

Prayer Focus 17th March 2019

I arise today through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun, splendor of fire, speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea, stability of the earth, firmness of the rock.

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me afar and anear, alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today against wounding
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today through the mighty strength of the Lord of creation.
Prayer attributed to St Patrick

EBC & Local Focus:- Please pray for the church meeting on Tuesday. Pray for unity in the membership. Pray for our local government as the changes to councils come into effect on 1st April. Pray for those currently working to implement the changes.

Street of the Week :- Priests Road

Community Prayer Diary:- Swanage Town Council - The Mayor - Mike Bonfield –
Dr Martin Ayres – Town Clerk – our councillors

National & World Prayer Points:- Pray for New Zealand following the terror attacks. This a small country that has never experienced anything like this before.

Syria is number 11 on the Open Doors World Watch List. As the conflict and chaos continues, Christians are targeted for their beliefs. Leaders of historical churches are targets for abduction. Christians are sometimes kidnapped for ransom. Christian converts from Muslim backgrounds face pressure from their families, as leaving Islam is seen as a huge source of shame. Pastor Abdalla in Aleppo, Syria, and his church have embodied the words of Jesus, by choosing to stay behind despite the chaos to be a beacon of light in the darkness. Despite death threats towards him and his family, Pastor Abdalla has chosen to stay in Syria and turn his church into a Centre of Hope for his community. He says "I remember the rumours about our church closing down at the start of the

crisis,” he says. He and his church have stayed to serve their community throughout the crisis, surviving the chaos and shining out as a beacon of hope and practical assistance for Christians in Aleppo.