

# Prayer Alert

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Send me Your light and Your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy mountain, to the place where You dwell. (Psalm 43:3)

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



**JOIN US ON INTERSEED!**  
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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.

Thank you for partnering with us in praying for the nations.

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

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## Praise Reports

### [Easter joy as Ukrainian prisoners freed in swap](#)

Amid the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia, a rare moment of hope and compassion emerged over Orthodox Easter, as both nations exchanged 175 prisoners of war each. The swap, mediated by the United Arab Emirates, also included the return of civilians on both sides. Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskiy confirmed that many of the freed servicemen had been held in captivity since 2022, having fought across key frontlines. Emotional scenes unfolded as returning Ukrainians were reunited with loved ones, some arriving frail and injured after prolonged imprisonment. While some families celebrated, others are continuing to wait in anguish for news of missing relatives. A short 32-hour Easter ceasefire accompanied the exchange, raising cautious hopes that such gestures could open the door to wider peace negotiations. Though previous talks have stalled, this humanitarian act stands as a reminder that even in conflict, mercy and reconciliation remain possible. For many, it was a deeply moving glimpse of restoration amid prolonged suffering.

Praise: God for these prisoner releases; pray for peace, comfort for families, and lasting reconciliation between the nations. (Psalm 146:7)  
More: [premierchristian.news/us/news/article/easter-joy-as-ukrainian-prisoners-freed-in-swap](http://premierchristian.news/us/news/article/easter-joy-as-ukrainian-prisoners-freed-in-swap)

### [Astronaut shares the Gospel at homecoming gathering](#)

Artemis II pilot Victor Glover received a joyful homecoming in League City, Texas, where crowds gathered to celebrate his return from a groundbreaking space mission. As he arrived, he used the moment not to highlight personal achievement, but to point people to Jesus. Standing before neighbours and supporters, he quoted Matthew 22, reminding them of God's command to love Him fully and to love one another. His spontaneous message encouraged unity, humility, and intentional community, drawing warm responses of 'Amen' from those present. Throughout the Artemis mission, Glover has consistently spoken about his Christian faith, reflecting on the beauty of creation witnessed in space and giving glory to God for the experience. Sharing a photo with his family afterwards, he expressed gratitude and a

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desire to continue proclaiming the good news. His witness demonstrates how faith can shine brightly even in the most advanced arenas of human achievement, pointing others to Christ through both word and example.

Praise: God for Victor's bold witness; may believers courageously share the Gospel and reflect Christ in every sphere. (Acts 4:20)  
More: [premierchristian.news/us/news/article/artemis-astronaut-shares-the-gospel-at-homecoming-gathering](https://premierchristian.news/us/news/article/artemis-astronaut-shares-the-gospel-at-homecoming-gathering)

## British Isles

### Protests after woman raped outside Epsom church

A serious incident in Epsom has sparked public concern and protest after a young woman was raped outside a church in the early hours of the morning. The attack, which occurred after she left a nearby nightclub, has left the local community distressed and seeking answers. Police have launched an investigation but say they currently lack sufficient information to release descriptions of the suspects, urging the public not to speculate as this could inflame tensions. In response to the incident, protests have taken place in the town centre, with police being deployed to maintain order. Officers have increased patrols in the area and are appealing for witnesses or anyone with relevant information to come forward. The case has reignited wider concerns around public safety, transparency, and community trust, particularly in how sensitive information is communicated.

Pray: for justice, healing for the victim, and peace in communities affected by violence and fear. (Psalm 34:18)  
More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/epsom-protest-rape-surrey-police-b2958513.html>

### UK to send £752 million and 120,000 drones to Ukraine

The UK is strengthening its support for Ukraine with a major new package of military and financial aid, as international leaders meet to coordinate ongoing assistance. Rachel Reeves is expected to confirm a £752 million payment to Ukraine, part of a wider £3.36 billion loan, aimed at funding critical military equipment such as long-range missiles, air defence systems, and drones. Also, defence secretary John Healey has announced the UK's largest-ever drone supply, with 120,000 units to be delivered. These include reconnaissance, strike, logistics, and maritime drones, many produced by British companies. As drone warfare increasingly shapes the conflict, Ukrainian forces have already demonstrated new tactical capabilities using drone technology alone. UK leaders have urged global partners not to lose focus in supporting Ukraine despite other international conflicts.

