

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 21

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 23rd August: CHURCHES: As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for Bishop Michael as he completes a series of walks to the 27 churches in the Diocese bearing the name of his ancient predecessor, St Chad; we pray for God's blessings on all of the St Chad's churches receiving him and any other pilgrims walking the same path with this week – for the Churches in Slindon, Seighford, Stafford and our Cathedral; that we as members of this Diocese may walk in the footsteps of Christ in body, mind and spirit.



Mon 24th: (Bartholomew the Apostle) COMMUNITIES: We give thanks for the many churches across our Diocese which have actively supported residential care homes, year in year out, with people from church both visiting and leading worship regularly. Pray for residential care homes in your region as they have been particularly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions; for residents living with dementia who may be finding current restrictions particularly difficult and traumatic; for God's blessing and resourcing on our own Diocesan Dementia-friendly Church Enablers: Sarah Thorpe (N Shropshire), Su Parker (Black Country) and Mike Bridgewater (Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent).

Tues 25th: SCHOOLS: As schools prepare to return after the August break, we recognise that times are still uncertain. Lord God who brought life out of chaos we pray that you will bring peace and certainty into the new academic term. We pray for safety for all our staff, pupils and wider communities; we pray that the returning to school will not lead to further spikes. We pray for any who are feeling apprehensive about the return that they will know your strength and comfort with them. We pray particularly for any students moving on to new schools, colleges or universities especially where exam results have brought so much uncertainty. Please hear the cry of our hearts LORD.

Wed 26th: AROUND THE WORLD: The Archbishop of Canterbury recently launched an initiative called 'Together in Unity' to support churches and communities around the world during the COVID-19 crisis. This will raise funding and support for COVID relief in areas of the Communion hardest hit by COVID-19 and seek to demonstrate solidarity across the communion. Pray that churches and dioceses around the Anglican Communion will be assisted in providing support services in their communities to tackle COVID outbreaks in their settings, particularly in countries where the health infrastructure and support measures may be severely under strain.

Thur 27th: (Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, 387) CHAPLAINCY: There are over 70 chaplains in our Diocese. We pray for them in the particular challenges they face at this stage of the pandemic; for those based in schools, colleges and universities as they prepare for a new term; in business and workplace environments; in hospitals and hospices; in prisons and young offenders institutions and all in the armed forces and emergency services; pray too for all who are part of chaplaincy teams in a voluntary capacity and for those with a developing sense of vocation and service.



Fri 28th (Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher of the Faith, 430) HEALTHCARE: For all working in healthcare services having to make difficult decisions or redesign services to meet a constantly changing need. In particular we pray for the Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust remembering Revds Alison Coles, Keith Duckett and Anthony Swaby in their chaplaincy roles, and for the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust and chaplains Revds Petro Hryziuk and Mervyn Williams.

Sat 29th: (The Beheading of John the Baptist) AROUND THE WORLD: For our partners in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, Canada; for Bishop Rob Hardwick and for the clergy, lay leaders, congregation and ministries of the congregation of St. Margaret, Manor, in the greater parish of Oxbow; for the Diocesan Pastoral Care Formation program under the leadership and guidance of Archdeacon Catherine Harper, adapting to the changes caused by the pandemic; for God's healing touch in the broken relationships between Indigenous and newcomer peoples.

