

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries. As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally and globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine who suffer grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 24th April: *(The Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, Solomon Islands, 2003)*

We pray for all who minister in our churches, in whatever capacity, many of whom renewed their commitment to ministry in Lichfield Cathedral on Maundy Thursday. Give thanks for the special events and services which have taken place across the Diocese during Holy Week; praying that God will bless all these endeavours with reawakening and renewal, and that those who attended would be touched by the Easter message of salvation.

Monday 25th: *(Mark the Evangelist)*

We pray for our church schools, that staff and pupils will return, after the Easter holiday, refreshed and with a renewed enthusiasm for learning in all its forms. May our schools be places of safety and beacons of hope, with a Christian distinctiveness which embraces every person in their school communities; so that all are nurtured to flourish to their fullest potential; and are touched by God's love for them. Pray for a strengthening of links between parish churches and their schools.

Tuesday 26th:

Pray for the work of CONNECT 2022 ... that the Glory of God would be revealed in this area, and for the transformation of North Staffordshire.

As Christian leaders gather today at the Beacon House of Prayer to focus on praying for youth work in the city; pray that they will enjoy fellowship, praying and worshipping together as they focus on something of God's bigger picture for North Staffs.

Wednesday 27th: *(Christina Rossetti, Poet, 1894)*

O God the Holy Ghost, who art light unto thine elect, evermore enlighten us.

Thou who art fire of love evermore enkindle us.

Thou who art Lord and Giver of Life, evermore live in us.

Thou who bestowest sevenfold grace, evermore replenish us.

As the wind is thy symbol, so forward our goings.

As the dove, so launch us heavenwards. As water, so purify our spirits.

As a cloud, so abate our temptations. As dew, so revive our languor. As fire, so purge our dross. *Christina Rossetti*

Thursday 28th: *(Peter Chanel, Missionary in the South Pacific, Martyr, 1841)*

We remember our Companion Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa. Bishop Steve Diseko asks for prayer for the community of Deelpan Village which was badly affected by floods; as well as the Province of Kwazulu Natal which has been especially badly hit by the floods with many drowned and injured. Pray also for a number of retired priests who have not been well for some time: Revds Thomas Mafora, John Montsho, Selitha Kotane, and Labius Tiro; remembering also, the family and friends of Sophie Pooe who was called to rest last week, may her soul rest in peace.

Friday 29th: *(Catherine of Siena, Teacher of the Faith, 1380)*

Pray for the work of the Church Mission Society as it seeks to raise disciples in mission, partner churches in mission and maximise everyone's effectiveness in mission: with thousands of people from all walks of life - praying, learning and acting together in pursuit of God's call to mission; with the potential to bring challenge, change, hope and freedom to the world. <https://churchmissionsociety.org/>

Saturday 30th: *(Pandita Mary Ramabai, Translator of the Scriptures, 1922)*

We remember Wolverhampton Deanery, Rural Dean, Revd Preb David Wright, Assistant, Revd Philip Robertson, Lay Chair, Robin Whitehouse and Assistant, Stephen Robinson; giving thanks for the progress the deanery has made so far in engaging with the Shaping for Mission process.

Pray that all in the Deanery will be able to find ways to work more closely together as they seek to discover the way forward through 'going for growth'.

For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx