

# Prayer Alert

ISSUE 13-2026 | Friday 03 April 2026  
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If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

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

## 72 hours of unbroken prayer – Easter weekend

72 hours of unbroken prayer – Easter weekend Pastor Jonathan Oloyede and the National Day of Prayer Team are convening 72 hours of prayer this Easter. From midnight on Maundy Thursday (2 April) to midnight on Resurrection Sunday (5 April), they will host 72 hours of continuous prayer in their Digital Prayer Chapel. More info [HERE](#)

## Praying for Elections

Let's pray for national and presidential elections taking place this next week in Maldives (4 April), Djibouti (10 April), Hungary, Benin and Peru (12 April).



## JOIN US ON INTERSEED!

CONNECT – BLESS – GROW

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!

Would you like to join our Prayer Alert team?

We are a group of volunteers based in different parts of England, India, and USA. 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.

On behalf of the Prayer Alert Team, I would like to wish you all a blessed and joy-filled Easter.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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## Praise Reports

### Archbishop Sarah: Easter helps us understand world marred by conflict

In her Easter message to church leaders in the UK and worldwide, Archbishop Sarah Mullally reflects on how the story of Christ's death and resurrection speaks powerfully into today's troubled world. Referencing ongoing conflicts in Ukraine, Sudan and the Middle East, she highlights the suffering of many, especially those displaced, oppressed or forgotten. She commends the churches in the Holy Land for their faithful witness under immense pressure, urging believers to stand with the marginalised and serve those in need. Drawing on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's insight that 'only a suffering God can help', she points to Jesus' words in John 12:24 which show that through death comes life and fruitfulness. Christ's resurrection is not merely a past event but a present, living reality that shapes Christian hope and mission. Like the signs of spring emerging at Lambeth Palace, Easter reminds us that new life follows suffering. Christians are therefore called to live as people of resurrection - marked by hope, courage, and confidence in the victory of Christ.

Praise: God that Christ's resurrection brings hope, renewal, and victory, empowering believers to shine in darkness. (1 Peter 1:3)  
More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/archbishop-of-canterbury-easter-helps-us-understand-world-marred-by-conflict](http://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/archbishop-of-canterbury-easter-helps-us-understand-world-marred-by-conflict)

## 'American Idol' faith night sees bold proclamations of Jesus

A special 'Songs of Faith' night on American Idol brought the name of Jesus boldly to a national audience, creating a powerful atmosphere of worship ahead of Easter. Contestants, judges, and guests openly expressed their faith through gospel songs, prayer, and personal testimonies. Lionel Richie and Luke Bryan opened with 'Jesus Is Love', while Carrie Underwood closed with a moving rendition of 'How Great Thou Art', which many said carried a tangible sense of God's presence. Several contestants shared how faith had sustained them through personal struggles, including battles with depression, anxiety, and hardship. Backstage, participants prayed together, and many described the evening as more like a worship service than a performance. Judges and artists affirmed the importance of using such a public platform to proclaim truth and unity in a divided culture. The broadcast demonstrated that faith remains a powerful and unifying force, with millions witnessing authentic expressions of worship and testimony centred on Jesus.

Praise: God for bold proclamation of Jesus in media, drawing hearts to worship, hope, and salvation. (Romans 1:16)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/american-idol-faith-night-sparks-worship-holy-spirit-moving.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/american-idol-faith-night-sparks-worship-holy-spirit-moving.html)

## British Isles

### Bishops' Easter messages on new beginnings and hope amid conflict

CofE bishops have shared Easter messages highlighting hope, renewal, and the transforming power of Christ amid global and personal challenges. Guli Francis-Dehqani, reflecting on a visit to the Holy Land, described the severe hardship faced by Christians in the West Bank, yet affirmed that Christian hope endures even in deep suffering. Other bishops pointed to both global conflict and local freedoms, with Michael Ipgrave giving thanks for the nation's heritage of public Christian witness. In Newcastle, Helen-Ann Hartley drew on the city's pilgrim history to illustrate the Easter journey of guidance, continuity, and good news. Jonathan Gibbs contrasted human self-interest with Christ's self-giving love as the true path to peace and reconciliation. Hugh Nelson and Andy Emerton emphasised the resurrection as a powerful reality that overturns despair, offering forgiveness, restoration, and a new beginning. Together, their messages call believers to live as people of hope, shaped by the cross and resurrection. See

