

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 311

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel, Iran and the wider Middle East.

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Sunday 5th April: *(Easter Sunday)*

HE IS RISEN!

A Collect for this most important of days from Common Worship;

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Monday 6th:

Lord, we continue our prayers for Stoke on Trent Deanery by praying specifically for the ministry of 'CLASP', for Churches Linked Across Staffordshire and the Potteries. We thank you for all the different denominations working together across the city and pray for ever-greater understanding and cooperation to work together for your glory and your mission.

Tuesday 7th:

We continue to pray for Stoke by lifting before you each of our churches currently meeting there that are not in vacancy, for Burslem St Paul, Burslem St Werburgh, Chell St Michael, Chell Heath Church of our Saviour, Fenton Christ Church, Hanford St Matthias, Hartshill Holy Trinity, Longton Hall St Paul, Longton St Mary and St Chad, Meir Heath St Francis, Mount Pleasant St Paul, Penkhull St Thomas, Shelton St Mark, Smallthorne St Saviour, Sneyd Holy Trinity, Stoke Minster, Trent Vale St Jone, Trentham Parish Church, Tunstall Christ Church, and Wellington St Luke. We pray for your hand to rest upon each of these churches and their communities, and hold them close to your heart.

Wednesday 8th:

Today we pray for the Agenda Planning Committee as it meets this afternoon. We pray for all those who work in administration and facilitating important meetings - that the things that need to be discussed will be discussed. Lord, as we work for your Kingdom, we pray that ultimately it will always be you that sets our agenda.

Thursday 9th: *(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor, Martyr, 1945)*

Lord, as we remember Dietrich Bonhoeffer, we thank you for his enduring example of courage and faithfulness in standing firm against injustice - including paying the ultimate cost. Lord, we pray for just some small measure of that courage, and for discernment at what needs to be opposed and how. As Bonhoeffer famously wrote about 'The Cost of Discipleship', we pray you will grant us greater understanding of that cost - and the security of the knowledge that however difficult the discipleship journey may be, you will always walk it right alongside us.

Friday 10th: *(William Law, Priest, Spiritual Writer, 1761. William of Ockham, Friar, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1347)*

On St Lawrence's day, we pray for all of the churches in the diocese dedicated to him, in Biddulph, Bramshall, Cauldon, Chapel Chorlton, Coppenhall, Darlaston, Gnosall, Preston Wealdmoors, Rushton Spencer, and Warslow. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and the communities they serve.

Saturday 11th: *(George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, 1878)*

Lord, we remember George Selwyn today, not just as the first Bishop of New Zealand, but as the ninety-first Bishop of Lichfield. We thank you for his enduring legacy, and that through the lectures held in his name we continue to grapple with difficult issues. Today we lift before you our ninety-ninth Bishop, as Bishop Michael prepares to retire later this year; we pray for a long and fulfilling retirement for him and his family. So too Lord, we pray for our hundredth Bishop, and whoever it may turn out to be; we pray that you may guide all those who make the crucial decisions so that the person you want in place to lead us here will find their way here and be inspired by you to lead us along the continuing journey you wish us to take.