

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 315



Seeking the
Kingdom

We pray for the implementation of our diocesan strategy 'Seeking the Kingdom', within the context of the varied roles and ministries across the Diocese. As 'People of Hope,' we remember those impacted by natural disasters; those in Ukraine suffering grievously and we pray for the people & leaders of Russia; and for a lasting peace for the people of Palestine, Israel, Iran and the wider Middle East.

Sunday 3rd May: (*English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era*)

On the day we remember St James the Just, we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to him, in the town of Brownhills between Walsall and Lichfield. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church and the community it serves.

Monday 4th:

At a time when division and dissent can be seen both internationally and nationally, and in a week when much of the country goes to the polls, the prayer of St Francis:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Tuesday 5th:

Lord, we start a series of prayers for Stone Deanery by lifting before you each of its church schools. We pray for the First Schools of Barlaston, Oulton, Standon All Saints, Stone Christ Church, Stone St Michael, and Tittensor. So too we pray for Christ Church Academy in Stone. Please may your hand rest upon the staff and volunteers who work in any of these schools in whatever role; and for all the children and their families who are part of them.

Wednesday 6th:

Lord, we thank you for the very gift of prayer as the [Diocesan Day of Prayer](#) commences. We thank you that whenever we talk to you, you will always listen. We pray that when you may sometimes give us the answers that we need rather than the ones that we want, you may grant us understanding. But today we thank you for the chance to come together as a diocese and humbly ask that you may once again meet with us.

Today, we also pray for the Education Team's Day on '[Inclusive, Invitational and Inspiring Collective Worship](#)', and thank you for all those that work to facilitate such Worship not just in our Schools, but in our Churches too. Just as we thank you for the gift of Prayer, so too we thank you for the gift of Worship, and pray we may always want to give you some miniscule measure of the glory that you are due.

Thursday 7th:

Lord, as the [Diocesan Day of Prayer](#) draws to a close, we thank you for the opportunity to meet with you again. We thank you for all those who have taken time to prepare and lead slots over the 26 hours, especially those people at such times when volunteers were harder to come by. We thank you that even when their human audience may have felt depleted, that the audience that mattered most was always fully with us.

Friday 8th: (*Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer, c.1417*)

A Prayer of Julian of Norwich:

In you, Father all-mighty, we have our preservation and our bliss.

In you, Christ, we have our restoring and our saving. You are our mother, brother, and Saviour.

In you, our Lord the Holy Spirit, is marvelous and plenteous grace. You are our clothing; for love you wrap us and embrace us. You are our maker, our lover, our keeper.

Teach us to believe that by your grace all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. **Amen**

Saturday 9th:

Lord, we lift before you today's seminar on '[Thinking Biblically Together about Trauma](#)' in West Bromwich. We pray for the ministry of Friends of West Midlands Biblical Counselling UK who are running the day, and Steve Midgeley, who will be the Speaker. We especially pray for all those dealing with trauma in whatever form, and that they will find the appropriate support that they need.