

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 257

We pray for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the [Shaping for Mission](#) process, and the resulting Strategic Framework 2024-2030, 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 that the ceasefire holds in full and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel and the wider Middle East.

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March:

As we continue our prayers for Ellesmere Deanery, we pray for those churches that make up the aptly-named Benefice of Meres and Meadows; for each of St John's in between Lyneal and Colemere, St Michael and All Angels in Welshampton, St Isidore and St Raphael's in Petton, and St Simon and St Jude's in Cockshutt. So too we pray for their three sister churches of St Andrew's Welsh Frankton, St Mary the Virgin in Dudleston, and St Matthew's Criftings. Lord, we ask for your hand of blessing to rest upon each of these churches and communities.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>:

*(Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396.  
Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist, 1953.  
Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980.)*

Today we pray for the training day at St Giles' Newcastle on Supporting Children and Young People with Additional Needs and also their Families; for an informing and rewarding time for all those attending. May we all be more mindful of the needs of our friends, family, and neighbours; and what support we can offer them.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>: *(The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

Lord, on the day we celebrate the momentous news of the Annunciation, we pray for the one church dedicated to that event in the diocese; The Church of the Annunciation in the Yew Tree estate in Walsall Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church and community, and that of its sister church of St Gabriel's Fulbrook.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>: *(Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883)*

Lord, we pray for this morning's Reconciliation Workshop at St John's Essington. May Peacemakers indeed be Blessed. Please guide each of us how we can calm rather than inflame strained relationships, and how we may positive presences in situations in which we can serve.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>:

We lift before you today's workshop on Unconscious Bias taking place at Doxey Church, and for honest sharing and loving wisdom. Please open each of our hard hearts to areas where our opinions need to be softened.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup>:

Today we pray for Fr James Walton as he is commissioned to serve in leadership at All Saints with St Michael's Church in Castlefields in Shrewsbury. We pray for him to know the presence of your guiding and loving hand as he embraces his new role, and for his church to make ever-stronger contacts within its community.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>:

Lord, we pray again for Ellesmere Deanery, and for another beautifully-named group of churches in 'The Church around the Cliffe'. We lift before you each of the three churches that make it up, for St Andrew's Great Ness, for St John the Baptist's Ruyton-XI-Towns, and for St Martin's Little Ness; please bless each one of these churches and communities.