Pray: for restraint, justice, and peace, that support given will lead to protection and lasting resolution. (Matthew 5:9)  
More: [www.itv.com/news/2026-04-15/uk-to-send-752-million-and-120000-drones-to-ukraine](http://www.itv.com/news/2026-04-15/uk-to-send-752-million-and-120000-drones-to-ukraine)

### Starmer facing renewed scrutiny after fresh news on Mandelson's appointment

Keir Starmer is facing renewed scrutiny following reports that Peter Mandelson was initially denied security clearance before being approved by officials for his role as British ambassador to Washington. The controversy centres on claims that standard vetting concerns were overridden, raising questions about oversight and accountability within the Foreign Office. The Government has stated that Starmer was unaware of the decision at the time, while also acknowledging concerns about Mandelson's past associations, including links to Jeffrey Epstein. Opposition leaders have called for greater transparency and, in some cases, resignation, arguing that public trust has been undermined. Investigations into alleged misconduct continue, adding to political pressure. The situation highlights ongoing challenges around integrity, leadership responsibility, and maintaining confidence in public institutions.

Pray: that truth, accountability, and integrity will guide leadership and restore public trust. (Proverbs 10:9)  
More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/16/uks-starmer-under-fire-over-report-mandelson-failed-security-vetting](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/16/uks-starmer-under-fire-over-report-mandelson-failed-security-vetting)

### Britain bracing for food shortages as Iran war threatens key supplies

The Government is preparing for potential food supply disruptions this summer amid fears that escalating tensions involving Iran could severely impact global shipping routes. A confidential contingency exercise, known as 'Exercise Turnstone', has explored the consequences of a prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital trade corridor. Central to these concerns is a possible shortage of carbon dioxide, an essential component in food preservation, packaging, and livestock processing. In a worst-case scenario, supplies could drop dramatically, affecting meat production, supermarket availability, and the hospitality sector. Critical services, including healthcare, could also be at risk, as carbon dioxide is used to preserve blood, vaccines, and transplant organs. The Government has already taken steps to mitigate risks, including restarting a key bioethanol plant and preparing emergency powers to prioritise supply distribution if needed. While widespread shortages are not yet expected, officials warn that reduced availability and public concern could still create significant disruption across the nation.

Pray: for stability in global supply chains, wise leadership, and God's provision through uncertainty and potential disruption. (Philippians 4:19)  
More: [www.gbnews.com/news/iran-war-britain-food-shortages-middle-east-conflict-supplies](http://www.gbnews.com/news/iran-war-britain-food-shortages-middle-east-conflict-supplies)

### 179 prisoners freed in error last year

Government figures reveal that 179 prisoners in England and Wales were mistakenly released over the past year, averaging around three each week. These errors have been attributed to administrative failures such as incorrect paperwork, sentence miscalculations, and court processing mistakes. While some individuals returned voluntarily, others triggered costly manhunts, raising serious concerns about public safety and confidence in the justice system. High-profile cases, including offenders released prematurely, have intensified scrutiny, particularly where further crimes were committed after release. David Lammy described the situation as unacceptable, pointing to longstanding issues such as overcrowding and underinvestment. Plans are now under way to modernise procedures through digital records, biometric identification, and increased staffing to reduce future errors. Critics argue that stronger safeguards should already have been in place.

Pray: for integrity, accuracy, and reform in the justice systems, protecting communities and restoring trust in authorities. (Isaiah 1:17)  
More: [news.sky.com/story/179-prisoners-freed-in-error-in-england-and-wales-in-single-year-13532187](https://news.sky.com/story/179-prisoners-freed-in-error-in-england-and-wales-in-single-year-13532187)

## Starmer summons tech giants after warnings from families

Keir Starmer has summoned major technology companies to Downing Street amid mounting pressure from bereaved families calling for stronger action on online harms affecting children. Parents whose children died in incidents linked to social media have warned that government delays risk falling behind the rapid influence of digital platforms. While MPs recently rejected proposals to ban under-16s from accessing social media, public concern remains high, with many parents supporting stricter protections. The Government is currently consulting on a range of measures, including limiting addictive features and introducing usage restrictions, but has faced criticism for lacking urgency. Tech companies including Meta, Google, TikTok, Snapchat and X are being pressed to take greater responsibility for safeguarding young users. Campaigners argue that social media is not neutral, but can expose children to harmful content and behaviours. As debate continues, ministers have pledged to act swiftly following consultation, recognising the growing need to balance innovation with the protection and wellbeing of the next generation.

Pray: for protection over our children online, and for leaders to act decisively against harmful digital influences. (Proverbs 4:23)

More: [www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-summons-tech-giants-37023631](http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-summons-tech-giants-37023631)

## NHS trust settles with Christian nurse suspended for using correct pronouns

A Christian nurse has received a settlement from an NHS trust after being suspended for ten months following a dispute over pronoun use with a transgender patient. Jennifer Melle was disciplined after declining to use female pronouns for a male patient, citing her Christian convictions and concerns about biological reality and safeguarding. The situation was further complicated by the patient's alleged threatening and racially abusive behaviour toward her. Despite this, the trust investigated Melle, reported her to the nursing regulator, and suspended her from duty. However, a later disciplinary panel found no misconduct, leading to her reinstatement earlier this year. The case was settled shortly before it was due to be heard at an employment tribunal. Melle, giving thanks to God for sustaining her through the ordeal, has spoken of the wider implications for healthcare professionals seeking to work according to conscience. The case raises questions about freedom of belief, staff protection, and fairness within the NHS.

Pray: for Jennifer's courage to uphold truth, protection for Christian professionals, and fairness within workplaces and institutions.

(Proverbs 31:8)

More: [www.christianpost.com/news/nhs-trust-settles-with-christian-nurse-suspended-over-pronouns.html](http://www.christianpost.com/news/nhs-trust-settles-with-christian-nurse-suspended-over-pronouns.html)

## Europe

### Hungary: seismic shift as opposition gains landslide victory over Orbán

A historic political shift has taken place in Hungary, where Péter Magyar has defeated long-serving prime minister Viktor Orbán after sixteen years in power. Magyar's Tisza party has secured a decisive parliamentary majority, ending a period often criticised for centralised control and alleged corruption. Campaigning on promises of reform, he pledged to strengthen judicial independence, address governance concerns, and rebuild relations with the EU while distancing the country from close ties with Vladimir Putin. The election saw record voter turnout (almost 80%), reflecting strong public engagement in the country's future direction. The result signals potential changes in both domestic policy and international alignment. Meanwhile, Ursula von der Leyen has quickly used the election result to call for a change in EU policy-making: see <https://www.politico.eu/article/ursula-von-der-leyen-uses-hungary-viktor-orban-defeat-to-push-for-end-of-veto-in-eu-foreign-policy/>

Pray: that Hungary's new leadership will govern with justice, integrity, and wisdom. (Proverbs 29:2)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd9vg782kx7o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd9vg782kx7o)

### Ukraine: shortage of Patriot missiles 'could not be any worse'

Ukraine is facing a severe shortage of critical air defence systems as Volodymyr Zelensky has warned that supplies of US-made Patriot missiles have reached a critical low. These systems remain essential for protecting cities from ballistic missile attacks amid ongoing conflict with Russia. Efforts are under way to develop domestic alternatives, but these are not yet operational, leaving Ukraine heavily dependent on international support. Meanwhile, JD Vance has said that ending US military aid to Ukraine is a key policy achievement, increasing pressure on European nations to provide assistance; there were further promises of assistance from them at a meeting in Berlin on 15 April (see <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/15/120000-drones-and-more-missiles-allies-double-down-on-ukraine-aid-in-berlin>). The situation shows how global conflicts and shifting political priorities impact the flow of military resources and support.

