

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 13

discipleship
vocation
evangelism

During these weeks the prayer diary reflects the challenges of facing Coronavirus with our sisters and brothers across the world; the call to be a people of hope.

Sunday 28th June: *Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons, Teacher of the Faith, c.200* **CHURCHES:** Following the joint pilgrimage made by the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster to mark the opening of churches for private prayer, we pray for our Cathedral, all churches, chapels and places of worship in our Diocese as steps are taken for them to be open for private prayer and in due course for public worship. Grant your wisdom and protection to all involved and may this process be an opportunity to celebrate our shared mission ecumenically, as we discern new ways of being church.

Mon: *Peter and Paul, Apostles* **COMMUNITIES:** Debbie Huxton has recently taken up a post within 'Transforming Communities Together' as a Modern Slavery Campaigner with the Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union and the Clewer Initiative. Pray for her as she campaigns against this evil crime and speaks out against the injustice of the exploitation of human life and seeks to change widespread indifference into finding ways of making a difference. Debbie is inspired by this verse: *Ephesians 5:11 ESV 'Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them'*. Pray for ways in which the evils of modern slavery and human trafficking are being exposed and for the work being carried out across the diocese and in the wider church and communities throughout this region.

Tues: **SCHOOLS:** Lord God, we entrust our school families and communities to you. We pray for those within our schools who have been directly impacted by Coronavirus. We think specifically of the staff and pupils at All Saints, Bloxwich and also Saint Mark's in Shelton. We pray especially for those who have lost loved ones during this time. We pray that your Spirit might be a comfort and strength to them. In the midst of this, please fill our schools (*name any local school*) throughout the Diocese with peace, hope and love, Grant all the courage and perseverance needed to navigate through this term.

Wed: **AROUND THE WORLD:** We pray for the Anglican Diocese of Guinea which has recently received a support grant from USPG to assist them in their response to Covid-19. We pray for Rev Duncan Dorber, CEO and General Secretary of USPG and all in seeking God's wisdom in discerning how USPG can work in partnership with the world wide church in meeting the challenge of this pandemic. From the USPG prayer diary we remember the people of Honk Kong, Somalia and Burundi, all of whom celebrate Independence Day today.



Thur: *Henry, John, and Henry Venn, Priests, Evangelical Divines, 1797, 1813 and 1873:* **PRISONS:** For those in prisons and young offender institutions around the country - and their families - that they may know the light and love of Christ in this time of fear and anxiety. Pray for Prison Officers, staff and Chaplaincy teams who also face daily challenges, as they try to bring a sense of peace and calm to the lives of those in their care. For their families, who send out and receive back their loved ones and who themselves are fearful and anxious. We pray particularly for those residing and working at HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall and HMP Werrington.

Fri: **HEALTHCARE:** For all working in healthcare services at the present time, especially those on the front line caring for patients and their families. We pray for all hospitals and hospices throughout our Diocese (*name those in your region.....*) and in particular for the ministry of the Revd Emma Louis in her work as Lead Chaplain and Head of Diversity & Spirituality to the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.



Sat: *Thomas the Apostle* **AROUND THE WORLD:** Let us hold before God the Mar Thoma Church founded upon St Thomas' mission to India, giving thanks for their recent expression of shared prayer in solidarity with other Christian denominations and different faiths in Kerala, South India. Pray for the Mar Thoma church world-wide including the Hermon Mar Thoma Church in Solihull, and for a renewed commitment within our churches to work and pray with all people of goodwill in response to the current challenges of this pandemic.