

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

During these weeks the prayer diary reflects the challenges of facing Coronavirus with our sisters and brothers across the world; the call to be a people of hope.

Sunday 17th May: CHURCHES: With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you our praise as we lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven. Amidst the many pressures, challenges and the cost of discipleship in these times, we pray for renewed hope and trust, to go deeper in prayer and to pray more, for the gift of serving your world and our communities, of connecting with others in new and meaningful ways. We pray especially for our Archdeacons as they deal with so many complex changes in matters such as wedding and funeral regulations or the use of church buildings. Lord have mercy on our Diocese of Lichfield.

Mon: COMMUNITIES: For the many groups and organisations in the Diocese and beyond who are involved in *#peopleofhope*. Many are starting to struggle financially and this is expected to accelerate. Pray for the work of Just Finance Black Country. They have partnered with colleagues in London to create an online training course and downloadable resource - Coronavirus: Helping people at a time of financial crisis. Please pray for them as they collate and distil complex and changing financial information into a useable format for churches and others. Pray especially for a positive response to the new initiative 'funeral-finance-through-covid-19'.

Tues: SCHOOLS: God you care about people and things that matter to us. As we think about the needs of our school we believe that you hear our prayers and can be trusted to answer with wisdom and love. In light of the Prime Minister's recent announcement we pray for clarity for all school and academy leaders as they struggle to make sense of what this will mean for their own schools and what they need to put into place to keep pupils and staff safe. We think particularly of our own Multi Academy Trust – St Chad's, for Sue Wedgwood and her team alongside the leaders of all the MATs within our diocese.

Wed: AROUND THE WORLD: Pray for the Dioceses of Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon, Canada remembering Bishop Rob Hardwick and Bishop Chris Harper. We ask for your resourcing for them and for Archdeacon Catherine Harper in her role as Assistant to the Bishop of Qu'Appelle; for the Dioceses as they deal with financial pressures as giving declines and clergy worry over the provision of stipends. Give thanks for the imaginative responses with online services and the use of prayer-trees as parishioners pray for one another in a systematic and responsive way.

Thur: ASCENSION DAY: PRISONS: We pray for those in our prison communities – prisoners and staff – who have become unwell due to COVID-19; that they might know healing; that staff might know resilience and energy, as they begin to grow weary and tired; for prisoners – that in the loneliness and isolation of lockdown, they may know peace and hope; particularly for those prisoners wrestling with having lost a family member – that they would be able to grieve safely, to know the love and light of Christ in the darkness and despair. We pray particularly for Rev'd Jo Honour & Rev'd Doug Heming and their team at HMP Stafford, for Rev'd David Farley and for Rev'd Mark Kinder, who started at HMP Stoke Heath on 18th May, and the team there, and for Rev'd Jeffrey Cuttell & Rev'd David Howard and team at HMYOI Werrington.

Fri: HEALTHCARE: For all working in healthcare services at the present time, especially those on the front line caring for patients and their families; for those having to make difficult decisions or redesign services to meet a constantly changing need. For the continuing need of PPE within hospitals, hospices and residential care homes. We pray for all hospitals and hospices throughout our Diocese (*name yours.....*) and in particular we pray for the ministries of all chaplains including Rend Elaine De Jonge, Chaplain to Compton Hospice and also Revd Leo Varquez, Revd Vivienne Flanagan & Ms Alison Phillips Chaplains to the University Hospitals of North Midlands.

Sat: AROUND THE WORLD: For the Diocese of Toliara in Madagascar where, like so many parts of the world experiencing existing levels of poverty and malnutrition, many can't even purchase soap, much less have access to water to wash their hands; where many don't have enough money to buy a month's worth of essential supplies so they can quarantine at home. We join with their prayers in seeking that they may completely rely on God and 'stand firm trusting that our God is bigger than any pandemic and the effects it will have on our lives, Madagascar, and the world'.