

## Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 95

discipleship  
vocation  
evangelism

Our prayers continue to take forward the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery focus, whilst remembering the many varied roles and ministries across our Diocese. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January:

We continue to pray for [Living in Love and Faith](#) (LLF) – the national Church teaching and learning initiative about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. We thank you for the good engagement across our diocese so far. We pray for our Cathedral as they've welcomed dozens of people to an online 5-week LLF Course which started last week and for all of the churches, parishes and deaneries who are running the course during Lent. We pray for peace, good listening and new understanding.

### Monday 31<sup>st</sup>: *(John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888)*

We pray for our friends in West Malaysia; as the recent floods devastated many homes and took some lives. Give thanks that the churches have been able to provide much needed physical and material support to those in need and pray for the families of those who died, that they may find comfort. We remember also our friends in Kuching; praying for the physical and spiritual welfare of clergy and laity and for their communities. May the light of Christ be risen among us along His pathway of growth and fruitfulness.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup>: *(Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525)*

We pray for Wolverhampton Deanery, for Area Dean Revd David Wright, Assistant, Revd Philip Robertson, Lay Chair, Robin Whitehouse and Assistant, Stephen Robinson. As they continue in their discussions and reflections for Shaping for Mission, grant them openness of mind to imagine what the future life could hold for the Deanery, within each parish and their communities. May they have discerning hearts to recognise the Spirit's prompting as they undertake this challenge.

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup>: *(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candelmas)*

We pray for the children across our diocese in whom the seeds of faith have been sown; through attending church activities or church schools; giving thanks for all those who give of their time and energy to share the good news of God's love expressed in the life of Jesus. Pray that God's Spirit will provide nurture for those seeds, however small their beginnings, that they will grow and blossom into lives committed to Him and His kingdom.

Pray also for interviews taking place today for the post of Rector at St Michael and St Mary Lichfield, with St John Wall.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>: *(Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865)*

We pray for members of the Bishop's Council as they meet today via Zoom; may they be blessed with wisdom, discernment and a sense of unity, as they consider important matters in the life and flourishing of our diocese, including our finance and resources.

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup>: *(Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189)*

We pray for Alstonfield Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd John Baines and Lay Chair, Janet Sadler; giving thanks for the positive experience that Shaping for Mission has been and the resulting aim to grow together as a deanery, both as clergy and congregations. Pray for this deeply rural deanery spread over a wide geographical area, and for its clergy: Revd John Baines, Revd Alan Beahan, Revd John Austerberry and Revd Jane Held as they seek to work more collaboratively, as 'one village widely dispersed'.

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>:

We give thanks for our Rural Deans and Lay Chairs and their commitment to leading the 28 Deaneries of our diocese. We pray for them as they gather at St John's Barlaston today to discuss the year ahead and their role in Shaping for Mission, our ongoing diocesan process to discern the vision for sustainable mission in each deanery. Pray for those who are leading discussions today, for encouraging conversations and a renewed sense of shared vision for discipleship, vocation and evangelism.

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