

# Prayer Alert

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**In your majesty, ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds. (Psalm 45:4)**

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

## Praying for Elections

Please pray for important elections taking place soon: India state legislative elections on 23 April (multi-phase); Palestine local elections on 25 April; Antigua and Barbuda parliamentary on 30 April; and Niue parliamentary on 2 May.



**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.

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

David Fletcher and the Prayer Alert team.

## Praise Reports

[From Bibles to Christian music, God was at the centre of Artemis II's voyage](#)  
[Raye: 'I look for answers in a Bible app, not Instagram'](#)

## British Isles

[Starmer could face Privileges Committee after claims he misled MPs](#)  
[UK and France strike new £662m small boats deal](#)  
[Six-year-old girl has sight restored thanks to life-changing eye gene therapy](#)  
[Two more arrested over arson attack plot targeting Jewish community](#)  
[UK preparing for war as 'last days of peace' could happen without warning](#)  
[Locals support man sacked by Morrisons for tackling shoplifter](#)

## Europe

[Ukraine: oil pipeline reopened, EU funding approved](#)  
[France: Macron hosts Lebanese president amid tensions with Israel](#)

## Worldwide

[Iran / USA: Trump defends decision to extend ceasefire](#)  
[Mexico: another deadly shooting raises concerns about World Cup security](#)  
[Equatorial Guinea: Pope urges leaders to commit to justice](#)  
[Peru: election chief resigns, huge delays in declaring results](#)  
[South Sudan: problems as elections are planned for December](#)

## Praise Reports

### [From Bibles to Christian music, God was at the centre of Artemis II's voyage](#)

Artemis II, NASA's landmark mission, carried four astronauts further from Earth than ever before, travelling over 250,000 miles and orbiting the Moon before returning safely. While the mission had scientific, economic, and geopolitical goals, it also revealed something deeper: the spiritual reflections of those on board. Astronaut Christina Koch described the 'overview effect', a profound sense of awe at Earth's beauty and humanity's shared dependence on it. Pilot Victor Glover, a committed Christian, brought a Bible on the journey and shared a global Easter message centred on love, reminding listeners of Christ's command to love God and neighbour. Christian music accompanied the crew, and Glover spoke openly about seeing God's creation from space. His message highlighted how faith and science are not opposed but can work together in exploring the universe. Encounters with scientists also show many wrestle thoughtfully with ethical questions, grounded in wonder at creation. Ultimately, the mission pointed beyond technological ambition to a deeper truth: human exploration finds its meaning in relationship, love, and a growing awareness of God's handiwork.

Praise: God for His glory, revealed through space exploration, drawing hearts to worship, unity, and love across nations. (Psalm 19:1)  
More: [www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/from-bibles-to-christian-songs-god-was-at-the-centre-of-artemis-iis-voyage-to-the-moon/21346.article](http://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/from-bibles-to-christian-songs-god-was-at-the-centre-of-artemis-iis-voyage-to-the-moon/21346.article)

## Raye: 'I look for answers in a Bible app, not Instagram'

Grammy-winning British singer Raye has shared how stepping away from social media and turning to Scripture has brought renewed peace and perspective to her life. The south London artist, known for her deeply personal music, said she now stays offline as much as possible, choosing instead to seek answers through a Bible app rather than platforms like Instagram. She explained that distancing herself from online criticism has significantly improved her mental well-being, allowing her to avoid the pressures and negativity that once affected her confidence. Reflecting on earlier struggles, Raye has spoken candidly about 'dark days' marked by alcohol and substance misuse during her time with a major label, noting that her Christian faith was a vital anchor through that season. Now focusing on balance and healing, she has stepped back from writing new music, choosing to wait for fresh inspiration shaped by life experience. Her journey highlights a growing desire for authenticity, rest, and spiritual grounding in an industry often driven by relentless visibility and performance.

Praise: God for drawing Raye closer through Scripture, bringing healing, identity, and freedom from pressure and comparison. (Isaiah 26:3)

More: [premierchristian.news/en/news/article/raye-i-look-for-answers-in-a-bible-app-not-instagram-as-he-reshapes-life-off-social-media](https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/raye-i-look-for-answers-in-a-bible-app-not-instagram-as-he-reshapes-life-off-social-media)

## British Isles

### Starmer could face Privileges Committee after claims he misled MPs

Keir Starmer faces mounting pressure after opposition parties called for an inquiry into his handling of Lord Peter Mandelson's appointment as US ambassador. Conservatives, SNP, and Liberal Democrats have urged the Speaker to refer the matter to the Privileges Committee, amid claims Parliament may have been misled over whether proper vetting procedures were followed. The controversy centres on revelations that Mandelson reportedly failed key security checks but was still appointed after Foreign Office intervention. Evidence from senior civil servant Sir Olly Robbins has contradicted earlier government statements, raising questions about what Starmer and when. Further scrutiny is expected as senior officials appear before parliamentary committees. Criticism has also emerged within Labour ranks, with some MPs voicing concern over leadership and transparency. While the Prime Minister insists due process was followed and denies wrongdoing, the situation highlights growing tensions around accountability, trust, and integrity in public office.

Pray: for truth, accountability, and integrity in government. Pray that leaders will act honourably and uphold public trust. (2 Corinthians 8:21)

More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-mandelson-trump-olly-robbins-vetting-latest-b2962380.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/starmer-mandelson-trump-olly-robbins-vetting-latest-b2962380.html)

### UK and France strike new £662m small boats deal

The UK and France have agreed a new £662 million, three-year deal aimed at tackling illegal small boat crossings across the English Channel. The agreement will see a significant increase in French enforcement, including riot-trained police deployed on beaches, expanded use of drones, helicopters, surveillance systems, and nearly 1,100 personnel targeting smuggling networks. The UK has introduced a performance-related element, allowing up to £100 million of funding to be reduced if crossings are not significantly lowered. Government leaders argue that the deal will deter dangerous journeys and disrupt criminal gangs, while critics question its cost and effectiveness, noting the continued high numbers of arrivals. In 2025 alone, over 41,000 migrants crossed the Channel, with thousands already arriving this year. Debate continues over whether enforcement alone is sufficient, with some calling for stronger legal measures and others emphasising the need for safe migration routes.

Pray: for just, compassionate, and effective solutions to migration, protecting lives while addressing root causes and criminal exploitation. (Psalm 146:9)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz0ev7enk2lo](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz0ev7enk2lo)

### Six-year-old girl has sight restored thanks to life-changing eye gene therapy

Saffie Sandford, aged six, has experienced a remarkable improvement in her sight after receiving pioneering gene therapy through the NHS. Diagnosed with a rare inherited condition which severely limits vision and can lead to blindness, Saffie struggled especially in low light. After specialist assessment at Moorfields Eye Hospital, she received Luxturna, a groundbreaking one-off treatment delivering a healthy gene directly into the eye. The results have been transformative. Saffie can now see in the dark, navigate her surroundings more safely, and enjoy everyday childhood activities that were previously impossible. Her parents describe the change as life-altering, expressing deep gratitude for the opportunity given to her. Research confirms that early treatment can strengthen visual pathways, particularly in younger children during key developmental stages. While not described as a permanent cure, the therapy offers real hope.

Pray: thanking God for healing breakthroughs, restoring Saffie's sight and bringing hope, joy, and new possibilities for children and families. (Psalm 146:8)

More: [www.standard.co.uk/news/health/babies-great-ormond-street-hospital-lisa-moorfields-eye-hospital-london-b1279658.html](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/babies-great-ormond-street-hospital-lisa-moorfields-eye-hospital-london-b1279658.html)

### Two more arrested over arson attack plot targeting Jewish community

Police have arrested nine individuals in connection with an alleged conspiracy to carry out an arson attack targeting a Jewish community venue in north-west London. The investigation, led by counter-terrorism officers, has intensified over several days, with arrests made across several different locations. Two of the latest suspects, aged 19 and 26, remain in custody, while others have been released on bail as inquiries continue. Authorities also linked the arrests to a wider investigation involving suspicious items discovered in Kensington Gardens. One conviction has already been secured, with several others charged. Senior police officers emphasised their determination to identify and prosecute all those involved in what appears to be a coordinated plot. The case highlights ongoing concerns about threats against Jewish communities and the importance of vigilance in countering extremism and hate-related crime.

Pray: for protection over Jewish communities, and for authorities to prevent hatred, violence, and every planned attack. (Psalm 27:1)

More: [news.sky.com/story/two-more-arrested-over-arson-attack-plot-targeting-jewish-community-13535196](https://news.sky.com/story/two-more-arrested-over-arson-attack-plot-targeting-jewish-community-13535196)

## UK preparing for war as 'last days of peace' could happen without warning

A new report states that the UK is actively preparing for future conflict, with experts suggesting modern warfare may eliminate any clear 'last days of peace' before crisis strikes. Outlines plans to develop a new national 'War Book' which outlines emergency powers and strategies for responding to potential large-scale conflict. Chief of the defence Staff Sir Richard Knighton confirmed that updated preparations are under way, reflecting the realities of modern society and infrastructure. Today's threats increasingly involve hybrid and cognitive warfare, where disruption, misinformation, and covert actions precede traditional military engagement. The report warns that public support and societal resilience are critical, as a lack of unity could undermine national security. Proposals include restructuring the government, strengthening economic and communication systems, and ensuring transparency around emergency powers.

Pray: for peace, stability, and discernment for leaders. Pray that preparations will not lead to conflict but protect nations. (Mark 13:7)  
More: [www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/uk-officially-preparing-war-last-37052310](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/uk-officially-preparing-war-last-37052310)

## Locals support man sacked by Morrisons for tackling shoplifter

A community near Walsall is planning a peaceful protest in support of Sean Egan, a long-serving Morrisons employee dismissed after intervening in a shoplifting incident. Egan, who had worked at the Aldridge store for 29 years, said he acted when a repeat offender became aggressive while being escorted out. However, the company ruled that he had breached its 'deter-and-not-detain' policy and dismissed him following a disciplinary process. The case has sparked strong local reaction, with customers praising Egan's years of service and his commitment to the community, including significant charity fundraising efforts. Supporters are organising a demonstration to show solidarity and highlight concerns about fairness and the balance between employee safety and personal responsibility. Egan himself plans to take part while continuing preparations for a charity half-marathon, raising funds for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Pray: for justice, fairness, and wisdom in workplaces. Pray that integrity and community service will be honoured and protected. (Isaiah 1:17)  
More: [www.expressandstar.com/news/walsall-locals-propose-peaceful-protest-man-sacked-morrisons-7036178](http://www.expressandstar.com/news/walsall-locals-propose-peaceful-protest-man-sacked-morrisons-7036178)

## Europe

### Ukraine: oil pipeline reopened, EU funding approved

Ukraine has resumed pumping Russian oil through the Druzhba pipeline to Hungary and Slovakia, ending months of disruption which had delayed crucial EU financial support. The restart followed repairs to infrastructure damaged during earlier attacks, clearing a key obstacle to the approval of a €90bn EU loan package intended to support Ukraine's defence and economy. EU ambassadors meeting in Brussels gave preliminary approval to the loan and to a 20th package of sanctions on Russia. The breakthrough comes after the political change in Hungary, where Viktor Orbán had previously blocked the funding; the incoming leadership under Péter Magyar is expected to pursue improved relations with the EU. Officials emphasise the importance of the funding for Ukraine's stability, as the ongoing conflict with Russia continues to strain resources and regional security. However, Ukrainian media report that it could still take weeks for the funding to arrive in Kyiv.

Pray: that provision, unity, and resilience will strengthen Ukraine in the ongoing conflict. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)  
More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnv8l99r3yyo](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cnv8l99r3yyo)

### France: Macron hosts Lebanese president amid tensions with Israel

Emmanuel Macron is hosting Lebanese president Nawaf Salam in Paris as efforts intensify to support his country amid ongoing tensions with Israel. The meeting comes ahead of renewed Israel-Lebanon talks in Washington and follows the killing of a French peacekeeper serving with UNIFIL, an incident widely condemned by the international community. France has reaffirmed its commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, while discussions continue about future security arrangements as UN peacekeeping forces prepare to withdraw in December. However, France's diplomatic role appears limited, since Israeli officials do not wish to include Paris in negotiations. Among Israel's many grievances against France are the exclusion of a dozen Israeli defence companies from two exhibitions in Paris and France's leading role in recognising Palestinian statehood. The situation highlights the complexity of regional diplomacy, where shifting alliances, security concerns, and humanitarian pressures continue to shape efforts toward peace and stability.

Pray: that peace efforts will succeed. Pray that those working for stability will be protected. (Psalm 122:7)  
More: [www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/21/frances-president-to-welcome-lebanons-pm-amid-fragile-ceasefire-and-tensions-with-israel](http://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2026/04/21/frances-president-to-welcome-lebanons-pm-amid-fragile-ceasefire-and-tensions-with-israel)

## Worldwide

### Iran / USA: Trump defends decision to extend ceasefire

Amid ongoing tensions between the USA and Iran, Donald Trump has defended his decision to extend the two-week ceasefire, rejecting criticism that it reflects weakness. Responding to a comment in the Wall Street Journal, Trump insisted that his actions have strengthened the US position, citing military operations and pressure on Iran's economy. Critics argue the ceasefire risks reducing leverage, especially as disputes continue over access to key shipping routes like the Strait of Hormuz. The situation reflects a broader debate over strategy, balancing military pressure with diplomacy in a volatile conflict. While the ceasefire offers temporary relief, uncertainty remains over whether it will lead to a lasting agreement or renewed escalation. At present, it is uncertain if Iran will resume talks with the USA in Pakistan: [see Breaking news: the Revolutionary Guard says that it has seized two ships attempting to leave the Gulf. See https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxd074kr8go](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdxd074kr8go)

Pray: that wisdom, humility, and peace will guide all decisions in this tense conflict. Pray for the peace talks to resume. (Proverbs 15:1)  
More: [www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/trump-iran-truth-social-wall-street-journal-ceasefire-b2962489.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/trump-iran-truth-social-wall-street-journal-ceasefire-b2962489.html)

### **Mexico: another deadly shooting raises concerns about World Cup security**

A deadly shooting at Teotihuacán in Mexico has left one tourist dead and several others injured after a lone gunman opened fire on visitors at the historic Pyramid of the Moon, then turned the gun on himself. Authorities say the attacker, identified as a Mexican national, acted alone with no links to organised crime, marking a rare but deeply troubling incident distinct from the country's more common cartel-related violence. Investigators have pointed to possible copycat influences, especially since a witness heard the gunman referring to a mass school shooting at Columbine in the USA, exactly 27 years ago. The attack has caused real concern among football fans planning to come to the FIFA World Cup, which gets underway in Mexico City on 11 June. Leaders are seeking to reassure visitors about safety, emphasising that this incident is very atypical. However, it has shocked locals and tourists alike, underscoring broader concerns about security, mental health, and the protection of public spaces.

Pray: that comfort, healing, and protection will surround all those who are affected by this tragedy. (Psalm 147:3)

More: [www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cre1r5gdq04o](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cre1r5gdq04o)

### **Equatorial Guinea: Pope urges leaders to commit to justice**

During a visit to Equatorial Guinea, the last leg of his apostolic journey to Africa, Pope Leo XIV urged national leaders to commit to justice, peace, and responsible leadership. Reflecting on themes drawn from St Augustine, he contrasted the pursuit of power with the call to serve the common good. The Pope warned that conflict, inequality, and the misuse of resources risk harming humanity, particularly when wealth does not benefit the wider population – remarks heavy with irony as he stood next to Equatoguinean president Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has been in power since 1979. He encouraged authorities to remove barriers to human development, uphold dignity, and protect communities. His visit also saw the publication of a letter from an exiled opposition group, the ANDR, which pointed out that the country is 'under the control of the presidential family'. The death penalty has been in place since 2012. There are 'many more police officers than teachers, doctors, and nurses', and more prisons than schools. Brutal repression is meted out to political opponents, who are frequently 'tortured and murdered'.

Pray: that President Mbasogo will heed the call to pursue justice, peace, and the well-being of all people. (Isaiah 1:17)

More: [www.asianews.it/news-en/In-Malabo,-Pope-Leo-XIV-calls-for-courage-%E2%80%98to-pursue-countercurrent-politics'-65289.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/In-Malabo,-Pope-Leo-XIV-calls-for-courage-%E2%80%98to-pursue-countercurrent-politics'-65289.html)

### **Peru: election chief resigns, huge delays in declaring results**

In Peru, Piero Corvetto has resigned as head of the election office, following widespread criticism of the chaotic general election. The first round of voting, held on 12 April, was disrupted by logistical failures, which forced extended polling hours in Lima and other areas. Although some political figures have alleged irregularities, election observers report no clear evidence of fraud. Corvetto said that his resignation aims to restore public confidence. Right-wing candidate Keiko Fujimori, with about 17% of the vote, is likely to advance to the run-off, but it is unclear who will face her; probably either left-wing congressman Roberto Sanchez or Lima's former far-right mayor, Rafael Lopez Aliaga, who both have about 12%. The results will be finalised no later than 15 May, with a run-off scheduled for June. The situation reflects broader concerns about trust in democratic institutions, as many citizens already express low confidence in the electoral system amid ongoing political uncertainty.

Pray: that fairness, transparency, and trust will guide Peru's electoral process, and that the correct decision will be made about who will contest the runoff. (Proverbs 16:11)

More: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/21/perus-election-chief-steps-down-amid-frustration-over-long-vote-count](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/21/perus-election-chief-steps-down-amid-frustration-over-long-vote-count)

### **South Sudan: problems as elections are planned for December**

As South Sudan aims to hold elections in December, concerns are growing about whether current peace efforts can prevent renewed conflict. The fragile transition process, rooted in the 2018 peace agreement, faces mounting strain from increased ceasefire violations, political divisions, and ongoing insecurity. Rivalry between President Salva Kiir and First Vice President Riek Machar continues to drive instability, often fuelling broader ethnic tensions. Three parallel initiatives aim to stabilise the situation, focusing on dialogue, ceasefire commitments, and preparations for elections, yet many critical reforms – such as security sector unification and constitutional development – remain delayed. With millions displaced and humanitarian needs rising, there is a risk that the elections could proceed without resolving underlying conflicts, potentially undermining long-term peace and stability in a country already facing profound challenges.

Pray: that lasting peace, unity, and justice will take root in South Sudan. Pray that preparations for the elections will go ahead smoothly. (James 3:17)

More: [issafrica.org/iss-today/race-against-time-to-stabilise-south-sudan-as-elections-loom](http://issafrica.org/iss-today/race-against-time-to-stabilise-south-sudan-as-elections-loom)

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