

Our prayers this week are focused on Racial Justice and Inclusion, coinciding with the start of Black History Month. As 'People of Hope,' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally; we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world, and for the people and leaders of Russia.

Sunday 1st October:

Heavenly Father, we come before you with a grateful heart. As we join others all over the world to celebrate this year's black history month, help us to cultivate a deep love, forgiveness and compassion for one another, cherishing the unique qualities we are made of and seeking to understand one another. We remember those who have suffered due to persecution, inequality and discrimination. Grant your people unity and harmony to work together in peace and understanding. Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

Monday 2nd:

God of all peoples, whose Son reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, help us to break down the barriers in our communities, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. We pray for all victims of racial hatred and discrimination, and seek your protection for those affected in our churches, our schools, our places of work and our communities. We pray for all who work to bring communities together in ways that are just and equal for all. Guide us as we strive to ensure everyone has equal dignity.

Tuesday 3rd: [Click here for the Racial Justice webpage.](#)

Pray today for the work of the Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Group, seeking to engage the whole of the diocese in the initiative for change; recognising that racial justice is as much about white people as it is about people of colour and that the way forward lies in a more discerning, honest, committed partnership that embraces the imperative of Micah 6.8 *'to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God'*.

Wednesday 4th:

God of Freedom, we pray for those in our world, of all ethnic groups and communities, who suffer the horrors of modern slavery. Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed. We pray for all who work to combat modern slavery & to end human trafficking: for governments & agencies, for church & other faith leaders, for businesses, charities & individuals. May we be voices against oppression & channels of the transforming power of the Gospel. Open our hearts to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight. Help us work for a world where human beings are valued, no-one is enslaved, no-one used against their will for another's pleasure or need. Amen

Thursday 5th:

God of Compassion, we remember the families of those persecuted, tortured and who have died due to hatred, racism and discrimination. Let your love be a shield that protects them from division, conflict and discord. In your mercies, heal any brokenness or wounds, mend the bonds that have been strained, restore broken relationships, and bring reconciliation where there is division. May we be generous in our love of others as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice; creating communities of human flourishing, 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. Amen

Friday 6th:

Heavenly Father, we offer prayers for every prisoner and their loved ones. May they sense your presence among them, and may your spirit enfold them in tranquility and the promise of eternal life in Christ. We remember those who have been wrongly accused of crimes or purposefully set up to break the law; for those who are being persecuted, because they trust in you. Let those in positions of authority know your truth so they can be just with their decisions. Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Saturday 7th:

God of love, you created all human beings in your image and likeness. Help us to extend the grace, justice and forgiveness, which you have extended to us. Bearing your image, you call on us to reflect your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us of our call to follow your Son and to speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion. Teach us to respect your image in all human beings, and help us to defend your image in all human beings, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Diocesan 24-hour Day of Prayer, 25th/ 26th October, [click here for further details and to sign up to lead a session.](#)

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For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx