

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.

Su: Churches

As we pray for our Diocese we do so recognising that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before. As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family. We give thanks for large numbers who are connecting with your church during this Easter season. We pray for the Virtual Prayer Wall and the Light a Candle initiative at Lichfield Cathedral; for the daily moment of shared prayer in the Diocese at 1.00pm; for the impact of the new weekly 15 minute show 'Ministry Shift' and for the effective use of At-Home Resources to enable individuals and families to be your church in new ways.

M: Communities

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to be a people of hope. Pray for the many groups and organisations in the Diocese and beyond who are involved in #peopleofhope - sharing good news and helpful tips online. Give thanks for the outworking of Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Please pray for those feeling lonely or anxious at this time. May they be filled with hope. We pray for the THOMAS PROJECT in Aldridge as they pioneer new ways to support and love people on the Leighswood Estate. Grant them wisdom and Divine provision in the days and weeks ahead.

Tu: Schools

We pray for the asylum seekers and refugees within our schools who are separated from wider family and friends. We pray for them as they look on at the unfolding crisis within their own countries. We think particularly of *St Mark's CE Primary School at Shelton* who have a high percentage of these children as part of their school family. We pray for each of our pupils who are separated from families especially those without means of contact.

W: Around the World - The Nordkirche – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern's Bishop Tilman Jeremias and Pastor Paul Philipps in an open letter to the Church have expressed their concern about the situation in overseas refugee camps. "Since the beginning of the Corona crisis, we have been concentrating on the great challenges facing us at home. It is easy to forget those who have to face this global threat in far more dramatic conditions". Let's join Bishop Tilman and Pastor Paul in a themed intercession.

Th: Prisons

For good mental health for prisoners, who are isolated from their families and the outside world; for correctional officers, who are trying to do their jobs; and for the families of prisoners, who are enduring this pandemic without their loved ones by their sides. In particular we pray for prisoners and staff at HM Prison Stafford (Chaplain: Revd Jo Honour); HM Prison Stoke Heath; HM Prison Swinfen Hall (Chaplain: Revd Samuel Ntoyimondo) and HM Prison Werrington YO1 (Chaplain: Revd Dr Jeff Cuttell)

F: Healthcare

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 everyone as they balance their work with personal and family needs.

In particular we pray for the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (Chaplains: Revd Stuart Petty & Revd John Deakin) and for the Royal Stoke University Hospital (Chaplain Revd Vivienne Flanagan and all Chaplaincy Volunteers)

S: Around the World – Bishop Ross Bay of the Diocese of Auckland New Zealand writes:

'There is quite a stringent lockdown in NZ. We are in the fourth week, and we are all hoping and praying that we can ease some of the restrictions at the end of it. However it seems to be working as the number of tests has kept going up while the number of cases has been dropping off. We have a small number of people in hospital and only one death so far. It has certainly been a different Easter, and although we are grateful for what technology allows us to do, it can never replace the gathering of the people of God in worship. Please remember us in your prayers'.

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>