

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 26

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 27th September: (*Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660*) **CHURCHES:**



'As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray that the two million people in our diocese encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world'. We pray for the newly launched 'Shaping for Mission' process and for the engagement of Deaneries as they take on new roles in working out our call to mission. We pray too for the fifteen new deacons who have just been ordained in a series of services at Lichfield Cathedral; for God's Spirit to fill them afresh in their new ministries.

Mon 28th: **COMMUNITIES:** for the Transforming Communities Together Team, that God will guide them in their decision making and in their work with all partner organisations and groups; for Emma Smith as she settles back into work; for Gurj Shergill who asks prayer for three new clients he is due to work with and the development of his Preventing Shocking Debt programme. Gurj also shared the Punjabi words 'Sarbhat dah phalla' meaning "welfare of all" "may everyone be blessed" or "may good come to all" and asked if we could pray for the "wellbeing of everyone in the world". We join with him in this prayer.....

Tues 29th: (*Michael and All Angels*) **SCHOOLS:** Father God we recognise that many of our schools are struggling and we want to stand with them in prayer. We pray for schools where there are a number of staff away as they await Covid19 tests; for the government to put into place a system of testing that meets the growing demand; for head-teachers as they struggle to work out staffing structures whilst working hard to keep staff and pupils safe and take on more teaching commitments themselves. We pray specifically for our schools that are in areas of high Covid concern. LORD who brought order out of chaos we pray that you will establish your order and peace into this troubled time.

Wed 30th: (*Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420*) **AROUND THE WORLD:** Give thanks for the recent Zoom meeting with our colleagues from the Nordkirche – Melanie Dango. Anne Lange and Christa Hunzinger and for progress with our Anticipating Advent event in November; for the restrictions as well as the positive intensification of certain aspects of their ministries; for the recent gathering of the Regional Synod at Lübeck – Travemünde and for a working through of the call by Bishop Guthard Maggaard for our international ecumenical relationships to be used in the cause of peace-making.

Thur October 1st: (*Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533; Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885*) **CHAPLAINCY:** There are over 70 chaplains in our Diocese. We pray for them in the particular challenges they face at this stage of the pandemic; for those based in schools, colleges and universities as they embark on a new term; in business and workplace environments; in hospitals and hospices; in prisons and young offenders institutions and all in the armed forces and emergency services; pray too for all who are part of chaplaincy teams in a voluntary capacity and for those with a developing sense of vocation and service.

Fri 2nd: **HEALTHCARE:** Please pray for any known to you who are working within the NHS and for your local hospitals and surgeries as they adjust to changing circumstances; for those in Birmingham and other parts of the country entering new restrictions due to a rise in Covid 19 infections; 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 3rd: (*George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, Ecumenist, Peacemaker, 1958*) **AROUND THE WORLD:** for all engaged in the ministry of reconciliation, praying particularly for the Anglican Church of Burundi and for the recently appointed Archbishop, the Most Revd. Martin Blaise Nyaboho, as the Church conducts an intensive training course for young people in peace building and social cohesion, in collaboration with the UNICEF; pray for God's peace and stability for this nation which has experienced considerable conflict and unrest over recent years.