

# The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave

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# THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

25th March 2020

*The Feast of the Annunciation*

## **To: Clergy, licensed lay ministers & churchwardens in the Diocese of Lichfield**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to enter the most significant week in the Christian year, I am writing with further information regarding diocesan events for Holy Week, Easter and the Easter season.

### **1. Chrism Service on Maundy Thursday**

The Service of Renewal for Commitment to Ministry and Blessing of the Oils will be held at 11am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, and I warmly invite you to join me and my episcopal colleagues for this on Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86794397201?pwd=YThLU2xMSHhpV3hWSnl5ZFhaWDM1Zz09>. The order of service for this is attached.

Please follow this link to our website, [lichfield.anglican.org/orders-for-oil.php](http://lichfield.anglican.org/orders-for-oil.php), to order oils for use in your ministry. Please place orders by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April; the oils will be posted out in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### **2. Service In Memoriam on Holy Saturday**

In anticipation of our joyful celebration of the Resurrection, Evening Prayer will be broadcast from the Cathedral at 5.30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April with special remembrance of those who have died over the last year and prayers for those who have known bereavement or loss. If there are particular names or situations for which you would like prayer to be offered then, please e-mail requests to me at [bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:bishop.michael@lichfield.anglican.org) by midday on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>. It will not be possible to read individual names out in public, but all requests received will be prayed for by those at the service. The In Memoriam service can be found at <https://youtu.be/KHYb9GPJZP0> and the order of service will be found on the Cathedral website at <https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/lent/holyweek-easter2021>.

### **3. Daybreak Prayers on Easter Day**

I warmly invite any of you who are awake and not otherwise engaged in worship to join me online for a short vigil of prayer from my garden at 5.45am on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April. As we join together in welcoming the light of the risen Christ, it would be good if you could have about you a candle, a means of lighting it, and a carefulness not to drop it. The prayer vigil will be broadcast on [www.lichfield.anglican.org/Easter-daybreak-2021.php](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/Easter-daybreak-2021.php) and [facebook.com/LichfieldCofE/](https://facebook.com/LichfieldCofE/)



## **The Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE**

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#### 4. 'Bread of Life'

In the Easter season, from the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> April onwards, all the bishops of the diocese will be joining me in a weekly series of online video lectures on the meaning and practice of Holy Communion; I will be writing in Easter week with details of the programme for this. There will also be open seminars on the themes discussed on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm and Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 2pm. Please consider reserving these dates in your diary.

#### 5. Consecration and Ordination of the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Stafford

I am delighted to say that arrangements are in place for Bishop Matthew to be ordained bishop on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 3.15pm in the Chapel at Lambeth Palace. COVID restrictions mean that only a very small number of people will be able to attend this event in person, but we hope to be able to announce arrangements for its livestreaming. Please do pray for Matthew on that day and in his preparation for it.

Wishing you every blessing in your celebration of these holy days, and keeping you in my prayers,

*+Michael Leech:*



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