

Prayer Focus 1st April 2018

**“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!
He is not here. See the place where they laid him. Mark 16:6**

Dear Lord,

Would we be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel cross? Or,
when challenged, like Peter openly deny you?

There are times, Lord when doubts assail and the distance between us seems to increase.

There are times, Lord when sin has its hold, like a barrier between us that will not move.

Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed?

Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb?

No-one but you, Jesus, no-one but you!

Love poured out on that cruel cross, a blood offering so we might go free.

Love poured out, infusing this world with rivers of grace and hope of rebirth.

Love poured out, and into these hearts, who drink from a stream that never runs dry

Halleluia! Jesus is risen! He is risen indeed!

May this declaration resound and touch the lives of all we meet and forever be
the truth of which we speak.

When our faith stands at the grave, grieving for a stone that's rolled away, forgive us.

When our faith is short of understanding though the truth is there to see, forgive us.

When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us.

Bring to mind the cry of Mary, 'I have seen the Lord!' and grant us faith to believe!

We thank you that Easter is not about a people, but all people,
that your love and your Salvation are for all who confess with voices, hearts and lives
that the tomb is empty because Jesus is risen, that we might know forgiveness,
that lives might be reborn and your name glorified now and for eternity. Amen

Family Prayer News: Give thanks for Shelia's amazing progress, pray for her further recovery. Pray for Margaret Dalton, Mark & the rest of the family. Pray for all those with family visiting or going away this week that they will be blessed. Pray that all the teachers & school staff will have a really restful break.

Street of the Week: Steer Road

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; John 11:25