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## GOOD NEWS

### OUR CORNISH SAINT'S ANNUAL FEAST DAY

Yesterday, March 5<sup>th</sup> was the feast of St Piran, Patron Saint of Cornwall. This special day is marked in various ways. In Falmouth school children parade through the town giving out bunches of daffodils to passers-by and ending up at the parish church for refreshments and entertainment. Not a lot is known about St Piran, but he built a church which is buried under the sand in dunes on the north coast near Perranporth. On Sunday, a service was held to award the St Piran's Cross medal to persons recognised as having served the county and its communities well. St Piran may be the same person as St Kieran.

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

A grant of £2,425 will enable a local project to provide free coaching and matches for 300 children aged between 3 and 15 years. This is an important means of enabling these children to enjoy healthy outdoor activity, teamwork and sportsmanship for those who otherwise could not afford it.

### SUPPORTING THE ARTS

At the present time many Council and NGO funded live cultural events are going under the hammer. So it is good to read that the County Council is giving a grant to accommodate visiting choirs at the forthcoming Cornish International Male Choral Festival. There will be 1000 singers, 30 choirs, 25 Cornish and 5 visiting choirs, with 40 live events and also informal daytime singing.

## FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION

### NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children)

had a big green and white advert in this week's local paper to advertise free training for every adult to keep children safe called "LISTEN. SPEAK UP" - a 10 minute digital training session at [nspcc.org.uk/speak up](https://nspcc.org.uk/speak-up).

### TRURO FOODBANK

report that thousands of people are not able to budget on a zero hour contract or because of the insecurity of

short notice shift cancellation. Zero hours is leading a campaign for Cornwall to become a Living Wage place.

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

#### INTERNATIONAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

##### MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024

An ecumenical group of Christian women of Gaza had prepared the service and theme for 2024 two or three years ago, before the conflict and horrors of the present time in Gaza and Israel.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, last week, all over the world in 146 countries, people gathered to pray for the people of Palestine on the theme "I BEG YOU BEAR WITH ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE".

The service was simple and profound and heartfelt, illuminating the stories of three Palestinian women from three different generations. We were urged to bear with one another in love, to unite in prayer for just and harmonious solutions that would bring an end to human suffering; and to commit ourselves to journey with each other to achieve security and peace for all the people round the world through informed prayer and action.

### DEMOCACY IS UNDER THREAT

The Prime Minister said in a statement last week as he sought to bring an end to divisions in British Society, "Islamic Extremists and Far Right are trying to tear us apart". He was raising concerns that Jewish and Muslim communities are living in fear amidst growing anger over the Israel Hamas conflict.

### UPHOLDING DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

With Guernsey and Jersey likely to approve Euthanasia and Assisted Dying there will be a threat to the upholding of the Sanctity of human life in this country.

*A formidable challenge to us to pray this week.*

*At the World Day of Prayer, there were olive wood items for sale made by Craftsmen in Bethlehem.*

*I bought a beautiful little brooch, an olive wood dove with an olive branch in its mouth. I will wear this as a symbol and reminder to pray and act in love, "bearing with one another" and praying for peace.*

Mary Bradley

See overleaf for an additional prayer for Palestine

The World Day of Prayer Palestine Committee has written the following additional prayer to go along with their 2024 program:

*We pray for women, who even now are losing children and other family members. We pray that their strength be a beacon of resilience, as they endure all challenges and pain with grace. Grant them courage to navigate adversity. And may their aspirations for peace and prosperity shine brightly in the midst of these difficulties.*

*In this time of war, we pray for the healing of hearts and the restoration of peace. May compassion prevail over hatred, and may the suffering of all those affected by the war be alleviated. Grant them strength, solace, and hope for a brighter and harmonious future.*

*We pray for all families who have lost members; for the kidnapped, the missing, and all who are still under the rubble. May the spirit of God grant them all patience and strength as they wait to be reunited. Lord Jesus, we pray for the end of all wars, especially in the land you called home. You are our Savior, the one who taught us the real meaning of peace. Guide us and give us power to practice peace in our daily lives. Amen*

– Katie Reimer  
WDPIC Executive Director