

Our prayers continue for the 'SHAPING FOR MISSION' Deanery visions & ways to implement them, in the context of the many varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. 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 suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 22nd January: (*Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304*)

Pray for Shrewsbury & Wrekin Deanery: Rural Dean Revd Andy Ackroyd, Assistant Fi Iddon and Lay Chair, John Wardle: *Loving God, we thank you for the joining of our two deaneries into one (Shrewsbury and Wrekin). We thank you for the sense of unity and willingness to work together, as we begin this new venture. Help us to grow together in love and grace that our eyes might be fixed on you. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Monday 23rd: (*18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: <https://cte.org.uk/wpcu-2023/>*)

We continue to pray for Shrewsbury & Wrekin Deanery:

Loving God, we pray for our mission and ministry together. Give us wisdom as we work in partnership on our SFM priorities - Ministry to new housing, deepening our spiritual life, growing Fresh Expressions, ministry to children, youth and young adults, and working with a greater sense of Collaboration. In Jesus name. Amen.

Tuesday 24th: (*Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622*)

We continue to pray for Shrewsbury & Wrekin Deanery:

Loving God, we pray for those in our Deanery who are the most vulnerable and easily missed. Help us to be a church that is willing to bring hospitality and welcome to all. Give us confidence as we seek to reflect your love, and give us grace as we seek to proclaim the Good News afresh to the people of Shrewsbury and Wrekin. In Jesus name. Amen.

Wednesday 25th: (*18-25 Final day of the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#): Restoring hope through the work of justice*)

Reflection: Fr Bryan Massingale, one of the world's leading Catholic social ethicists and scholars in racial justice, reminds us of his hope and challenge: "Social life is made by human beings. The society we live in is the result of human choices and decisions. This means that human beings can change things.

What humans break, divide and separate, we can with God's help, also heal, unite and restore.

What is now does not have to be. Therein lies the hope and the challenge."

Prayer: Creator God, please teach us to go inward to be grounded in your loving spirit, so we can go outward in wisdom and courage to always choose the path of love and justice. Amen

Thursday 26th: (*Timothy and Titus, Companions of Paul*)

Pray for our companion diocese - Nordkirche, Germany, giving thanks for the pre-Christmas visit of our Lutheran partners, which took place in and around Stafford, involving many people new to the partnership, who valued the fellowship and experience of sharing. Please pray for our ongoing work and mutual support as we begin to think about this year's shared activities and planned visit to Schwerin, the administrative capital of Mecklenburg, for the first weekend of Advent.

Friday 27th: (*Excerpt from a prayer From the Council of Christians and Jews [website](#) for Holocaust Memorial Day*)

Loving God, you care for each and every human life. Today we remember the victims of the Holocaust. We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides. Help us all to turn away from hatred and division, and to build a world where genocide is no more. Strengthen us so that we, in our own ordinary ways, may show extraordinary love in the world today.

Saturday 28th: (*Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274*) *Excerpt of his prayer used by [the Community of St Chad](#)*

Loving God, I ask you to sustain me in the way of truth, guide me in the path of peace, and infuse me with the values of your kingdom.

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart which no unworthy affection may drag downwards.

Give me an unconquered heart which no tribulation can wear out.

Give me an upright heart which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Bestow upon me also, o Lord my God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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