Pray: that resurrection hope will renew the Church, strengthening witness, unity, and compassion amid conflict and uncertainty. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

More: [www.churchofengland.org/media/news-and-press-releases/bishops-share-easter-messages-new-beginnings-and-hope-amid-conflict](http://www.churchofengland.org/media/news-and-press-releases/bishops-share-easter-messages-new-beginnings-and-hope-amid-conflict)

### Doctors lose new jobs package as strike goes ahead

A planned six-day strike by resident doctors in England is set to go ahead after talks between the Government and the British Medical Association (BMA) broke down. In response, ministers have withdrawn a proposed package that included 1,000 additional training posts, which had been intended to help address workforce shortages. The Government stated that ongoing strike disruption made it impractical to implement the new posts this year. While officials described their offer as generous, including exam fee support and faster pay progression, the BMA argued that key elements had been weakened and did not adequately address long-term pay concerns. Despite a 3.5% pay rise being accepted following an independent review, the union maintains that doctors' real-term earnings remain significantly below 2008 levels. The dispute highlights ongoing tensions over working conditions, staffing pressures, and the future sustainability of the NHS workforce. With resident doctors forming a large proportion of NHS staff, the strike raises serious concerns about patient care, service disruption, and long-term healthcare provision.

Pray: for resolution in NHS disputes, protecting patient care, restoring trust, and supporting healthcare workers with fairness. (Jeremiah 33:6)

More: [apple.news/ATkHm4mAjQpa6zpOpTfM\\_Pg](http://apple.news/ATkHm4mAjQpa6zpOpTfM_Pg)

### Hundreds of youths caught up in viral 'link-up' trend

Large groups of teenagers have caused disorder in several UK cities following a growing social media trend encouraging youths to 'link up' in large numbers. In Birmingham and parts of London, including Clapham, hundreds gathered, leading to scenes of chaos, shop closures, and frightened residents seeking refuge indoors. Witnesses described large groups of masked youths running through streets, clashing with police and each other, and intimidating members of the public. Fires were reportedly started using fireworks, and several arrests were made for offences including shoplifting and assault. Local residents and businesses were left shaken by the scale and unpredictability of the unrest. Political leaders, including MPs and the London Mayor, strongly condemned the behaviour, calling for increased policing, arrests, and stronger preventative measures. Authorities have pledged a heightened police presence to restore order and reassure communities. See <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/chaos-clapham-m-s-teenagers-antisocial-behaviour-b1277207.html>

Pray: for peace in our streets, godly influence on youth, and restoration of order, safety, and respect. (2 Timothy 1:7)

More: [www.lbc.co.uk/article/youths-birmingham-mob-chaos-linkup-5HjdXB4\\_2/](http://www.lbc.co.uk/article/youths-birmingham-mob-chaos-linkup-5HjdXB4_2/)

### Vulnerable children exposed to sexual abuse at hundreds of illegal care homes

An investigation has revealed that more than eight hundred illegal and unregulated children's care homes in the UK, exposing vulnerable young people to serious harm. These homes, often unregistered with Ofsted, lack proper oversight and safeguards, leaving children at risk of exploitation and abuse. One deeply distressing case involved a teenage girl who was sexually abused by two carers with previous violent convictions, highlighting severe failures in safeguarding and accountability. Despite being placed for protection, she was instead subjected to horrific mistreatment, reflecting wider systemic weaknesses. Reports indicate that hundreds of children are placed in such unlawful settings each year, often due to a shortage of regulated care options. Authorities and watchdogs have described the situation as unacceptable, calling for urgent reform, stronger enforcement, and better protection for vulnerable children. The Government has pledged new legislation and increased powers for regulators, but concerns remain about the scale of the problem and the need for immediate action to ensure every child is safe and properly cared for.

