

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 19

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 9th August: (*Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921*) **CHURCHES:** As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for Bishop Michael as he embarks on a series of walks to the 27 churches including our Cathedral, in the Diocese bearing the name of his ancient predecessor, St Chad; for the Two Saints Way Pilgrimage route from Chester to Lichfield as it is profiled in next Sunday's 'Songs of Praise' from Trentham Church; that as Lockdown has enabled many to discover afresh the joys of walking, may we as members of this Diocese walk in the footsteps of Christ in body, mind and spirit. Finally, as we remember Mary Sumner, founder of the Mother's Union, pray for God's blessings on all MU members in this Diocese.



Mon 10th: (*Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258*) **COMMUNITIES:** While lockdown continues to ease, pray for credit unions, giving thanks for the impact during the Covid-19 crisis on how Credit Union members feel and how they manage their money. Pray for the Covid Cash Course being run in partnership with Transforming Communities Together. Pray that God's Kingdom may come into our post-industrial urban contexts which are suffering so profoundly in social, economic and emotional terms, from the lasting effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Tues 11th: (*Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253; John Henry Newman, Priest, Tractarian, 1890*) **SCHOOLS:** We give thanks for the dedication and commitment of teachers and all school staff throughout this pandemic; for the provision made for vulnerable children and children of key workers; for staff and pupils in those schools which have remained open, including throughout the school holidays. We pray for the members of the Diocesan Board of Education that they may be resourced and be given wisdom in shaping strategy and practice in the coming months. We include in our prayer Claire Shaw (Director), Mr Michael Revell (Chair), Archdeacon Matthew Parker, Alex Wolvers, Matthew Welton, Lynsay Jennings, Steve Rayner, Paula Lloyd and Ade Wharmby.

Wed 12th: **AROUND THE WORLD:** For our partners in the Nordkirche, praying particularly for Bishop Tilman Jeremias and for Revd Melanie Dango; for Revd Christa Hunzinger and for Anne Lange as they join with others in shaping their programme of ecumenical and global partnerships in relation to the easing and uncertainties of Covid-19; for the new Director of the Rostock Mission to Seafarers, Stefanie Zernikow, who was licensed last Sunday at the traditional seafaring service in Rostock with Bishop Tilman Jeremias preaching.

Thur 13th: (*Jeremy Taylor, Bishop of Down and Connor, Teacher of the Faith, 1667; Florence Nightingale, Nurse, Social Reformer, 1910; Octavia Hill, Social Reformer, 1912*) **PRISONS:** We pray for all chaplaincy teams attached to the prisons in our Diocese and for volunteers who are working out their roles as circumstances change. Give thanks for the work of the Prison Fellowship as it offers support to prisoners and their families through prayer and practical care.

Fri 14th: (*Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941*) **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. These are served by a team of seven staff chaplains, including Alison Thorp and Ashley Hines (full time) and George Crossley and Hugh Baker (part-time).



Sat 15th: (*The Blessed Virgin Mary*) **AROUND THE WORLD:** More than 20 people, including the Dean of Athooc on South Sudan, were killed in a mob attack in Makol-cuei. The dead include 14 women and children who had sought sanctuary in the cathedral compound. The Primate of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, Archbishop Justin Badi Arama, joined with archbishops from South Sudan's internal provinces last week to mark the nation's Martyrs Day, and to pray for South Sudan. Let us join with them in praying for South Sudan and for the efforts of the South Sudan Council of Churches as they investigate this fatal attack.

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