

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 10th May:

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:

COMMUNITIES: For the many groups and organisations in the Diocese and beyond who are involved in *#peopleofhope*. There has been a fantastic effort in Wolverhampton to ensure no one is rough sleeping. This has involved an amazing spirit of cooperation and partnership in the City between the council and charities. We give thank for what can be achieved when there is a common goal and shared desire to make a difference. Give thanks too for the ministry of the Shrewsbury Ark and the provision for homeless people at the Prince Rupert Hotel.

Tues:

SCHOOLS: Loving Father, thank you for all who are part of our schools. Please grant them your encouragement, wisdom and peace especially at this challenging time. Strengthen teachers, staff and leaders as they continue to look to support students and families. May they find encouragement and strength for themselves and their own families. Comfort all those living under shadows of unhappiness, fear or loss at this time. We pray particularly for the King's School at Kidsgrove and all other schools who are supporting pupils who have lost parents through COVID19. Please pour out Your blessings upon the whole school community. In Jesus name, AMEN

Wed:

AROUND THE WORLD: Pray for the work of **Mothers' Union** in this diocese, across the UK and worldwide where all are creatively working to support families, showing God's love to individuals during this C19 pandemic. Give thanks for Lichfield diocese members as they continue to make and assemble items for hospitals: for patients - small hearts of comfort, toiletries, premature baby clothes; for staff - hand creams, overalls and laundry bags. Thank our Lord for the many older members, confined to home, who pray at midday alone or 'live' via social media. Pray for members across the world and our same terrible concern, especially this week for MU members in South Sudan, Tanzania, Nigeria, Australia, All-Ireland, Kenya and New Zealand.

Thur: *(Matthias the Apostle)*

PRISONS: For those in prisons and young offender institutions around the country – for the prison community including staff and prisoners, and their loved ones; that they may know peace, in this time of turmoil; hope in the midst of uncertainty and despair. Give them strength and be with all staff as they seek to minister to the needs of prisoners. For staff as they worry about the toll this takes on their family circumstances; or where they are living alone because of the need to keep their family safe. For prisoners as they fear for the safety of their loved ones, and for those who have lost loved ones. We pray particularly for Chaplaincy teams and the wider communities in our local prisons – this week particularly HMP Dovegate, HMP Brinsford, HMP Featherstone and HMP Oakwood.

Fri:

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 the desperate need of PPE within hospitals, hospices and residential care homes. Within our diocese we pray for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, the Harplands Hospital - North Staffordshire, the Royal Stoke University Hospital, the New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton and Walsall Manor Hospital; remembering the work of all health chaplains.

Sat: *(Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer, 1877)*

AROUND THE WORLD: Creator God, who has in Jesus Christ shown your love for the whole world, we hold before you all low income and conflict affected countries. We pray not only for their immediate response to the pandemic but we bear witness to the collateral damage they experience through lost jobs, ruined businesses, increased poverty, rising malnutrition, the risk of famine and an increase in non Covid preventable diseases. We name before you Ethiopian and Kenyan flower producers, Sri Lankan tea growers and Bangladeshi garment workers. Lord in your mercy.

The Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anOUWG> Information regarding Coronavirus from the Church of England including helpful prayer and liturgical resources: <https://bit.ly/33PHxMZ>