

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 138

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

**Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** *(John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher of the Faith, c.749)*

Pray for those who will gather this evening at St Martin's Church, Walsall to take part in a vigil service to commemorate World AIDS Day (Thursday 1st December), as they seek to stand united with all those living with HIV/AIDS and as they remember and honour those affected throughout the world.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>:**

Pray for Edmond & Shifnal Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Matthew Lefroy, Assistant, Revd Mary Thomas and Lay Chair Malcolm Maclean; giving thanks for the parent and toddler groups across the deanery that have recently started (or restarted after Covid) as we seek to share faith with new generations; for the several parishes in the deanery which are responding to the "cost of living crisis" and are partnering with local groups to offer "warm spaces" for their communities this winter with food and refreshments; and for the new and thriving men's breakfast group that Revd Jess Harper has started in Albrighton. Pray for discussions within groups of parishes as they look for ways to cooperate and collaborate with others in their mission and ministry; and for the development of partnership in youth work between some parishes in the deanery and Telford Minister.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>:** *(Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c.326)*

Pray for Rt Revd Dr Paul Colton and our companion Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross; giving thanks that five representatives were able to visit Lichfield recently for the special ecumenical services associated with the new shrine of St Chad; and for the new parish twinning links just getting off the ground between 5 more parishes. Pray that these fledgling links will fly! Pray also for plans for another virtual pulpit swap between the more established twinned parishes of Perton and Carrigaline; and for conversations that are beginning to pilot twinning links between schools in the two Dioceses.

**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>:** *(Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher of the Faith, 397)*

O God, you gave your servant Ambrose grace eloquently to proclaim your righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honour of your Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching and faithfulness in ministering your Word, that your people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We pray for members of the Bishop's Council as they meet today; that they may they be blessed with wisdom, discernment and a sense of unity, as they consider important matters in the life of our diocese.

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>:** *(The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

Pray for Eccleshall Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Doug Heming and Lay Chair, Jonathan Jones; giving thanks for the ministry of Revd Alison Thomas, interim minister at Holy Trinity, Eccleshall with St Chad's, Slindon as the parish prepares to advertise its vacancy. Pray for those parishes which are struggling either financially or with governance; for Whitmore Benefice, currently in vacancy, and pray God's blessings on all the individual plans to reach out into the community through Christmas services and activities.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup>:** *(Prayer submitted by prison chaplain, Pastor Samuel Ntoyimondo)*

Pray for prisoners, staff and volunteers at HMP Swinfen Hall, as we continue to embrace a more normal life following the lengthy Covid restrictions. We thank the Lord that we hope to have our Carol Service in the Chapel on 13<sup>th</sup> December and for Bishop Michael being with us on Christmas Day, presiding at Holy Communion following 2 years of restrictions; and for finally being able to run weekly Services and Bible studies. We continue to pray for its growth both physically and spiritually. Pray that the Prison Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will deal with the day-to-day prison management with wisdom. and will make the wellbeing of both staff and prisoners a priority.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Pray for West Bromwich Deanery, giving thanks for Rural Dean, Revd Ron Farrell and Lay Chair Hazel Bloxham, and for the ministry of all clergy as they face increasing pressure in their roles.

Pray for the appointment of a faithful priest to St Andrew's, Carters Green; and for faithfulness amongst both clergy and laity across the deanery as they face the future.