

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary

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.

Sun: Churches

As we share with your church throughout the world proclaiming that 'Christ is Risen!' we pray for fresh hope as we seek God's presence. We hold before you - those parts of the world wide Anglican Communion which are so vulnerable to the consequences of coronavirus owing to poverty and the difficulty of implementing social distancing - the persecuted church facing additional pressures as they continue to operate from 'behind locked doors' - funerals across different cultures under the restrictions of social distancing; for the bereaved and all who are taking funerals.

Mon: Communities (*Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894*)

For the many groups and organisations in the Diocese and beyond who are involved in #peopleofhope - sharing good news and helpful tips online. We hold before God our colleagues at the *Black Country Foodbank* who are dealing with the perfect storm of reduced donations, restricted buying and increasing demand for emergency food. Give thanks for the generosity of those donating food and generously volunteering their time. We pray for provision and protection.

Tues: Schools (*Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841*)

We give thanks for the lovely work and the good news stories that are coming out of the school supported home learning. We thank you that pupils and parents still feel supported and treasured. We also pray for those schools and particular members of staff who are having to support families who have been bereaved. We think particularly of *Birchills CE Community Academy, Walsall, part of the St Chad's Multi Academy Trust*. We pray for their pupils, parents and staff who are feeling the loss of a loved one at this time may they know for themselves God's comfort and love.

Wed: Around the World - The Nordkirche - Northern Germany (*Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380*)

The Nordkirche has been mobilised to create 'Gemeinschaft.Online' (Community.Online). Two free-phone numbers are offered to take requests for (i) practical help and (ii) a simple chat due to loneliness and isolation. Volunteers help staff these phone lines and coordinate responses to anyone needing this service through a network of local teams. Please pray for the success of this initiative and its users.

Thur: Prisons (*Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922*)

Father we pray for prisoners, many of whom are behind their door for long periods during the day, and who are missing contact with their families. We pray that you would give them hope where they feel hopeless, strength where they feel weak. We pray particularly for any who are being released this week - to a very different world to the one they left, and with fewer support structures in operation. We pray for prison staff - many of whom are living in caravans or separating themselves from their families to minimise risk - all of whom are becoming tired. We pray for Chaplaincy teams - for resilience, and that they would be equipped and resourced spiritually and practically to reach out to all in their care.

Fri: Healthcare (*Philip and James, Apostles*)

For all working in healthcare services at the present time, especially those on the front line caring for patients and their families; for those having to make difficult decisions or redesign services to meet a constantly changing need. For the desperate need of PPE within hospitals, hospices and residential care homes. In particular we pray for *Revd Emma Louis (Black Country Partnership NHS Trust)* and for *Revd Martin McGonigle (Douglas Macmillan Hospice; Stoke-on-Trent)*

Sat: Around the World - from the Diocesan Prayer Dairy in Sabah: (*Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 373*)

Pray for God's wisdom as we are adapting to the new normal in our lives during this time. Pray that the Church will continue to experience a deep sense of God's presence in an entirely new way of worship on Sundays, throughout the Movement Control Order (MCO) period. Pray that God's people will continue in fellowship using internet technology. We pray for Archbishop Melter Tais and for parish clergy and their families throughout the Diocese.

The Anglican Cycle of prayer can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG> Information regarding Coronavirus from the Church of England including helpful prayer and liturgical resources can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/33PHxMZ>