

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.

Sunday: CHURCHES

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you our praise as we lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.** Aware of the many pressures, challenges and the cost of discipleship in these times, we pray for renewed hope and trust, to go deeper in prayer and to pray more, for the gift of serving your world and our communities, of connecting with others in new and meaningful ways. Lord have mercy on this Diocese of Lichfield.

Mon: *(English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era)*

COMMUNITIES For the many groups and organisations in the Diocese and beyond who are involved in #peopleofhope. Many are starting to struggle financially and this is expected to accelerate. Pray for the work of *Just Finance Black Country*. They have partnered with colleagues in London to create an online training course and downloadable resource – ‘Coronavirus: Helping people at a time of financial crisis’. Please pray for them as they collate and distil complex and changing financial information into a useable format for churches and others.

Tues: SCHOOLS

We continue to pray for our schools. We pray for all those in leadership at this uncertain time, we pray for clarity on the issue of when the schools will be returning and how this return will be managed. We pray for the staff for whom the possibility of a return may be a personal struggle due to their own underlying health concerns. For those clergy, chaplains and church workers who are continuing to support schools we pray for wisdom, compassion and strength. And for our own local schools (*name them.....*) may we know the best way that we can serve and support them.

Wed: AROUND THE WORLD – *The Province of South Africa*

From the Bishops court chapel in Cape Town, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba recited on video - in 12 of the languages used in the Province, including Afrikaans - the Midday Prayer he has composed for the time of the coronavirus. We pray: God bless the world. Give her wisdom and time. Grant us relief and release. Be with those who are ill and bless the carers fighting this pandemic. For Jesus Christ's sake, Amen.

Thur: PRISONS

For those in prisons and young offender institutions around the country - and their families - that they may know the light and love of Christ in this time of fear and anxiety. Pray for Prison Officers, staff and Chaplaincy teams who also face daily challenges, as they try to bring a sense of peace and calm to the lives of those in their care. For their families, who send out and receive back their loved ones and who themselves are fearful and anxious. We pray particularly for those residing and working at HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall, HMP Werrington.

Fri: *(Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417)*

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 reallocate resources and 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 Hospice Chaplaincy Teams, especially *Revd Harry Edwards (Severn Hospice)*, *Revd Martin McGonigle (Douglas Macmillan Hospice; Stoke-on-Trent)* and *Revd Elaine de Jonge (Compton Hospice)*

Sat: AROUND THE WORLD – *from Freda Carey, CMS Mission Partner in Lahore, Pakistan*

‘Crowded city slums make social distancing impossible and large numbers of people dependent on daily wages make lock down difficult. Please pray for the Pakistani government, at federal, provincial and local levels, and for the official *Ehsaas (Favour)* campaign, that is may benefit the most needy and be administered with integrity and transparency; for the Open Theological Seminary ‘Compassion Campaign’, to reach the most needy, and for the staff to be kept safe as they do this distribution; for the health of all staff and their families, especially for Rev. Nadeem, Field manager; for all students whose studies have been disrupted’. We pray too for Freda Carey in her ministry [Update April 2020.pdf](#)

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>