Pray: for protection of vulnerable children, justice for victims, and urgent reform to ensure safe, loving care. (Psalm 82:3)

More: [www.lbc.co.uk/article/vulnerable-children-exposed-sexual-abuse-industrial-scale-5HjdX8k\\_2/](http://www.lbc.co.uk/article/vulnerable-children-exposed-sexual-abuse-industrial-scale-5HjdX8k_2/)

## Families told to brace for £440 hike in energy bills this summer

Families are being warned to prepare for a significant rise in energy bills this summer, with costs potentially increasing by as much as £440 due to global instability linked to the Iran conflict. Analysts suggest the average household bill could reach £2,100, adding further strain to an ongoing cost of living crisis. Even with more optimistic forecasts, prices are expected to rise. Leading global institutions, including the World Bank and IMF, have warned that the conflict could trigger a wider economic downturn, with disruptions to energy supplies, rising inflation, and slower growth. Food prices may also increase, further impacting households. The Government has indicated that financial support is unlikely before autumn and may be limited to the most vulnerable. As uncertainty grows, concerns are mounting over economic resilience, public finances, and the burden on ordinary families. The situation highlights the far-reaching consequences of global conflict on everyday life and the need for stability, provision, and wise stewardship in challenging times. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c895pqepwv2o>

Pray: for God's provision for families, economic stability, and leaders to act wisely amid global uncertainty. (Philippians 4:19)

More: [www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15698931/Families-told-brace-440-hike-energy-bills-summer-World-bank-IMF-warn-Iran-crisis-trigger-global-recession.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15698931/Families-told-brace-440-hike-energy-bills-summer-World-bank-IMF-warn-Iran-crisis-trigger-global-recession.html)

## Two migrants die crossing Channel as small boat journeys decrease

New figures show that the number of migrants crossing the English Channel to the UK in early 2026 has fallen by around a third compared to the same period last year, with 4,441 arrivals recorded. The decrease is partly attributed to harsher weather conditions, but all crossings are potentially dangerous. Tragically, two migrants died during a recent attempt; others were rescued and taken to hospital after their boat ran into difficulty. Meanwhile, the UK and France have agreed a temporary extension of their joint border enforcement deal, supported by additional UK funding, as negotiations continue over a longer-term arrangement. The Government maintains that cooperation with France has prevented tens of thousands of crossings, while critics argue that current policies fail to deter migration and may increase risks to life. With more people travelling in increasingly overcrowded boats, concerns remain over safety, humanitarian care, and border control.

Pray: for protection of vulnerable migrants, wisdom for leaders, and compassionate, just solutions to the crisis. (Leviticus 19:34)

More: [www.itv.com/news/2026-04-01/two-migrants-die-crossing-channel-as-overall-small-boat-journeys-down-by-a-third](http://www.itv.com/news/2026-04-01/two-migrants-die-crossing-channel-as-overall-small-boat-journeys-down-by-a-third)

## Bible Society says its Quiet Revival report was wrong: now what?

Sam Hailes, editor of Premier Christianity, reflects on the withdrawal of the widely discussed Quiet Revival report after YouGov admitted its data was flawed. While the findings which suggested significant growth in UK church attendance, especially among young people, have now been discredited, Hailes urges Christians not to lose heart. He acknowledges the disappointment and recognises that criticisms of the report were justified. However, he says that the truth of the Christian faith does not depend on statistics or public opinion, but on the unchanging reality of Christ. Importantly, he points to a broader pattern of encouraging signs across the UK: rising Bible sales, increasing engagement among young people, growing church attendance in some contexts, and a renewed openness to faith. Many church leaders are reporting a noticeable spiritual shift, with fresh hunger for authentic discipleship. While the phrase 'Quiet Revival' may now be set aside, Hailes suggests we may still be witnessing a genuine season of renewal, as God continues to draw people to Himself in unexpected ways.

Pray: for genuine spiritual renewal, discernment, and faithful witness as God draws many to Christ today. (Isaiah 55:11)

More: [www.premierchristianity.com/renewal/bible-society-say-their-quiet-revival-report-was-wrong-now-what/21262.article](http://www.premierchristianity.com/renewal/bible-society-say-their-quiet-revival-report-was-wrong-now-what/21262.article)

# Europe

## Greece: relatives of train disaster victims witness start of trial

Relatives of the 57 victims of the 2023 Tempi train disaster have gathered in court in Larisa, seeking justice three years after Greece's deadliest rail tragedy. The collision between passenger and freight trains claimed many young lives, including students returning to university; some victims reportedly died in fires following the crash. Proceedings have been marked by frustration, with limited courtroom access and concerns over transparency. Thirty-six defendants, including railway officials, face charges in an extremely complex case expected to last years. The disaster sparked widespread anger, with accusations of systemic negligence, safety failures, misused funding, and possibly a cover-up. As families continue to voice deep grief and demand accountability, this trial represents a critical moment in addressing long-standing concerns over infrastructure, governance, and public safety.

Pray: that grieving families will receive justice, comfort, and truth through this process. (Isaiah 30:18b)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2wq13758no](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2wq13758no)

## Germany: Merz and al-Sharaa hope that most Syrians will return home

Following talks in Berlin, Friedrich Merz and Ahmed al-Sharaa expressed hopes that many Syrians living in Germany may return to Syria within three years. Nearly one million Syrians sought refuge in Germany during the civil war, and officials now argue that conditions have changed sufficiently to reassess protection needs. The proposal includes prioritising the return of those without valid residency, while allowing some, such as skilled workers, to remain. Syrian leaders have suggested a 'circular' migration approach, enabling individuals to contribute to rebuilding their homeland while maintaining stability abroad. However, concerns persist about security, infrastructure, and minority rights within Syria, with critics noting that many refugees have established deep roots in German society. The issue reflects broader European tensions over migration, integration, and long-term responsibility following years of conflict-driven displacement.

Pray: that refugees and leaders will find wisdom, compassion, and just long-term solutions. (Proverbs 21:2)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy41vqx4pdzo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy41vqx4pdzo)

# Worldwide

## USA: Why is NASA's Artemis II so important?

NASA's Artemis II, which blasted off on 1 April, will send astronauts around the Moon, marking a major step toward future landings and a permanent lunar presence. Building on the legacy of the Apollo programme and costing billions of dollars, this mission reflects renewed global interest in lunar exploration. Scientists have highlighted the Moon's potential resources, including water and rare minerals, which could sustain human life and support future space travel. The programme might also serve as preparation for missions to Mars, allowing technologies to be tested in a closer, safer environment. Competition with other nations adds urgency, while the Moon's unique geology offers valuable insight into Earth's history. Beyond exploration, it is hoped that the mission will inspire younger generations (as the original moon landings did) and lead to innovation, scientific discovery, and international cooperation, demonstrating what can be achieved through sustained effort and shared vision.

Pray: that this mission will advance knowledge, cooperation, and benefits for all humanity. (Psalm 111:2)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6wp6xenv0o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd6wp6xenv0o)

### Iran / USA: Trump's mixed messages create uncertainty

As the conflict in the Middle East continues, Donald Trump has alternated between signalling possible de-escalation and threatening further military action, leaving the situation highly uncertain. Increased military deployments in the Gulf region and continued strikes have heightened concerns about potential ground operations, particularly around strategic areas such as the Strait of Hormuz. Analysts warn that even limited intervention could quickly expand into a prolonged and wider conflict. Both sides are at least discussing possible terms for an end to the conflict, although their positions appear to be oceans apart: there are major differences over nuclear activity, regional influence, and security demands. The ongoing crisis has already disrupted global stability, affecting energy markets and trade routes, with rising fears of long-term instability if a peaceful resolution is not achieved.

