

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 16

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 19th July: *Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, and his sister Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers of the Faith, c.394 and c.379*

CHURCHES: As churches begin to re-open for public worship pray for safety and good procedures and also for all who through age or vulnerability will continue to worship at home. We give thanks for the ministry of the Revd Dr Sharon Prentis, Intercultural Mission Enabler and Dean of Black & Minority Ethnic Affairs for the Diocese of Birmingham and pray for her as she prepares to become an honorary Canon Theologian at Lichfield Cathedral.



Mon 20th: *Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th century & Bartolomé de las Casas, Apostle to the Indies, 1566* **COMMUNITIES:**

Transforming Communities Together are helping to host an online conversation about 'Faith and Finance & Mental Health' tomorrow. Pray for the different speakers across many faith groups who are part of this event and for all those in our communities who are experiencing particular worries and stress at present as a result of financial pressures.

Tues 21st: **SCHOOLS:** As we come to the end of the school year we give thanks to God for the teaching and learning that has taken place in our schools and in our homes. We give thanks for all those who have risen to the challenges with courage and determination. We give thanks for the strengthened friendships within our staff rooms – may these continue as we move into the new academic year. We thank you for all those families that have battled through these tough days of juggling home life, working and home learning. Thank you for those who have shared the burdens of keeping our most vulnerable children and young people safe during this time. We pray particularly for all home and school liaison officers, safeguarding leads, social services, church links and child protection officers. Amen

Wed 22nd: *Mary Magdalene* **AROUND THE WORLD:** CMS asks us to pray for Nepal where the number of cases of



Coronavirus is still very low, but the country is going through many problems. Many Nepali migrants are being quarantined on the Indian border, stuck in overcrowded facilities where physical distancing is impossible. Around the country, lack of food as a result of lockdown is driving some to suicide. Nepal is also experiencing a plague of locusts, which are destroying crops, and the country is presently in dispute with India over land taken by India over 50 years ago. Pray for the government to be able to provide for the poorest in society who don't have enough to eat. Pray for peace over land disputes between the governments of China, India and Nepal.

Thur 23rd: *Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373* **PRISONS:** Father God, we pray that you would bless, comfort and strengthen prisoners and prison staff, their families and friends. We are thankful for the continuing engagement between prisoners and their families and with staff and 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. We pray also for Chaplaincy teams, that they would be upheld and energised by you, as they too feel the strain, but continue to be your hands and feet to those in need.

Fri 24th : **HEALTHCARE:** For all working in healthcare services at the present time, making 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 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 25th : *James the Apostle* **AROUND THE WORLD:** Following the announcement that the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops is to be further pushed back to 2022, pray for the Anglican Communion around the world as people respond to the huge social needs created by this pandemic. Pray too for the four-year programme of virtual and in-person events to engage the whole Anglican Communion which is planned, that this will strengthen our fellowship and enable us to pray and support one another in an informed way.

For further resources for praying for the world wide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>