

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 318



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 24th May: *(Pentecost.*

John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788)

A Collect for Pentecost from Common Worship;

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** Also Lord, on the day of Pentecost we pray for the two churches in the diocese dedicated to The Holy Spirit, in Etching Hill in Rugeley and Harlescott in Shrewsbury. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on these churches, their sister ones in their respective teams, and the communities they serve.

Monday 25th: *(The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735.
Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709)*

On the day we remember The Venerable Bede we pray for the one church in the diocese dedicated to him, in Wombourne in Trysull Deanery. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on this church, its sister one in Wombourne St Benedict Biscop, and the community they serve.

Tuesday 26th: *(Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605.
John Calvin, Reformer, 1564.
Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595)*

Lord, on the day we remember St Augustine we pray for the two churches in the diocese dedicated to him, at Draycott in the Clay in Tutbury Deanery and also in the centre of Rugeley. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on these churches, their sister ones in their respective teams, and the communities they serve.

Wednesday 27th:

Lord, today we pray for the ministry of the Church Tent at the Stafford Show. We lift before you all those who may venture inside, and especially those who may hesitate to do so. Please guide and inspire the team in the different ways they serve there, so that all those that visit may receive a warm welcome, and that some may want to know more about in whose name they do what they do.

Thursday 28th: *(Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar, 1089)*

Today we again pray for the role of the Church Tent at the Stafford Show, and that through their ministry, some of the people visiting the showground may be drawn to wanting to get to know you a little better. We also pray for the wider Show for safety amongst the practicalities as things are taken down and removed from site, and that the community that has gathered here over these last two days may leave with a sense of encouragement.

Friday 29th:

After a short pause, we continue our prayers for the Deanery of Stone by praying for their one church currently in vacancy, that of St John's Barlaston. We thank you for the efforts of all those who have worked to support the church during this and other vacancies. Lord, we thank you that this is a vacancy soon to draw to a close, with Helen Duckett due to be licensed here on Wednesday 24th June. Lord, please bless Helen as she prepares to move, St John's as they welcome her, and Helen's former churches of St John's Essington and St Mary and St Luke's Shareshill as they bid farewell.

Saturday 30th: *(Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906.
Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431.
Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933)*

As we remember her today, a prayer of Josephine Butler;

I pray Thee, O Lord, to give me a deep, well-governed, and lifelong hatred of all injustice, tragedy, and cruelty; and at the same time give me the divine compassion which is willing to live and suffer long for love.

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