

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

*"Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy on us." (Psalm 123.3)*

We are inviting the Diocese to join us in prayer on 20 June 2026.

On 20 June, a Britain First march is due to take place in our region. Our response is to pray.

We pray because we believe that Jesus Christ is Lord. We pray because our hope rests in the God whose mercy is greater than our divisions and whose purposes are greater than our fears.

Mercy is not a weak prayer. Mercy is God's powerful intervention in a broken world. It is God's response to human frailty, fear, injustice, and sin. Mercy heals wounds, restores relationships, brings truth into darkness, and opens a way where there seems to be none. Our first prayer priority is God's mercy on our city and region. We long to see Birmingham and the Black Country flourish under God's blessing. We long for peace, justice, hope, and renewal in every community. And we believe that prayer remains one of the most powerful gifts God has given his people.

As we pray, we recognise that there are many different experiences and emotions present in our communities.

- We pray for those who feel unheard, overlooked, or left behind. We pray for those carrying genuine concerns about their communities, livelihoods, safety, or future. We ask that their voices would be heard with wisdom and compassion, and that public life would make space for honest conversation rather than accusation or division.
- We pray too for those who feel vulnerable, anxious, or fearful. We pray for our UKME brothers and sisters, for minority communities, and for all who may feel unsettled by the events of this day. May they know the peace of Christ, the support of the Church, and the assurance that they are deeply valued and loved.
- And we pray against every force that seeks to sow hatred, racism, intimidation, hostility, or division among us. We recognise that whenever fear and anger threaten to take root, there is a spiritual battle taking place. We therefore pray that the light of Christ would overcome darkness, that evil would find no foothold in our communities, and that God's kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit would be made known among us.

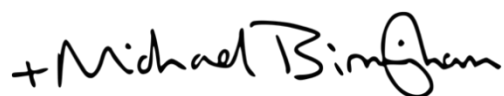
**Pray:**

- for God's mercy upon our city and region
- for peace in our streets and communities
- for wisdom for civic leaders, police, faith leaders, and all who carry responsibility

- for protection and reassurance for those who feel vulnerable
- for grace-filled and truthful public conversation
- for the Church to be a visible witness to the reconciling love of Jesus Christ
- for the breaking of every spiritual stronghold that seeks to divide neighbour from neighbour
- for a fresh outpouring of hope, healing, and renewal across our region

As we have seen so often, there is something powerful when God's people pray together. Whether you are able to gather with others, set aside a dedicated time of prayer, or simply hold these concerns before God throughout the day, we encourage you to join us. Let us ask for mercy, pray for peace and seek the flourishing of our city and region. And let us ask that the kingdom of God would come with power, bringing light where there is darkness, hope where there is fear, and reconciliation where there is division.

With our prayers and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Michael Birmingham".

**The Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland**  
**Bishop of Birmingham**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ @ Aston".

**The Rt Revd Esther Prior**  
**Bishop of Aston**