

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.

Trinity Sunday 7th June: CHURCHES: We pray for our Bishops, Archdeacons, Julie Jones our CEO and all senior staff as they provide leadership for the Diocese. We pray for creative and hope-filled responses to the big challenges of finance, buildings and church structures. We give thanks for the many expressions of practical compassion throughout the Diocese and imaginative and outward looking patterns of on line worship and social connecting which have arisen. We pray for the ongoing effectiveness of 'The Ministry Shift' and of the 'Space for Learning' programme.

Mon: COMMUNITIES: for Transforming Communities Together as they support debt clients with financial guidance over webchat and calls, as they run virtual online coffee mornings, and as they develop an online version of Places of Welcome. Pray that the team members are energised, and that the coordination of so many projects runs smoothly.



Tues: Columba, Abbot of Iona, Missionary, 597 SCHOOLS: Loving Father, we pray for your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over all the children and staff returning to school this week. Keep fear and anxiety far away from them and help them to trust in you as their refuge and strength. Lord, help them to find peace in your shadow even in the midst of the daily routines. We pray that this may be a time of real fun and blessing. We pray also for the parents of returning pupils, especially those who may be anxious over the decision that has been made. (*We name any families that we know who are in this situation*). Let them have the confidence that their children are in a safe place. We pray also for governors and trustees as they seek to advise. May they do so with wisdom that comes from you. Amen.

Wed: AROUND THE WORLD: CLAAS asks for prayer for 'the many in the Christian community living in Pakistan who depend on menial jobs and daily wages. During the COVID-19 lockdown they have entirely lost their means of income. Discrimination and persecution against Christians also continues to rise. CLAAS continues to monitor the situation and because of the ongoing situation we continue to distribute food packs to those Christian families who are affected by COVID 19'.



Thur: Barnabas the Apostle PRISONS: Father God, we pray that you would bless, comfort and strengthen prisoners and prison staff, their families and friends. As lockdown continues, the strain on everyone becomes more obvious, yet we are thankful for the continuing engagement between prisoners and their families and with staff. We give thanks for the relationships that are built and the support that is offered. We pray for those who work within the Justice System and the Prison and Probation service, who are all continuing this vital work either at home, or in their workplaces, and we thank you for their hard work and dedication. We pray also for Chaplaincy teams, that they would be strengthened, upheld and energised by you, as they too feel the strain, but continue to be your hands and feet to those in their care.

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 everyone as they balance their work with personal and family needs. In particular we pray for the Queen's Hospital, Burton on Trent, Sir Robert Peel, Tamworth and the Samuel Johnson Hospital, Lichfield; for the team of seven staff chaplains, remembering Ashley Hines and Alison Thorp and also George Crossley and Hugh Baker who serve part-time.



Sat: AROUND THE WORLD: For 'Hands at Work' and the Diocesan based 'Link for Life' as they connect with essential feeding programmes for children in Africa. We are asked to pray 'particularly for the children in all 'Hands at Work' communities to be kept safe physically, emotionally and spiritually; for all Care Workers and for favour from the government and health authorities so that care can continue during Lockdown. Pray for co-leaders George and Carolyn Snyman and the 'Hands at Home' Zoom meeting for the West Midlands Region planned for later this month'.

Feedback or for details concerning accessing the prayer Diary on PrayerMate: philip.swan@lichfield.anglican.org