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Sunday 27 September 2026 | 15:30

EVENSONG WITH THANKSGIVING

for the Ministry of
the Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Ipgrave
99th Bishop of Lichfield



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

WELCOME

Welcome to your cathedral for this special service of evensong to give thanks for the ministry of The Rt Rev'd Dr Michael Ipgrave OBE as Bishop of Lichfield. As we gather to give thanks for Michael's ministry among us as our bishop, we begin with worship. We join our prayers and praises to those of the angels and saints, as we hear the psalms sung and proclaim the Word of God through our sung service of evening prayer. We will then give thanks for our bishop and pray for the choice of the next man or woman to follow in the footsteps of St Chad as the 100th bishop of Lichfield.

ABOUT BISHOP MICHAEL

Dr Michael Ipgrave has been the 99th bishop of Lichfield since 2016. He previously served as Bishop of Woolwich and as Archdeacon of Southwark; before then he worked as Inter Faith Relations Adviser to the Archbishops' Council and served in parishes in Leicester, Japan, and Rutland. Bishop Michael has been the chair of the Church of England's Liturgical Commission and of the House of Bishops Standing Commission, a member of the Faith and Order Commission, and a former chair of the Council of Christians and Jews. In 2011, he was made an OBE for services to inter faith relations in London, and he became a member of the House of Lords in 2022. His ministry has been chronologically bookended by St Chad's Day just as it has echoed much of the first Bishop of Lichfield's zeal for the Kingdom of God. Chad's refusal of an episcopal horse is echoed in Bishop Michael's commitment to walking pilgrimage and a desire to get close to the people he values as 'unpretentious'. Most of all, Bishop Michael has recognised the similarity of Chad's times to our own and called us to follow Christ in St Chad's humble, zealous, prayerful and apostolic footsteps, as he undoubtedly has.

ABOUT DR JULIA IPGRAVE

Dr Julia Ipgrave is a retired academic, having been a Senior Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes, Warwick and Roehampton Universities. Following on an earlier career as a primary school teacher, she has researched widely in the religious understanding and practice of young people, and in patterns of faith community involvement in cities across Europe. She has also published in the area of early modern political

writing and biblical study. Michael and Julia married in 1981, and have been blessed with three sons: Tom, a town planner in Leicester; Frank, an academic translator who to their great sadness died in 2023; and Ben, a university administrator living in Ipswich. They rejoice in their two granddaughters and one grandson. From now onwards, Michael and Julia will be living in Leicester, a city they know and love well.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RECORDINGS AND MOBILE PHONES

Occasionally the Cathedral Photographers take photographs (without flash) during services, for use on the Cathedral website or on social media. They make every effort to do so as discreetly and quietly as possible. If you, or any one in your party, prefer not to be in any photograph, please speak to the photographer directly. You are kindly requested not to take photographs during the service or to make sound or video recordings in the Cathedral. **Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off.**

This service is being livestreamed for the benefit of those who are unable to attend.

LAVATORIES can be found near the **Old Stables**. Please ask a steward or vergier for directions.

PLEASE KEEP SILENCE before the Service begins so that the prayers of others around you are not disturbed.

GATHERING

*At 3:25pm, the congregation **stands** for the procession of His Majesty's Lords Lieutenant of Staffordshire, the West Midlands and Shropshire with their consorts, escorted by the Dean.*

All sit. The Dean welcomes the congregation.

*Before the service begins, the choir sings this **INTROIT**.*

*Let thy priests, O Lord, be clothed with righteousness:
Serve the Lord with gladness, and sing with joyful hearts.
Let the congregation of saints praise him,
Serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.
O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, in the beauty of holiness.
Serve the Lord and be joyful, serve the Lord and be joyful.*

RICHARD LLOYD 1933-2021
The Lichfield Antiphon for St Chad
After Psalm 100

*We **stand** as the Choir and Clergy enter.*

ORDER OF PROCESSION

The Crucifer and Acolytes
A Verger

Chamber Choir
The Choristers
The Lay Vicars Choral
The Director of Music

Visiting and Assisting Clergy

The Cathedral Banner
Cathedral Ordinand
The Ecumenical Canons
The Lay Canons
The Prebendaries
A Verger

The Diocesan Secretary
The Chief Operating Officer
Members of Chapter
The Canons Residentiary

A Verger

The Archdeacons of the Diocese of Lichfield
The Diocesan Registrar
The Chancellor of the Diocese

The Dean and Assistant Bishops of the Diocese of Lichfield
The Suffragan and Area Bishops of the Diocese of Lichfield

A Verger

The Bishop of Lichfield
The Bishop's Chaplain

HYMN

HYFRYDOL

**I will sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
how he left the realms of glory
for the cross of Calvary.**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with his saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.**

**I was lost, but Jesus found me,
found the sheep that went astray,
raised me up and gently led me,
back into the narrow way.**

**Days of darkness still may meet me,
sorrow's path I oft may tread,
but his presence still is with me;
by his guiding hand I'm led.**

He will keep me till the river
rolls its waters at my feet;
then he'll bear me safely over,
made by grace for glory meet.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
of the Christ who died for me,
sing it with the saints in glory,
gathered by the crystal sea.

FRANCIS H. ROWLEY (1854-1952)

The service begins with a sentence from scripture.

O give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name;
tell the people what things he hath done.

Psalm 105.1

The Dean welcomes all who have come to the cathedral today.

*The Cantor and Choir sing the **OPENING RESPONSES.***

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

Choir O Lord, make haste to help us.

Choir Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Cantor Praise ye the Lord.

Choir The Lord's name be praised.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We *sit* for the **PSALMODY**.

Psalm 138

1 I WILL give thanks unto thee, O Lord, with my whole heart : even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth : for thou hast magnified thy Name and thy word above all things.

3 When I called upon thee, thou heardest me : and enduedst my soul with much strength.

4 All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord : for they have heard the words of thy mouth.

5 Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord : that great is the glory of the Lord.

6 For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly : as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me : thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.

8 The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me : yea, thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost : as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Psalm 148

1 O PRAISE the Lord of heaven : praise him in the height.

2 Praise him, all ye angels of his : praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun and moon : praise him, all ye stars and light.

4 Praise him, all ye heavens : and ye waters that are above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the Lord : for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were created.

6 He hath made them fast for ever and ever : he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

7 Praise the Lord upon earth : ye dragons, and all deeps;

8 Fire and hail, snow and vapours : wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

9 Mountains and all hills : fruitful trees and all cedars;

10 Beasts and all cattle : worms and feathered fowls;

11 Kings of the earth and all people : princes and all judges of the world;

12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord : for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.

13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him : even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost : as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sit for the FIRST LESSON *Genesis 18.1-8*

Read in German by Bishop Tilman Jeremias, of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany, one of our companion dioceses

Und der HERR erschien ihm im Hain Mamre, da saß er an der Tür seiner Hütte, da der Tag am heißesten war.

² Und als er seine Augen aufhob und sah, siehe, da standen drei Männer vor ihm. Und da er sie sah, lief er ihnen entgegen von der Tür seiner Hütte und bückte sich nieder zur Erde

³ und sprach: HERR, habe ich Gnade gefunden vor deinen Augen, so gehe nicht an deinem Knecht vorüber.

⁴ Man soll euch ein wenig Wasser bringen und eure Füße waschen, und lehnt euch unter den Baum.

⁵ Und ich will einen Bissen Brot bringen, daß ihr euer Herz labt; darnach sollt ihr fortgehen. Denn darum seid ihr zu eurem Knecht gekommen. Sie sprachen: Tue wie du gesagt hast.

⁶ Abraham eilte in die Hütte zu Sara und sprach: Eile und menge drei Maß Semmelmehl, knete und backe Kuchen.

⁷ Er aber lief zu den Rindern und holte ein zartes, gutes Kalb und gab's dem Knechte; der eilte und bereitete es zu.

⁸ Und er trug auf Butter und Milch und von dem Kalbe, das er zubereitet hatte, und setzte es ihnen vor und blieb stehen vor ihnen unter dem Baum, und sie aßen.

from Die Lutherbibel

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said,

'Make ready quickly three measures[□] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

We stand for the MAGNIFICAT (*The Song of Mary*).

My soul doth magnify the Lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Luke 1:46-55

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Sit for the SECOND LESSON Luke 24.13-35

Read by Dr Julia Ipgrave

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' ¹⁹ He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' ²⁵ Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah^[j] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us^[k] while he was talking to us on the

road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Stand for the **NUNC DIMITTIS** (*The Song of Simeon*).

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Luke 2:29-32

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Remain standing to say the APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,

**the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried: he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy Catholick Church;
the Communion of Saints;
the Forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

Cantor The Lord be with you.

Choir And with thy spirit.

Cantor Let us pray.

Kneel or sit.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Cantor O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir And grant us thy salvation.

Cantor O Lord, save the King.

Choir And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Cantor Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir And make thy chosen people joyful.

Cantor O Lord, save thy people.

Choir And bless thine inheritance.

Cantor Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.

