

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 197

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

Our prayers continue for the implementation of Deanery visions, developed during the Shaping for Mission process, within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously along with the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine and Israel.

Sunday 28th January: *(Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274)*

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our 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.

(A prayer of Thomas Aquinas, used by [the Community of St Chad](#) in its Morning and Evening Prayer resource)

Monday 29th:

Pray for the Holy Spirit's wisdom, imagination and guidance for the panel overseeing the appointment of a new Dean of Lichfield, in succession to The Very Revd Adrian Dorber and for candidates to the post.

Pray also for the Independent Safeguarding Scrutiny Panel, which aims to promote the Diocese of Lichfield's ability to provide good and safe environments for children and vulnerable adults throughout the diocese; as it seeks to recruit existing or newly retired members of the police force, social services, mental health services or the teaching profession; and for suitable candidates to be willing to undertake this important role.

Tuesday 30th: *(Charles, King and Martyr, 1649)*

Pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery, for Rural Dean, Revd Shaun Morris, Assistant, Revd Dave Street, and Lay Chair, Mike Whittaker; giving thanks for the many committed and gifted clergy and laity across the deanery. Pray with them that they will be constant in their desire to disciple one another, and that they would be successful in raising up new leaders.

As they plan for Lent, pray that they will have the appetite and resources available to wisely use this time for spiritual growth.

Wednesday 31st: *(John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888):*

Give thanks for the ministry of Revd Liz Jones on her retirement as Vicar of Rocester, Denstone and Croxden with Hollington and chaplain of JCB Academy.

Pray also for Revd Sister Janet Arnold, departing as Vicar of Newchapel to take up a post in Chester Diocese on 4th Feb, as Vicar of Holy Cross, Woodchurch.

Thursday 1st February: *(Brigid, Abbess of Kildare, c.525)*

We pray for the 6th Church of England National Conference 'Growing Faith and Sustaining Hope' taking place today in Hackney, that it will be a time of inspiration and encouragement for all involved. Pray especially for students from St Peter's Church of England Academy, Stoke-on-Trent and St Peter's Collegiate Academy, Wolverhampton - having engaged brilliantly with a national pilot of the Difference course, a schools' version of the CofE's peacemaking/reconciliation resource, they will speak and answer questions before the Archbishop's keynote speech, and then help to facilitate a workshop in the afternoon.

Friday 2nd: *(The Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas)*

We continue to pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery; giving thanks for the many visitors they had to their Christmas services and events, and pray with them that seeds sown may reap an eternal harvest.

Pray that they may be increasingly on the lookout for ways to engage with the people of parishes with the gospel message, and that their lifestyles are consistent with the faith that they profess.

Saturday 3rd: *(Anskar, Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865)*

We continue to pray for Stoke-on-Trent Deanery; giving thanks for the very many contacts that they have with schools across the deanery.

Pray that they will be wise in their use of time, that they will have opportunities to engage deeply with children, staff and parents, and that the Lord would use their schools' work to grow His kingdom.

To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android [click here](#)
For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx