

Pastoral Prayer

July 26, 2026

Gracious God,

As a storm approaches our island, we pray for your aid to reduce the storm's strength and to keep ourselves and our neighbors safe. We are relieved that the risks appear to be low, but we ask you hold ships at sea and planes in the air in your tender care as they go past.

We also pray your aid for the other storms of our lives: injuries and illnesses, losses and griefs, conflicts in relationships and work, prejudice and malice, the uncertainty of the times, limited incomes and changing prices. There are so many ways in which the world can be harsh to us, O God. Be with us to find the healing, the comfort, the wisdom, and the resources to meet the challenges and endure the hardships. Guide us to a society that includes all as full participants, and refuses to privilege some at the expense of others.

We pray for others who suffer in these days from lack of food or housing, from the threat and the reality of violence, from the deprivation of justice or of compassion, from the pains of mental or physical illness, from the sorrows with which we too are familiar in a struggling world. Bring the same power and comfort and justice to them as we have prayed you bring to us. Let your grace be spread wide, wider than we ask, wider than we can imagine.

For you have come to us with the words of life in Jesus, and not even the worst of humanity could silence them. For your grace we thank and praise you, O God.

Amen.