Bradford North Prayer Column: March 2026

Chance encounter

Recently I fell into conversation with a woman, likewise pausing on an upward slope to catch breath. She had just come back to England to be with her daughter after living in a rural village in France for three years. She herself was German, and had kept herself informed by reading French, German, English, and Spanish newspapers. She was in her mid-70s, but in her time she had repeatedly manned the barricades, protesting against injustice and poor government policies. Why? Well, things must be improved: we humans are part of all that is around us in this beautiful world, sadly being spoiled so much by people. Would she agree that we differed from all else in having a sense of responsibility for the world? Oh yes, she did think that, but as to whom we were responsible? – well, to herself, and to the world around us. No, the beauty of the world had not led her to a belief in God, or not as a person, though she did believe in some "higher power". And she mentioned the Dalai Lama as coming nearest to describing what she believed in.

Now, she felt, younger generations must shoulder the burdens of protest, as she felt that her time here must be drawing to a close. She declared that the thought of death did not worry her: it would come when it would come: she couldn't choose the time: and she'd had a good and varied life. I thought: what an example of a life dedicated to doing good as she had come to see it! But what a pity not to have found a relationship with God as Creator and loving Heavenly Father, and to have access to him by the Bible and prayer, for teaching on goodness, guidance in our actions, and help through the constant inner presence of his Holy Spirit.

Roy Lorrain-Smith

A prayer for each week

Creating God, making all heaven and earth in all their rich forms, and us humans as your image here, help us take on all that Jesus calls us to do. Amen.

Speaking God, using whatever language we understand, help us listen for you, and then having heard, to respond in loving care for all around us. Amen.

Perfecting God, in justice, goodness, and beauty, please rid us of all that is crooked, bad and ugly, and mature us into the likeness of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

Rescuing Lord, so well aware of our sad plight, thank you for your plan to put us all right again, through Jesus who saves us and tells us what to do. Amen.

Loving Father God, aware of our frailties but seeing our potential, help us work with your transforming Spirit, that all your promises may come true. Amen.

Your own prayers