

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 28

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 11th October: *(Ethelburga, Abbess of Barking, 675; James the Deacon, companion of Paulinus, 7th century)*



CHURCHES: 'We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of the communities in our Diocese. We pray for a church that partners with others in seeking the common good, working for justice as a people of hope.'; for the recently launched '*Shaping for Mission*' process and for the engagement of Deaneries as they take on new roles in working out our call to mission; for our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisors and for Safer Churches.

Mon 12th: *(Wilfrid of Ripon, Bishop, Missionary, 709; Elizabeth Fry, Prison Reformer, 1845; Edith Cavell, Nurse, 1915)*

COMMUNITIES: for the Transforming Communities Together Team, for Shaz Akhtar in her work as Black Country Near Neighbours coordinator, who is looking forward to on-line groups being more independent and requests prayers for teachers, parents and children in school communities; for Sarah Thorpe and Mike Bridgwater as they continue to work with enabling and resourcing dementia friendly churches.

Tues 13th: *(Edward the Confessor, King of England, 1066)* **SCHOOLS:** Everlasting God, thank you for the way that you care for each one of us and we pray for a continued physical and spiritual strengthening of our school staff; many of whom are really tired. We pray also for our children. At this harvest time we pray particularly for those who come to school hungry and in need of food. We thank you for all those schools that go the extra mile to provide a good start for each in their care and for the food packages they provide for their families. LORD we cry out for your justice and pray for a time when no child in this diocese will go without food and challenge us to be part of the solution.

Wed 14th: **AROUND THE WORLD:** We pray for the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr. Paul Colton; for the developing friendship between the church families of The Carrigaline Union in that Diocese and The Church At Perton; in the light of the recent joint statement by Christian Church Leaders from across the island of Ireland we join with them in praying for renewed efforts to strengthen relationships across and between these islands and beyond in this critical phase of the Brexit negotiations and in relation to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Thur October 15th: *(Teresa of Avila, Teacher of the Faith, 1582)* **PRISONS:** Father God, we pray that you would bless, comfort and strengthen prisoners and prison staff, their families and friends. We are thankful for the continuing engagement between prisoners and their families and with staff and for the relationships that are built and the support that is offered. We pray for those who work within the Justice System and the Prison and Probation service, who are all continuing this vital work either at home, or in their workplaces. We pray particularly for those residing and working at HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall and HMP Werrington.



Fri 16th: *(Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, and Hugh Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, Reformation Martyrs, 1555)* **HEALTHCARE:** We pray for all experiencing symptoms of 'Long Covid' and pray for those seeking to understand more fully the nature of the Coronavirus and to work towards finding helpful Covid-19 therapies and vaccines. 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 all seeking to provide emotional and spiritual support.

Sat 17th: *(Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, Martyr, c. 107)* **AROUND THE WORLD:** Argentina is now experiencing a massive increase in COVID-19 cases after a previously relatively successful lockdown. Mission associate Michael Browne reports that hospitals in Salta are full and many have caught the virus in the area. Please pray for a reduction in the numbers of cases and particularly for all CMS people in mission and partner organisations in the north of Argentina.



PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THE 24/7 **DIOCESAN DAY OF PRAYER** STARTING 07.00 on 23rd October. Details: Diocesan Web Page <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/event.php?event=161> and from denise.keen@lichfield.anglican.org