Pray: that provision and protection will strengthen those facing danger and uncertainty in Ukraine. (Psalm 121:7)

More: [www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/15/zelenskyy-says-patriot-missile-shortage-could-not-be-any-worse](http://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/15/zelenskyy-says-patriot-missile-shortage-could-not-be-any-worse)

## Worldwide

### Algeria: Leo is the first pope to visit ancient Hippo

During a visit to Algeria, Pope Leo XIV, the first Augustinian pope, has made a historic journey to Annaba, the site of ancient Hippo where Saint Augustine once ministered. Addressing a small Christian community in a predominantly Muslim nation, he shared with 'the beloved children of the Church in Algeria' the three essential aspects of the Christian life - prayer, charity, and unity. He highlighted the church's role as a quiet but faithful witness, encouraging believers to persevere and trust in God's ability to bring new life even in difficult circumstances. His message underlined the call to unity and reconciliation, offering encouragement to communities seeking to live out their faith amid hardship and to be a sign of hope in a divided world. He reminded them, 'In the desert (which covers a great part of Algeria's territory) no one can survive alone.'

Pray: that the believers in Algeria will remain steadfast in faith, unity, and hope despite difficulties and challenges. (John 3:3)

More: [www.asianews.it/news-en/Leo-XIV-in-Annaba,-following-in-Saint-Augustine's-footsteps:-May-%E2%80%98the-Lord%E2%80%99s-grace-makes-the-desert-blossom%E2%80%99-65241.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Leo-XIV-in-Annaba,-following-in-Saint-Augustine's-footsteps:-May-%E2%80%98the-Lord%E2%80%99s-grace-makes-the-desert-blossom%E2%80%99-65241.html)

## Iran / USA: Trump's optimism about talks as blockade takes effect

With the two week cease-fire between the USA and Iran in a fragile state, Donald Trump has expressed optimism that a peace agreement may be close, with potential new talks under discussion as a Pakistani delegation has arrived in Tehran. However, tensions remain high as the US is now blockading Iranian ports. Iran disputes the US claim to have 'completely halted economic trade going into and out of Iran by sea', and is threatening to impede commercial shipping in the Red Sea and the Gulf if the blockade of its ports continues. The conflict continues to strain international relationships, including divisions with NATO allies; China has called the US blockade 'piracy' and has called for it to end immediately. Despite signs of progress, the situation remains highly uncertain, with risks to stability, trade routes, and civilian safety across the region.

Pray: that negotiations will be resumed, leading to peace and stability for all affected nations. (Psalm 140:1,2)

More: [www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/trump-iran-war-strait-hormuz-ceasefire-pakistan-peace-talks-israel-lebanon/](http://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/trump-iran-war-strait-hormuz-ceasefire-pakistan-peace-talks-israel-lebanon/)

## Lebanon / Israel: direct talks for the first time in over thirty years

In a rare diplomatic breakthrough, Israel and Lebanon have held their first direct talks in over thirty years, mediated by Marco Rubio. The discussions aim to reduce violence and address the ongoing conflict involving Hezbollah, which continues to launch attacks despite the meeting: Israel has continued to bombard targets in Lebanon in retaliation. Both sides agreed to pursue further negotiations, though key differences remain, with Israel seeking the disarmament of armed groups and Lebanon calling for a ceasefire and humanitarian relief. The conflict has already caused thousands of deaths and displaced around a million people, deepening suffering across the region. While the talks offer a hopeful step toward dialogue, progress will likely require sustained effort amid complex political and security challenges.

