

**Praying for our**

**PRISONS**

## Pray for:

- **People working in prisons** to demonstrate love, value and clear & fair behaviour, and to receive the strength to work in difficult circumstances with joy.
- **Real and lasting** rehabilitation for prisoners so that they leave the system in a better place than they entered it.
- **Inspiration** for governors, managers and policy makers at a national level so that our prison system runs as effectively as it can.
- **Services** run by Christians such as chaplaincies, Alpha and visiting programmes to thrive and bring healing and wholeness to broken lives
- **Ongoing** care, integration and welcome for those leaving prison and re-integrating into the community.
- **New starts, forgiveness** and genuine second chances to be offered by churches, communities and businesses.



Jesus said:

‘I was in prison and you came to visit me... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

‘The Spirit of the Lord is on me... he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners... to release the oppressed.’

# Prayer of blessing for prisoners and prisons

God of perfect redemption, you laid aside majesty, status and honour to walk, live, love and die among us. And to restore us – broken and sinful though we are – to the people our perfect Father designed us to be.

Today we come to you and lift all your precious children who are in prison. We choose to stand beside those who have knowingly done wrong – whether repentant or unrepentant – as well as those unjustly held, and those trapped by patterns of behaviour rooted in abuse and rejection. For we too have done wrong and choose to put down our stones.

As we have been forgiven, we choose to forgive. As we have received unmerited grace, we choose to offer mercy and welcome as well as justice's consequences. We bless our prisoners to find true transformation while they are in our system – that they might leave it having experienced redemption, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Lord Jesus, move in prison wings all over our nation today, that we may see captives set free from the destructive cycles that bind them.

We bless all who work in our prisons – particularly Christians – to demonstrate your love and fairness which bring beauty for ashes, joy from mourning and sets hearts free from the spirit of despair.

We bless all who make decisions about individual institutions and our national system – give them vision, strategy, wisdom, resources and above all love.

And we ask for ourselves Lord that you would remind us of who we visit and who we welcome when we enter prisons and welcome those who have been released.

Amen.