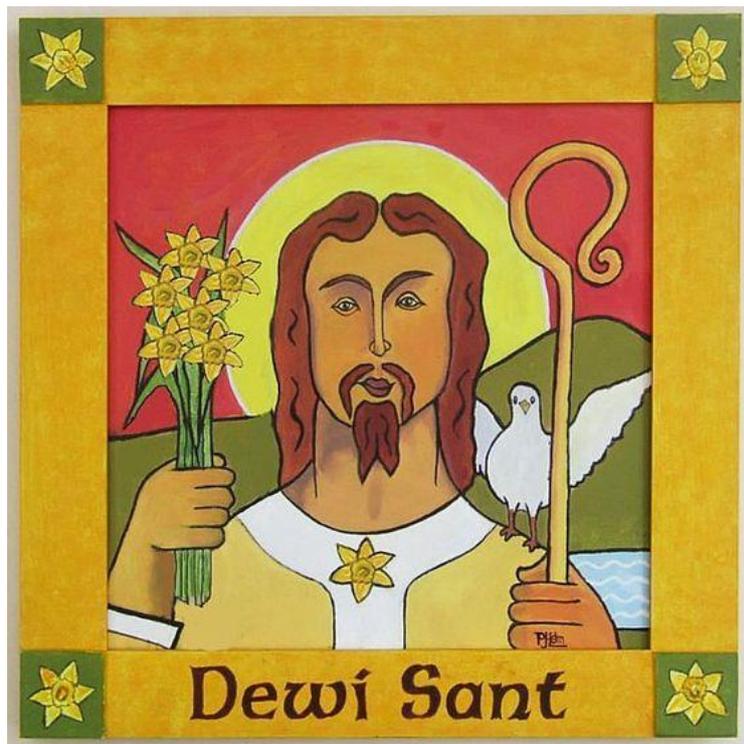
We place into your hands those we know who are experiencing a time of trouble or illness. Touch with your love all those who are on our hearts today. Lord, in your mercy**hear our prayer.**

Lord, make us a channel of your blessing. We offer our prayers knowing not how you will use them, but trusting absolutely that through them we may be a part of your redeeming and healing work in the world. Humbly we offer them - in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING PRAYERS

Almighty God,
As we remember your servant, Saint David,
we give thanks for his passion for the Gospel,
which spread Christianity throughout these lands.
We give thanks for his purity and simplicity of life,
which enabled him to draw close to you.
We give thanks for his gentleness, but clear spiritual leadership.
Grant that we may learn from him
and respond to the words that are thought to be his last:
'Be joyful in the faith and persevere in the little things you have heard and learnt
together with me'.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Teach us our God and King to love you in each and every person.
To love by noticing the little things, to love by cherishing the little things.
To love by serving in little things, to pray by offering the little things...
When the world tells us that we are what we do with our activity, acumen or
achievement - may we turn around and learn:

We are what we do with our silence.

When the world tells us that we are what we do with our spending power, selling power or our power of speech – may we turn around and learn:

We are what we do with our silence.

When the world tells us to drown the silent sufferings of others with indifference or noise, or to forget the art of stillness in the storm – may we turn around and learn:

We are what we do with our silence.

When the world tells us to rush in where angels fear to tread – may we turn around and learn that angels listen first - before they take a step - for the voice of God in the silence.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the world continue to surprise us,
love continue to astonish us,
life continue to captivate us,
faith continue to sustain us
and may God go with us always.

Amen.

