

# Prayer Calendar

January 2024

- Monday, 1**  
The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus  
Lord, as we begin a New Year, we pray that 2024 will be a year in which we grow as disciples, make prayer a priority and read and learn from your Word.
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- Tuesday, 2**  
God of all the earth, we pray for our link dioceses in Zambia, as the nation is experiencing a very high cost of living. We pray that the economy will stabilise for the benefit of all Zambians.
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- Wednesday, 3**  
Jesus, teacher, we pray for schools and colleges as their terms start. We give thanks for the opportunities to learn and teach, and to live life in all its fullness and abundance.
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- Thursday, 4**  
God, bless us with courage and compassion, that, at the beginning of this new year of our life's journey, we may walk by faith and live and tell the story of your son Jesus.
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- Friday, 5**  
Almighty God, we pray for everyone who lives and works within the Deanery of Exmoor. We give you thanks for all who seek to reflect your love in each of their communities.
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- Saturday, 6**  
The Epiphany  
Holy Jesus, as we mark this day when the wise men bowed before your infant form, give us clear vision and courage that we may devote our power and potential to your service, even when that requires us, like them, to go home by another way.
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- Sunday, 7**  
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the commitment of our link church in Zambia. Guide and bless them as they begin the process of establishing the independent province of Zambia and of welcoming the ordination of women.
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- Monday, 8**  
We pray for all the churches who will be offering 'warm spaces' in this New Year. May the warmth of your love touch people's hearts, that they might come to know the truth of who you are.
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- Tuesday, 9**  
Lord of all, as Bishop's Staff meets today, we ask that you inspire them through your Holy Spirit so that everything discussed and decided is led by you and upheld by prayer.
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- Wednesday, 10**  
Lord of life, we thank you for our schools and all those who support the flourishing of young people. We pray for today's Beacon Education Trust's Church School Conference. Also, for the diocesan Houses Committee, meeting today to consider housing needs of our clergy households.
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- Thursday, 11**  
God of justice, we pray for communities who trace their ancestry to enslaved people, and for courage to heal divisions and give expression to ancient cultures. We pray too for an end to exploitation and the scourge of human trafficking.
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- Friday, 12**  
Loving God, we pray for wisdom and grace for Taunton Deanery, as clergy and lay leaders, seek to lead their parishes through these challenging times.
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- Saturday, 13**  
God who calls us by name, we pray for those exploring a calling to ordained ministry. Today we pray for candidates and partners exploring 'Call to Ministry' that, through the day, they will better understand their call to ministry and the implications for the wider family.
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- Sunday, 14**  
God of the Bible, we pray for all the Readers in our diocese as they seek to teach the faith in imaginative and creative ways, in both church and the wider community.
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- Monday, 15**  
Timeless God, as the Audit and Risk Management Group meets today, we pray that their work will enable us to take the right risks in your name and to safeguard your people from carelessness, so that together we can build your Kingdom.

<b>Tuesday,</b> 16	Everlasting God, as some of our paid Youth and Children's Workers gather in Taunton this lunchtime, we pray for all those working with children and young people across the diocese.	<b>Wednesday,</b> 24	We pray for chaplains across Somerset as they serve in Healthcare, Education the Armed and Uniformed Services and beyond. Bless them as they listen, care and pray within their communities.
<b>Wednesday,</b> 17	Omnipresent God, we pray for the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Finance Group as they meet today. Give them a vision for the future you desire for us so that they can align their decisions with your boundless wisdom.	<b>Thursday,</b> 25	We give thanks for St Paul as we remember his conversion on the road to Damascus. We pray for all who risk encountering Christ, who share faith, and for all who offer hospitality. We pray too for the peoples of Damascus today.
<b>Thursday,</b> 18	Enabling God, as our new lay ministry pathway is introduced, and as new resources for equipping for ministry are being launched, we pray for all lay people in their calling and ministries, and for incumbents and all who support them.	<b>Friday,</b> 26 <i>The Conversion of Paul</i>	Wise and generous God, as the Investment Committee meets today, we ask you to guide their thinking and decision making so that, above all, we may invest in your saving grace and power.
<b>Friday,</b> 19	On the day we remember Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, we pray, Lord, for all bishops in their role of oversight. We pray for Bishop Michael, that he may be enriched by your presence to discern and guide us in your ways in this diocese.	<b>Saturday,</b> 27	God of peace, we pray for all whose memory of the holocaust lives on and is brought to mind in these days. In the pain and the trauma, may your light never be extinguished, and your love never be forgotten.
<b>Saturday,</b> 20	Lord of love, in this week of prayer for Christian unity, we join with the churches of Burkina Faso, as we pray for love and understanding, so that all may live in peace.	<b>Sunday,</b> 28	Jesus Lord of all, we pray that we may be so inspired to follow you, that our churches will grow, and our communities be transformed by the good news that you so freely offer.
<b>Sunday,</b> 21	Lord of life, as Christians of different denominations join in prayer and worship across our diocese this week, we give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Christ and the hope in Jesus we share. Help us to live always in that knowledge.	<b>Monday,</b> 29	We pray for all those who struggle through the months of January and February with seasonal affective disorder. Please bring people close to them to support them through these dark months and may they feel lifted by your deep love for them.
<b>Monday,</b> 22	God of welcome, we pray for those who have no place to call home. We pray for those organisations and charities offering support, may they share your love, together with practical solutions with those who need it most.	<b>Tuesday,</b> 30	Jesus, teacher, we pray for the Board of Education as it meets today. We give thanks for the work of schools across our diocese and for the spiritual and pastoral leadership that is so faithfully and sacrificially offered.
<b>Tuesday,</b> 23	Compassionate God, we pray for those suffering amidst the cost-of-living crisis, particularly during the winter months and colder weather. We pray for churches across the diocese, especially those in our Magnificat areas, who offer welcome, comfort and practical support.	<b>Wednesday,</b> 31	Gracious God, as we explore together how best to resource our Common Fund, we pray for your inspiration so that we may build up our common life, that life which we share with you, our Father and your Son Jesus Christ.