Cantor O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

ALMIGHTY GOD, who, from the first fruits of the English nation
that turned to Christ, didst call thy servant Chad
to be an evangelist and bishop of this people;
grant us grace so to follow his peaceable nature,
humble spirit and prayerful life,
that we may truly commend to others
the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires,
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;
Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that by thee
we being defended from the fear of our enemies,
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SERMON THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

PRAYERS THE REV'D PREBENDARY TREENA LARKIN

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
 lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 thy head upon my breast':

I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
 I found in him a resting-place,
 and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
 the living water, thirsty one;
 stoop down and drink, and live':
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
 my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
 look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
 and all thy day be bright':
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
 and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

HORATIUS BONAR 1808-1889

FAREWELL AND BLESSING

FAREWELLS

Words of farewell are given to Bishop Michael and Julia by the Dean of Lichfield on behalf of the Diocese and by the Rev'd Prebendary Treena Larkin.

**Ye holy angels bright,
who wait at God's right hand,
or through the realms of light
fly at your Lord's command,
assist our song,
for else the theme
too high doth seem
for mortal tongue.**

**Ye blessèd souls at rest,
who ran this earthly race,
and now, from sin released,
behold your Saviour's face,
his praises sound,
as in his sight
with sweet delight
ye do abound.**

**Ye saints, who toil below,
adore your heavenly King,
and onward as ye go
some joyful anthem sing;
take what he gives
and praise him still,
through good or ill,
who ever lives.**

**My soul, bear thou thy part,
triumph in God above,
and with a well-tuned heart
sing thou the songs of love;
let all thy days
till life shall end,
whate'er he send,
be filled with praise.**

The Bishop moves to his cathedra and reads the Deed of Delegation, delegating episcopal authority to the Bishop of Shrewsbury as Acting Diocesan Bishop.

The Canon Chancellor introduces the reading by Harriet Coleman, Clara Gazey-French and Kari Caird who were confirmed by Bishop Michael in July 2026, of these words from Bede's Ecclesiastical History of England, describing St Chad's vision of angels.

[The monk Owini tells that as he was studying the scriptures] and the bishop was alone reading or praying in the oratory of that place, on a sudden, as he afterwards said, [Owini] heard a sweet sound of singing and rejoicing descend from heaven to earth. This sound he said he first heard coming from the sky in the south-east, above the winter sunrise, and that afterwards it drew near him gradually, till it came to the roof of the oratory where the bishop was, and entering the rein, filled all the place and encompassed it about. He listened attentively to what he heard, and after about half an hour, perceived the same song of joy to ascend from the roof of the said oratory, and to return to heaven in the same way as it came, with unspeakable sweetness. When he had stood some time amazed, and earnestly considering in his mind what this might be, the bishop opened the window of the oratory, and making a sound with his hand, as he was often wont to do, bade anyone who might be without to come in to him. He went hastily in, and the bishop said to him, 'Make haste to the church, and cause those seven brothers to come hither, and do you come with them.' When they were come, he first admonished them to preserve the virtue of love and peace among themselves, and towards all the faithful; [...] Then he added that the day of his death was at hand; for, said he, 'that gracious guest, who was wont to visit our brethren, has vouchsafed also to come to me this day, and to call me out of this world. Return, therefore, to the church, and speak to the brethren, that in their prayers they commend my departure to the Lord, and that they be mindful to prepare for their own, the hour whereof is uncertain, by watching, and prayer, and good works.'

The Dean then says

Let us, therefore, watch, pray and do good works. May we be accompanied by the same angels that attended Saint Chad, as we pray for this people and for Michael and Julia as they take their leave of us. And may the Lord hastily come to his people, to strengthen them in the virtues of love and peace and faith, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

As the following hymn is sung, Bishop Michael leaves his cathedra, which will now remain vacant until the 100th Bishop of Lichfield is seated on it. During the hymn, Bishop Michael exchanges farewell greetings with his closest colleagues.

HYMN 225 O QUANTA QUALIA

**O what their joy and their glory must be,
those endless sabbaths the blessèd ones see;
crown for the valiant, to weary ones rest;
God shall be all, and in all ever blest.**

**What are the Monarch, his court and his throne?
What are the peace and the joy that they own?
Tell us, ye blest ones, who in it have share,
if what ye feel ye can fully declare.**

**Truly Jerusalem name we that shore,
'Vision of peace,' that brings joy evermore.
Wish and fulfilment can severed be ne'er,
nor the thing prayed for come short of the prayer.**

**There, where no trouble distraction can bring,
we the sweet anthems of Sion shall sing,
while for thy grace, Lord, their voices of praise
thy blessèd people shall evermore raise.**

There dawns no sabbath, no sabbath is o'er,
those sabbath-keepers have one and no more;
one and unending is that triumph-song
which to the angels and us shall belong.

Now in the meanwhile, with hearts raised on high,
we for that country must yearn and must sigh;
seeking Jerusalem, dear native land,
through our long exile on Babylon's strand.

