

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 14

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 5th July: CHURCHES: Due to lockdown restrictions, the annual Petertide ordination of deacons #newrevs2020 due to take place at the end of June has been postponed until Michaelmas, 26 September. Pray for the new ordinands who were licensed as lay workers via Zoom and who will begin their roles across the diocese as restrictions allow ahead of their ordinations. As churches begin to re-open for public worship pray for safety and good procedures and also for all who through age or vulnerability will continue to worship at home.

Mon: *Thomas More, Scholar, and John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs, 1535* **COMMUNITIES:** As we seek to be people of hope, we hold before God modern slavery survivors needing to find homes. As people are moved on from local authority accommodation, safe houses and asylum seeker accommodation pray for those making sure survivors of slavery don't have to sleep on the streets. Pray too for the work of YMCA OpenDoor as they look for hosts to provide support for teenagers experiencing the extreme challenge and trauma of family breakdown.

Tues: SCHOOLS: Give thanks for the support around 'Loss and Change' and Covid19 provided by the Lichfield Diocesan Board of Education to staff and pupils throughout the Diocese. Pray for the Director of Education Claire Shaw and all in the department. Give thanks for the encouraging stories collected under their initiative Rainbow News – remembering particularly staff and pupils at the following schools which have contributed to Rainbow News - St Peter's Church of England Academy in Stoke-on-Trent, Mereside C of E Primary School, all who are part of the Blue Coat Federation and Bilston CofE Primary School.



Wed: AROUND THE WORLD: As cases of coronavirus in Brazil continue to multiply pray for CMS people in mission in Brazil serving favela communities through their churches by providing food and access to government support. In Chile facing one of the highest infection rates per capita Alf and Hilary Cooper ask for prayer for the church's witness through its service of the needy, through online services and for thousands in desperate need of hearing the gospel. Pray for the Chaco region and Argentina and for CMS people in mission in the region such as local partner Bishop Crisanto Rojas and mission partners Bishop Nick Drayson and Catherine Le Tissier who are seeking to ensure safe practices continue.



Thur: PRISONS: For those in prisons and young offender institutions in our Diocese - and their families - for prisoners, many of whom are behind their door for long periods during the day, and who are missing contact with their families; for any who are being released this week, to a very different world to the one they left, and with fewer support structures in operation. We pray for Chaplaincy teams – for resilience, and that they would be equipped and resourced spiritually and practically to reach out to all in their care; for all working at HMP Drake Hall, HMP Stafford, HMP Stoke Heath, HMP Swinfen Hall and HMP Werrington.

Fri: HEALTHCARE: For the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, praying particularly for the Spiritual Care Team and for Revd Emma Louis in her role as Spiritual Care Lead, that the Team will hold in balance the challenges and sadnesses whilst staying positive and nourishing hope and throughout to be real and honest with compassion. Give thanks for the beautiful acts of kindness which have flowed out of current adversity and stress, and pray for the mental health of the staff and for good use of the resources which they have created for both staff and patients to work through and to nurture hope and self-compassion and for Emma's teaching of mindfulness on-line.



Sat: Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, Father of Western Monasticism, c.550 **AROUND THE WORLD:** We rejoice in the inauguration of the new Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria as the 41st Province of the Anglican Communion. This covers the former Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa. Pray for continuing growth and development as churches are planted in the Horn of Africa and elsewhere; and communities are served regardless of ethnicity or of religion. Pray for first Episcopal / Anglican Archbishop of Alexandria, Mounseer Anis, for all its clergy and people, that this time of suffering and restriction caused by Covid-19 will herald a season of mission and blessing.

For further resources for praying for the world wide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: <https://bit.ly/3anQUWG>