Breaking news: Donald Trump has announced a ten-day truce between Israel and Lebanon, starting on 16 April. See <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/16/trump-says-israel-and-lebanon-agree-to-temporary-ceasefire>

Pray: that these talks, and their recently-announced truce, will lead to peace, protection, and relief for suffering civilians. (Psalm 85:10)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8ddydl18vo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8ddydl18vo)

## Sudan: UN reports nearly 700 killed this year from drone strikes

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has intensified, with the United Nations reporting nearly 700 civilian deaths from drone strikes since January, many occurring in regions such as Darfur and Kordofan. The ongoing conflict between the army and the RSF has devastated communities, with attacks hitting homes, schools, and markets; children have been among the most affected. The war, now in its fourth year, has displaced over 11 million people and left around 19 million facing acute hunger. The Red Cross says over 11,000 have been reported missing since the conflict began, a figure which has risen sharply in the past year. Also, destroyed communication networks have left families without news of loved ones, adding to their psychological toll. Aid agencies describe Sudan as the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with most of the population in urgent need of assistance, and relief efforts remain severely underfunded.

Pray: that protection, provision, and peace will come to those suffering in Sudan. (Psalm 46:1)

More: [www.africanews.com/2026/04/15/700-killed-in-sudan-drone-strikes-as-humanitarian-crisis-deepens-un/](http://www.africanews.com/2026/04/15/700-killed-in-sudan-drone-strikes-as-humanitarian-crisis-deepens-un/)

## Haiti: at least thirty dead after stampede at popular tourist site

At least thirty people have died in a tragic stampede at Citadelle Laferrière in Haiti, where large crowds had gathered for an annual celebration. The incident occurred at the entrance to the historic site, with heavy rain contributing to dangerous conditions as visitors, including many young people, attempted to enter. Authorities say the death toll may rise further as rescue teams continue searching for missing individuals and treating the injured. Leaders have expressed condolences to grieving families amid the shock and sorrow. The disaster comes as Haiti continues to face other significant challenges, including ongoing gang-related violence, placing additional strain on communities and emergency services. The event serves to remind us of the vulnerability of large gatherings in difficult conditions and the deep impact such tragedies have on already struggling populations.

Pray: that comfort, healing, and strength will surround families affected by this tragedy. (Psalm 10:14)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/12/at-least-30-dead-in-stampede-at-haitis-historic-citadelle-laferriere](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/12/at-least-30-dead-in-stampede-at-haitis-historic-citadelle-laferriere)

## USA: Trump criticises Pope Leo, deletes image of himself as Jesus

Donald Trump has faced huge criticism after posting and then deleting an AI-generated image depicting himself as Jesus Christ. The image, shared without explanation, drew backlash from both critics and some supporters, who described it as inappropriate and disrespectful, even blasphemous. Trump defended the post, with the excuse that he was supposed to look like a Red Cross doctor. Meanwhile, he has continued to criticise Pope Leo, saying, 'He is very much against what I'm doing with regard to Iran. And you cannot have a nuclear Iran. He would not be happy with the end result. You have hundreds of millions of people dead, and it's not going to happen.' The Pope responded by saying that he wished to avoid direct confrontation. 'We are not politicians', he said. 'We do not deal with foreign policy with the same perspective he might understand it, but I do believe in the message of the gospel, as a peacemaker.'

Pray: that respect, humility, and wisdom will guide public leaders in words and actions. (Philippians 2:3)

More: [news.sky.com/story/donald-trump-shares-ai-image-of-himself-as-jesus-christ-after-attacks-on-pope-leo-13531252](https://news.sky.com/story/donald-trump-shares-ai-image-of-himself-as-jesus-christ-after-attacks-on-pope-leo-13531252)

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