Low before him with our praises we fall,
of whom, and in whom, and through whom are all:
of whom, the Father; and in whom, the Son;
through whom, the Spirit, with these ever One.

PETER ABELARD 1079-1142

TR. JOHN MASON NEALE 1818-1866

BLESSING

The Bishop of Lichfield proceeds to the high altar. He greets his people and prays for God's blessing on them:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Now and forever. Amen.

God give you grace to follow Saint Chad of Lichfield
and all his saints in faith and hope and love;
And the blessing of God almighty
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Bishop passes his crozier to the Dean of Lichfield, who places it on the altar.

Bishop Michael is blessed by The Rev'd Laura Macfarlane, whom he ordained priest in June 2026.

Members of the Diocesan Renewal Group sing songs of prayer and renewal, while images are screened from the last ten years in the life of the Diocese of Lichfield.

I love you Lord; oh Your mercy never fails me.
All my days I've been held in Your hands;
from the moment that I wake up
until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God.

*All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God*

I love your voice;
you have led me through the fire.
In darkest night
you are close like no other;
I've known You as a father;
I've known You as a friend;
I have lived in the goodness of God.

Your goodness is running after;
it's running after me.
Your goodness is running after;
it's running after me.
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now;
I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after;
it's running after me.

BEN FIELDING, BRIAN JOHNSON, ED CASH, JASON INGRAM, JENN JOHNSON
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What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer!
There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom;
my steadfast love my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine: I can sing all is mine,
yet not I but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
for by my side the Saviour he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
for in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome,
yet not I but through Christ in me

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven
the future sure; the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
and he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released; I can sing, I am free,
yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat:
yet not I but through Christ in me.

JONNY ROBINSON, MICHAEL FARREN, RICH THOMPSON
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Alleluia! Music

Bishop Michael and Julia proceed to the Shrine of St Chad, accompanied by his household and family, and by the Dean and Canons; at the Shrine they relieve him of his episcopal robes.

He is joined at the Shrine by Bishop Timothy Menezes, Bishop of Thugga and Auxiliary Bishop in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham. Bishops Timothy and Michael pray together at the Shrine of St Chad, and Bishop Michael and Julia pray for their family at the statue of Our Lady
Bishop Michael and Julia walk through the Cathedral to leave by the North West Door. As they depart, this anthem is sung:

ANTHEM JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)

Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen,
Herr Zebaoth!
Meine seele verlangt und sehnet sich
nach den Vorhöfen des Herrn;
mein Leib und Seele freuen sich
in dem lebendigen Gott.
Wohl denen, die in deinem Hause wohnen,
die loben dich immerdar.

*O HOW amiable are thy dwellings : thou Lord of hosts!
My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord
: my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house : they will be alway praising thee.*

Psalm 84.1-2,4, from *Die Lutherbibel*

**Give me my scallop shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage,
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.**
Sir Walter Raleigh (c.1553-1618)

PRAYER

The Dean leads the congregation in prayer for the appointment of the 100th Bishop of Lichfield.

Eternal Father, you have provided faithful pastors in every age
to watch over your people and lead them in your ways:
as you chose your servant Chad
to be the first bishop of your church in Lichfield,
so raise up for us, who follow Christ in your footsteps today,
a shepherd to lead your people
in the joy and steadfastness of the Holy Spirit,
that all may know the abundant life
which you give us in Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.

ANTHEM JOHN RUTTER (1945-)

*Deep peace of the running wave to you;
Deep peace of the flowing air to you;
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;
Deep peace of the shining stars to you;
Deep peace of the gentle night to you;
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;
Deep peace of Christ, of Christ,
The light of the world to you;
Deep peace of Christ to you.*

William Sharp (1855-1905)

A residentiary canon says

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all ever more. Amen.**

Silence is kept.

Music is played as the procession departs.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

J.S. Bach (1685-1750), Fugue in E flat BMV 552b

After the service, you are encouraged to remain in the cathedral to pray. You may wish to visit the Shrine of St Chad or to light a candle as you pray for the church, for the new bishop, or for Michael, Julia and their family and friends. Laying on of hands and anointing is available in the Lady Chapel at the East End of the Cathedral. You may find the following prayers helpful:

The Prayer for St Chad's Day

Almighty God,
from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ,
you called your servant Chad
to be an evangelist and bishop of this people:
give us grace so to follow
his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life,
that we may truly commend to others
the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

A Prayer for the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.
Work in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my actions may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love only what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.
Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I myself may always be holy.
Amen.

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Portrait of Bishop Michael painted by Eloise Gillow,
an emerging Staffordshire artist



Diocesan gift of ceramic tile for Bishop Michael and Julia's table,
designed and made by Moorcroft, an iconic and established
Staffordshire company