

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 198

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

This week the prayer diary focuses on racial justice issues in the church, helping us to prepare for **Racial Justice Sunday (11th February)** Further resources are available on the **Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website**. We continue to remember those impacted by natural disasters; those currently suffering because of wars and unrest and for all who take decisions around the world.

Sunday 4th February: (*Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189*)

All men and women are called to live holiness and justice by you, God of light and truth. Help us to see in each other a humble mind, a tender heart, and concern for our brothers and sisters so that together we can strengthen the Body of Christ.

Gracious Lord, rid your world of racial injustices.

May the captive be set free, the brokenhearted healed, and may those in pain and sorrow experience the comfort of your Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Monday 5th:

Heavenly Father, we raise our voices to you as we remember the oppressed, the marginalized and those who are victims of racial injustice in our nation and world.

May they know your love and peace.

May the world's leaders embrace truth, justice, peace, and love in dealing with the disadvantaged, tortured and those people who have no support.

Reveal to our leaders the mysteries underpinning our love for one another through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Tuesday 6th: (*The Martyrs of Japan, 1597*)

Eternal King, the creator of the heavens and the earth - help us to know that we are from the same source and to understand that we need to be our brother's keeper.

Give every individual tenderness and humble hearts so that hope, justice, mercy and peace may be restored in our world, particularly in the Lichfield diocese, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday 7th:

Father of mercy, be with those who, because of racial injustice and oppression in our world, seek and require your healing and restoration.

May we see ourselves as one in Christ, just as your son Jesus Christ erased the barrier between Jews and Gentiles.

We pray for your blessing and healing touch upon all those who are suffering from mental illness & depression as a result of racism in our society today. We ask this through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Thursday 8th:

God of all people and nations, you fulfilled your promise and made your good news known through Jesus Christ. We offer prayers for the people and leaders of our troubled world. We pray for individuals enmeshed in hatred, particularly those affected by racial injustices and discrimination. May there be much peace and righteousness so that we can defeat injustice and wrong. Amen

Friday 9th:

Creator God, we pray for your world and its people with all their needs, questions and longings.

So often, we struggle to understand the reasons behind the many inhumane acts of racial discrimination and injustice resulting in suffering, hopelessness, violence & other vice, particularly among people of colour.

We pray for all who suffer in such dreadful circumstances; may the love of Christ break every barrier of injustice.

We remember in our prayers those who work day by day in our Diocese to see an end to racial injustice.

Endow them with your wisdom so that through them, the light of Christ will continue to shine in our world.

Saturday 10th: (*Scholastica, sister of Benedict, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543*)

Eternal King, help us to recognise you in every individual. You are the beginning and the end.

You made every one of us in your image and likeness.

Lead us to walk, pray, and work together as we long for an end to the suffering brought about by racism; so that we may build a future founded on healing and justice, where everyone can realise the hope you have for all people. Bind us together in your love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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