Pray: that wisdom, restraint, and effective diplomacy prevent further escalation and loss. (Proverbs 16:7)  
More: [inews.co.uk/news/world/trumps-iran-options-prediction-good-friday-attack-4329795](http://inews.co.uk/news/world/trumps-iran-options-prediction-good-friday-attack-4329795)

### Lebanon: Israel plans buffer zone even after conflict with Hezbollah ends

Amid escalating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, the IDF's plans to establish a buffer zone deep inside southern Lebanon have intensified fears of prolonged instability. Foreign minister Israel Katz, stating that the aim is to protect northern communities, has proposed military control up to the Litani River and the demolition of border villages even after the war with Hezbollah ends. Lebanese leaders and international voices have condemned the move, warning it risks further displacement and destruction. Since early March, widespread violence has resulted in significant casualties, including civilians, healthcare workers, and journalists, while more than a million people have been displaced. Critical infrastructure, including hospitals, has been severely affected, worsening an already fragile humanitarian situation. The crisis shows how civilians are bearing the heaviest burden as insecurity, loss, and uncertainty continue to shape daily life across affected areas.

Pray: that leaders will pursue peace, restraint, and protection for civilians in conflict. (Isaiah 2:4)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yx8knpr5no](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yx8knpr5no)

### Syria: Christians cancel Easter celebrations after sectarian violence

Sectarian violence erupted on 28 March in Suqaylabiyah, a predominantly Christian town in Syria, following tensions involving two Muslim young men from the nearby town of Qalaat al-Madiq. Reports indicate that they started to harass Christian women; when Christian men attacked them in response, they went back to their town, returned with dozens of other men, and carried out coordinated attacks on homes, shops, and vehicles, while firing weapons and damaging a shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Some sources alleged the involvement of national security personnel. Government forces were deployed to restore order, preventing further incursions despite continued attempts by surrounding groups. In response, leaders from several Christian traditions condemned the violence and cancelled public Easter celebrations, reflecting deep concern over safety. CSW's founder president Mervyn Thomas has called on the Syrian authorities to increase their efforts to combat extremism and hate speech, and hold accountable all those involved in this attack.

Pray: that peace, protection, and justice will prevail for all communities in Syria. (Romans 12:18)  
More: [www.csw.org.uk/2026/03/30/press/6773/article.htm](http://www.csw.org.uk/2026/03/30/press/6773/article.htm)

### South Africa: SANDF join police to combat criminal activity

A major security deployment is underway across the Cape Flats, as the National Defence Force (SANDF) joins the police service to strengthen crime prevention efforts. The initiative, launched with the code name Operation Prosper at a joint parade in Belhar, aims to address persistent challenges including gang violence, extortion, and territorial conflict affecting communities in Cape Town. Coordinated operations will include patrols, roadblocks, and targeted interventions in high-risk areas, guided by intelligence and managed through joint command structures. Military personnel will support visible policing and stabilisation efforts while remaining under police leadership. The authorities have stated that this operation will seek to disrupt organised crime networks and reduce firearm-related offences, with a focus on restoring safety and stability in communities facing ongoing insecurity.

Pray: for the success of this initiative. Pray that communities will experience safety, justice, and lasting peace. (Psalm 33:5)  
More: [capeargus.co.za/news/2026-04-01-sandf-hits-the-cape-flats-to-tackle-crime/](http://capeargus.co.za/news/2026-04-01-sandf-hits-the-cape-flats-to-tackle-crime/)

### Nepal: increased numbers of tigers mean more risks to those living nearby

In rural areas of Nepal, families living near protected forests face growing danger as tiger populations increase. Pushpa Tamang, a survivor of a brutal tiger attack in 2019, lives with severe disabilities and ongoing medical needs which her family cannot afford. Like others in neighbouring districts, her household struggles under heavy debt from treatment costs while navigating slow and inadequate government relief systems. Although Nepal has been praised internationally for its conservation efforts which have successfully expanded tiger numbers, local communities bear the consequences through injury, trauma, and financial hardship. Many rely on the forests for daily survival, increasing their exposure to risk. While some local authorities offer limited support, gaps remain significant. The situation highlights a deep tension between conservation success and human vulnerability.

Pray: that authorities will know how to provide adequate protection and assistance for families facing increased dangers as a result of the government's conservation efforts. (Psalm 9:9)  
More: [asianews.network/tiger-conservation-in-nepal-leaves-families-on-forest-fringes-in-peril/](http://asianews.network/tiger-conservation-in-nepal-leaves-families-on-forest-fringes-in-peril/)

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Prayer Alert is produced in partnership with  
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