

# 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.



**Pentecost Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May: CHURCHES:** We join with all churches locally nationally and globally as we pray for God's kingdom to come and for us to be open to receive afresh God's Holy Spirit: 'Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen'. (*Collect for Thy Kingdom Come*).

**Mon: Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165 COMMUNITIES:** We are all affected by Covid-19 but sadly the death rate among British black Africans and British Pakistanis from coronavirus in English hospitals is more than 2.5 times that of the white population. The Institute of Fiscal Studies also found that deaths of people from a black Caribbean background were 1.7 times higher than for white Britons. Pray for Transforming Communities Together staff who have been involved in a number of forums with local and regional Government as they seek to understand the reasons behind this and formulate responses. As we rejoice that we are all made in God's image, we pray for all grieving at this time and ask for wisdom for those in authority as they seek the common good of every member of our community.

**Tues: SCHOOLS:** We pray that our schools will once again soon be places where staff and pupils can flourish without anxiety or fear. Places where academic and spiritual learning can take place in a spirit of freedom and where laughter can be heard throughout. We pray that discovery, adventure and creativity will return without the restriction that overshadows them at the moment. Even during this time however we thank you that our schools have continued to be places of refuge and lights within our communities. We pray for our city schools where self-isolation can be so difficult and access to safe open spaces maybe restricted. We pray for our rural schools where families, although surrounded by the beauty of the countryside can sometimes feel isolated and cut off. We pray for our reception, year 1 and year 6 teachers as they prepare for June 1<sup>st</sup>. Loving Father place your protective arms around them at this time.

**Wed: The Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7 and 1977 AROUND THE WORLD:** Loving God, thank you for our brothers and sisters in your Church around the world. Thank you for the developing friendship between the church families of The Carrigaline Union in the Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross and The Church At Perton. As we are linked to each other in you, may your Holy Spirit flow through us. We pray for one another and ask for your Spirit of wisdom and compassion for Bishop Paul Colton and all entrusted with leadership in the Diocese in responding to the challenges of Coronavirus.

**Thur: Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century PRISONS:** Father we pray for prisoners, many of whom are behind their door for long periods during the day, and who are missing contact with their families. We pray particularly for any who are being released this week – to a very different world to the one they left, and with fewer support structures in operation. We pray for prison staff – many of whom are living in caravans or separating themselves from their families to minimise risk – all of whom are becoming tired. We pray for Chaplaincy teams – for resilience, and that they would be equipped and resourced spiritually and practically to reach out to all in their care.

**Fri: Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754 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 Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust remembering Revds Alison Coles, Keith Duckett and Anthony Swaby in their chaplaincy roles, and for the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust and chaplains Revds Petro Hryziuk and Mervyn Williams



**Sat: Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 1945 AROUND THE WORLD:** We pray for those entrusted with Diocesan roles responding to Covid-19. In particular we pray for Revd Canon Dr Marshall Guma in Matlosane, S. Africa and for Rev Matthew Chay from the Diocese of West Malaysia. We pray for your world in which more than 4.5 billion people have been living under social distancing measures. Bring your healing we pray.

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