

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 51

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Our prayers take forwards the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus. Please refer too to the Lent prayers for SfM available <https://bit.ly/3bh3kBA> . As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful too of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>:** (Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556) We pray for the **Lichfield Deanery**, for Rural Dean-Revd Jan Waterfield, Assistant Rural Dean-Revd Philip Daniel and Lay Chair-Mrs Lilas Rawling; giving thanks for the breadth of Christian tradition in the Deanery. Pray for its ministry in communities, particularly in developing a clear Christian presence amongst the many new housing estates across the deanery.

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>: Shaping for Mission:** We pray for SfM facilitator: Julie Jones and for the SfM team in the Lichfield Deanery; giving thanks for the team's willingness to engage with the Shaping for Mission initiative. Pray that as the Deanery moves to the next stage the team, led by Revd. Chris Baker, may be guided by the Holy Spirit in forming the vision.

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>: National Day of Reflection:** *'a time to reflect on our collective loss, to seek ways to support those who have been bereaved and to offer hope for a brighter future.'*  
God of Love, be with us as we think about all that has changed this year, and help us to trust that you are always with us. Be close to us as we remember those who have died and help us to trust that they are at peace with you. Show us how to reach out to others with kindness and care, so that hope shines out in every heart and home.

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>:** (Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980) **Schools:** Pray for children who have struggled during lockdown or who are finding the return to school challenging. Pray also for staff to be equipped to respond to those needs, as the events of the last year have brought a wide range of pastoral matters to the surface. We remember especially Lichfield Cathedral School, its governors, pupils and staff: Head Teacher, Mrs Hannam and Chaplain Fr Thomas Plant.

**Thur 25<sup>th</sup>:** For the churches which are in **vacancy**; Whittington with Weeford and Hints, Burntwood and Hammerwich with the Team Rector role, St. Michael's Lichfield as they prepare for the retirement of Revd Preb Simon Baker. Pray also for Revd Jeremy Brading as he prepares to move with his family to the parishes of Kings Bromley, the Ridwares and Yoxall, and for his ministry there.

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup>:** (Joseph of Nazareth) **Chaplains:** Pray in particular for Pastor Samuel Ntoyimondo and his colleagues at Swinfen Hall Prison, who, throughout the Pandemic, have been making themselves available to both staff and residents in need of support and reassurance. Pray that God gives them the strength, courage and resilience to continue on this path.

**Sat 27<sup>th</sup>: The prison population** – Pray for Prison Management Teams facing ever changing challenges; and that normal life resumes quickly so that residents can once again focus on their rehabilitation, and staff can feel safe going to work. As we approach Easter and Ramadan it may well be the second time prisons will be unable to offer communal worship and celebrations. As people of faith may we hold onto HOPE and continue to pray for a future full of joy and celebration.