

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 83



Our prayers for the next 2 weeks are for COP26 and have been prepared for personal or corporate prayer, in the Cathedral & around the Diocese. They can be used flexibly & adapted in response to developments at the conference.

Sunday 31st October: (*Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546*) We pray for church leaders visiting COP26 that their call for the care for our common home may illuminate the hearts and minds of all those participating, and that God may grant them wisdom to make decisions which respect the earth and all that live in it. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the Church: may we speak and act together as we urgently work towards good stewardship of your creation and your presence in all living things. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for the world; the interdependence of all living things; the beauty and flourishing of the planet plundered and misused for generations by human activity; may we all, through our actions, help repair the harm we have caused.

We pray for the peoples already facing droughts, floods and storms: that God may grant them strength and hope for the future as they work to adapt to the changing climate. *Lord, in your mercy...*

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may examine our environmental impact and make choices for the common good. *Lord, in your mercy... (Adapted from COP26 prayers of intercession/ CAFOD)*

Monday 1st November: (*All Saints' Day*) Creator God, this earth is miraculous and beautiful.

Forgive our confusion and inaction as we confront the challenges of climate change.

In the light of your truth, seen so clearly in the life and teaching of Jesus, help us to re-examine ourselves and our lifestyle choices and see clearly the implications of how we live on all that sustains life on this earth.

May we follow your leading in caring for every aspect of this precious world, which you made and love.

We pray for world leaders meeting in Glasgow to agree radical actions that will help protect our world from the impact of global heating for future generations. Throughout history you have moved people to do amazing things for the sake of their neighbours. Inspire us now to work together, as your people, to change priorities in the way we live, so that we build a fair and safe world for all your creation; a world where your will is done as it is in heaven. Amen

(Resources – Pray and Fast for the Climate)

Tuesday 2nd: (*All Souls' Day*) **The 1st goal for COP 26** is to secure global net zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach. All countries are asked to put forward ambitious 2030 emissions reductions targets that align with reaching net zero by the middle of the century. In order to deliver these challenging targets, countries will need to phase out the use of fossil fuels, encourage investment in renewables and electric vehicles and drastically reduce deforestation. We pray urgently for an increase of ambition from every country that has not yet made an adequate commitment – especially the major emitters. We know this is going to require a huge change of heart – and potentially quite a bit of negotiation. We pray that all leaders will appreciate the vital importance of this goal and make genuine and tangible commitments that result in action now. *(Day of Prayer - sample content (prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk))*

Wednesday 3rd: **The 2nd goal for COP 26** is to adapt to protect communities and natural habitats. The climate is already changing and it will continue to change even as we reduce emissions, with devastating effects.

We pray that nations can work effectively together to enable and encourage countries affected by climate change to protect and restore their ecosystems and build defences, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid future loss of homes, livelihoods and even lives. *(Day of Prayer - sample content (prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk))*

Thursday 4th: **The 3rd goal for COP26** is needed to deliver on the first two goals. Developed countries must make good on their promise to mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year. International financial institutions must play their part and we need work towards unleashing the trillions in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero. We pray for a massive breakthrough to emerge during COP26 from richer countries, to make the necessary finances available for poorer countries so they can mobilise adaptation and mitigation programmes. Such a breakthrough is even tougher when Covid-19 has caused huge economic impact – and yet without it, all our futures, and in particular the futures of all those living in poorer countries, are precarious. *(Day of Prayer - sample content (prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk))*

Friday 5th: **The 4th goal for COP26** recognises the imperative of effective collaboration. Countries can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working together to deliver the pledges made. At COP26 countries must finalise the Paris Rulebook in order to provide an agreed process of accountability for pledges made. They must also agree how to accelerate action to tackle the climate crisis through collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society. We pray for the building of trust and relationships that must be forged in order to enable this massive and essential goal to be achieved in Glasgow. *(Day of Prayer - sample content (prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk))*

Saturday 6th: (*Global Day of Action*)

Forgive us Lord for our thoughtless wasting

For heat blasting in open doorways-for lights burning in empty rooms, for homes basking in T-shirt warmth forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For leaving windows draughty, for lagging left undone, for lofts un-insulated forgive our thoughtless wasting.

For cars that guzzle petrol - for driving little journeys, for cheaper fares on planes forgive our thoughtless wasting.

God grant us clear thinking, right action, and a gentle life-style. Amen (*Chris Polhill, priest in this diocese*)