

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 12

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 21<sup>st</sup> June: CHURCHES:** Pray for a renewed commitment to God's kingdom values throughout our Diocese in our churches and communities in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd – for a recognition and repentance of institutional racism; for patience as lockdown eases and we begin to open our churches for private prayer; for discernment in facing the opportunities and challenges of new contexts for our discipleship, vocation and evangelism.

**Mon: Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c.250 COMMUNITIES:** Give thanks for initiatives such as Shifnal Help which has enabled St Andrew's Church to bring together a community partnership to launch an emergency phone line and to operate a helpline six days a week offering support, medication collection and delivery, shopping and other key tasks. Pray for this and other similar expressions of practical compassion elsewhere..... *(name any initiative near you)*

**Tues: Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678 SCHOOLS:** God of Wisdom in this continued time of difficulty and uncertainty we pray for all the head teachers and leaders of our schools. *(name any you know personally or for local school leaders)*. Help them to make courageous decisions for the children and young people they serve. Fill them with your confidence and wisdom as they talk to governors, staff and families. Help them to see and begin to plan for a newer and brighter future. Let them dare to dream your dreams for their school and wider community. Encourage them when they need encouraging, strengthen them when they are tired.

**Wed: The Birth of John the Baptist AROUND THE WORLD:**

Creator God, not limited by time or space; your Son worshipped in synagogue and Temple, and your Spirit came in power on the disciples as they met in the Upper Room.

By that same Spirit, guide us as we prepare to reopen the churches in this parish/diocese.

May they be places of safety, where all feel your welcome, experience your love and are equipped in your service.

We pray for those who through age or vulnerability will continue to worship at home,

that together we may all rejoice in your goodness and know your blessing,

until we can offer unceasing praise in your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(with thanks to the Archdeacon of Cork who composed this prayer which we use in partnership and solidarity)*



**Thur: PRISONS:** Lichfield Diocese has the highest number of prisons of any diocese in England. Al Smith, a member



of the St Mary's, Enville, had the inspired idea to provide a voice to people who have experienced prison, homelessness or who have served in the armed services, along with their families during lockdown. He has called this initiative 'Paperchains' which will provide a record for future generations. Give thanks for the many churches and Christian projects in the diocese which are doing vital work supporting those in prison or who are settling back into the community; pray

that 'Paperchains' will enable these voices to be heard as we construct the story of Lockdown.

**Fri: HEALTHCARE:** We hold before God all who work at the Royal Stoke University Hospital. We pray peace, strength, and protection upon the nurses, doctors, porters, cleaners, catering staff, consultants, chaplains, ambulance drivers, paramedics and all who assist in the running of the hospital. We pray for all offering counselling and pastoral care to the dying and the bereaved.



**Sat: Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, 444 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 patients and staff in hospitals. Thank God for the many older members, confined to home, who pray at midday alone or 'live' via social media. Pray for members

across the world sharing similar challenges, especially remembering the most vulnerable in densely populated areas with limited medical infrastructure. We join in the MU wave of prayer for MU members in Eastern Zambia in Zambia; Mombasa in Kenya; Gwagwalada & Ekiti-West in Nigeria; Leicester in England and Temotu in Solomon Islands.