

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 25

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 20th September: *(John Coleridge Patteson, First Bishop of Melanesia, and his Companions, Martyrs, 1871)*



CHURCHES: For the Brothers and Sisters of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, for the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo as they recover and rebuild after Cyclone Harold. We pray for the greater care of creation and for communities affected by climate change and pray for protection from unscrupulous mining and logging. May we too as a Diocese 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth' and to do what we can to lessen the possibility of further pandemics.

Mon 21st: *(Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist)* **COMMUNITIES:** Creator God, at a time of so much uncertainty due to this pandemic, the Transforming Communities Together Team gives thanks for the gift of life and that they are able to stay connected as a team. We pray for all that lies ahead; that God will guide them in their decision making and in the work with all partner organisations and groups, but most of all with anyone who is feeling vulnerable during this challenging time. We remember the launch of the Payroll Savings Scheme, that God will help Cassius Francis to work effectively in partnership with the Illegal Money Lending Team and the credit unions across the Black Country and other groups. We pray too for the weekly delivery of the Covid Cash Recovery courses.

Tues 22nd: **SCHOOLS:** Today LORD we pray for those schools that are local to where we live. We thank you for our local schools. Thank you for the dedicated staff and volunteers who are committed to seeing children and young people thrive in our communities. God of hope and care we lift up the pupils in our schools. May they know life in all its fullness, and may they experience your compassion and love and show that to each other. We pray specifically for (by name) the headteacher, the chair of governors, and any staff or pupils we know who work or attend the school. We pray also for all staff that they too may know your strength and peace at this time.

Wed 23rd: **AROUND THE WORLD:** From the CMS Prayer Space we pray for the peoples of the Chaco in both Paraguay and northern Argentina. Cases of Covid-19 in both countries are now increasing significantly and cases have begun to occur amongst some indigenous communities where CMS people in mission serve. Pray for CMS people in mission in the Chaco, those who serve with CMS partners in the area who have caught the virus and for the indigenous communities now being affected. We pray too for rain as the Paraguayan Chaco is experiencing drought and water levels are reportedly running very low.



Thur 24th: **PRISONS:** We pray for wisdom for Chaplaincy departments as they work with their prisons to work out how safely to move to resume corporate worship and faith-based activity; that they would find a way to strike a balance between faith provision and maintaining the high levels of pastoral care that has been given over recent months. We give thanks for good relationships within prisons. We pray specifically for those prisoners who are dealing with bereavements, both present and historical, and for those feeling the pain of previous trauma, as they have had more time to think over recent months. We pray particularly for Chaplains Rev'd Elaine Wykes and The Rev'd Preb Sarah Morris at HMP/YOI Drake Hall, Rev'd Taiwo Olumuyiwa at HMP Oakwood; for grace, patience and care.



Fri 25th: *(Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual Writer, 1626)* **HEALTHCARE:** Please pray for any known to you who are working within the NHS and for your local hospitals and surgeries as they adjust to changing circumstances; for those in Birmingham and other parts of the country entering new restrictions due to a rise in Covid 19 infections; for medical researchers, medical staff and public health officials seeking to control and overcome the virus.

Sat 26th: *(Sergei of Radonezh, Russian Monastic Reformer, Teacher of the Faith, 1392)* **AROUND THE WORLD:** for our brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, in the Province of Canada; for Bishop Rob Hardwick and all senior Staff; for the five parishes in Regina which are in the process of combining to form one new parish under the name '521' (*for 5 into 1*); for all different aspects of this visionary development as they prepare to start worshipping together in January 2021.