

Prayer Briefing 16

October 2020

We invite you to join us in prayer as we navigate life together as individuals, church, diocese, community, region and nationally.

Please pray for our partner dioceses:

Melanesia

- A second student has been diagnosed with Covid-19 in the Solomon Islands this week. The Prime Minister, Manasseh Sogavare, announced on Sunday 11th October that both students were on the same flight. Please pray that the outbreak will be confined;
- Please pray for those in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu who have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn caused by COVID.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Thank God for Christian leaders and for the small church groups that have sprung up in D.R.C.;
- Please pray for the leaders of the government, the Congolese army and UN troops, that they will be effective in tackling unrest;
- And for those affected by the violence, fleeing in fear of their lives;
- Please pray for the safety in the camps for displaced persons, where there is poverty, overcrowding and disease;

Bishop Keith and Rosie

We give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Keith and pray for him and his wife Rosie as they prepare for Keith's retirement next year.

Healthcare

- Please pray for the N.H.S. in the north-west as Covid numbers increase at an alarming rate and for the health and wellbeing of all the staff;
- Pray that our hospitals will be able to cope with the increase in the number of admissions and that there will be enough PPE and ICU beds;
- and that the additional restrictions will reduce the number of infections;

- Please pray for Halton Haven Hospice which is struggling financially due to the impact that Covid restrictions are having on their fundraising opportunities, that they will be able to raise the money that they need.

Students

- Please pray for university students at Chester University and wider especially those who are feeling isolated;
- Please pray for the safety of the university community and that transmission rates will reduce.

Rural Communities

- Give thanks that the maize harvest, usually the last crop to be harvested, is good;
- Please pray for our farmers experiencing the worst harvest of other crops for forty years;
- And for rural communities where locals are being further priced out of the housing market following a boom in rural property sales;
- Please also pray for the Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy as they continue to adapt the ways in which they deliver their services in order to support the agricultural community during the pandemic.

National Church

- Please pray for those affected by the IICSA Panel report.

A prayer for this situation:

Loving God, we lay before you the challenges that confront us
At home, at work, in our communities and churches.

May your Son, the Good Shepherd,
guide and shape the life of your church

That all may find a welcome, secure in your presence.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

In your mercy, hear us.

Renew your church in the love of truth and in passion for justice.

Take from us all hypocrisy and deceit,

and teach us to serve with humility and honesty those whose lives are broken.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

In your mercy, hear us.

Help us to cherish children and all in our community who are vulnerable,

To protect them and keep them safe.

May this place rejoice to be a place

Where your love is celebrated with integrity.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

In your mercy, hear us.

Bring into your healing presence

All who have been damaged and diminished by abuse,

or whose lives continue to be overshadowed by guilt or fear.

May sorrows be shared, and memories be healed.

Jesus, Lord of the Church,

In your mercy, hear us.

Those who are currently training for licensed ministry and to be ordained Deacon next week.

- Please pray for those in the diocese who are in training, that they will find encouragement and strength in these difficult times, and confidence that God will empower and equip them by the Holy Spirit;
- Pray for those who have recently been priested and for the newly licensed readers;
- Pray for Elaine White, who is to be Priested shortly, and for those who will soon be ordained Deacon: for Phil Bishop, Rob Croft, Sam Durdant—Hollamby, Helen Eccles, Marie Flint, Gilly Hall, Hana Helvadjan, Catherine Johnson, Vanessa Layfield, Paul Lewis, Anna Leyden, Martin Makin, David Murray, Jen Pilling, Anthony Rigby, George Roach, Danny Sedano, Frances Skinner, Richard Skinner, Simon Stride, Christine Turner, Debbie Wilkinson and Claire Wilson.

In conclusion

Pray that we are hear what God is saying and be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit, to make us people of peace and a witness to God's love in the midst of fear, pain and uncertainty.