

Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 336

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.



Seeking the Kingdom

Sunday 27th September: *(Vincent de Paul, Founder of the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists), 1660)*

Lord, on the day we come to bid farewell to Bishop Michael, we lift him and his future before you. We thank you for his time of ministry here in Lichfield Diocese, and for the positive differences he may have made. We pray for all those who will miss him as he retires, and all those eager to see who will be the hundredth Bishop of Lichfield, especially those working to make the Vacancy in See process happen. And we pray for Bishop Michael, Julia and their family as they settle in Leicestershire, for a long and happy retirement.

Monday 28th:

Lord, we lift before you the Dementia-Friendly Churches Network Meeting taking place today in Lichfield. With the gathering's title 'Touching God through Dementia', so too we pray for all those touched by it, those living with it, and those that care for them. Please be with all those attending this afternoon's gathering, for wisdom to be shared, and encouragement to be found.

Tuesday 29th: *(Michael and All Angels)*

We pray for tonight's first meeting of this year's 'Soul Food' course. We thank you for all those eager to explore different forms of prayer that they will enjoy a fulfilling and informative experience. We pray for all those working to lead the course. Most of all, we thank you for all the ways that you have given us to connect with you in prayer. Also, on St Michael's Day we pray for all the churches in the diocese dedicated to him, in Adbaston, Brereton, Chetwynd, Childs Ercall, Chell, Colwich, Cross Heath, Hamstall Ridware, High Ercall, Himley, Horton, Lichfield, Lilleshall, Llanyblodwel, Loppington, Pelsall, Penkridge, Rocester, Rushall, Stone, Stramshall, Tatenhill, Tettenhall Regis, Tividale, Waters Upton, Welshampton, and West Felton. On the day we also remember all other angels we also pray for St Gabriel's in Fullbrook, St Isidore's and St Raphael's in Petton, and The Holy Angels in Hoar Cross. We pray for your hand of blessing to rest on all of these churches and the communities they serve.

Wednesday 30th: *(Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures, Teacher of the Faith, 420)*

Lord, we pray for today's 'Connecting Communities through Welcome Spaces' workshop, and for all those places exploring setting up a Welcome Space or curious about how to make more of one. We thank you for both this initiative and that of the related Places of Welcome, and that through them more people looking to find a welcoming and supportive environment may indeed find one.

Today we also pray for wisdom and discernment for the Stoke Archdeaconry Assessors Consultation, and for all our Assessors as they go about their ministry.

Thursday 1st: *(Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, Apostle of the Franks, 533
Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury, Social Reformer, 1885)*

Lord, we bring before you various events taking place today. We pray for this morning's gathering in Berkswich of the Neurodivergent Licensed Ministers Group, that they may have an encouraging and supportive time together. We pray for today's launch of the 321 Course, for anyone working in a school environment and interested in exploring Christian faith. We pray that it will draw people together who it will help with early steps in a journey towards and alongside you.

And we pray for wisdom for Bishop's Council as they meet this evening, especially in their first gathering since the retirement of Bishop Michael, that you will guide and inspire them as they look to the future.

Friday 2nd:

As it starts today, we pray for the 'Enlighten' weekend at Lichfield Cathedral. We pray that their hope for 'a vibrant hub of intellectual exploration and meaningful conversation' may indeed be fulfilled. Please guide and inspire all those working behind the scenes to make it happen so that a successful weekend will be achieved with people grappling with interesting and sometimes challenging topics.

Saturday 3rd: *(George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, Ecumenist, Peacemaker, 1958)*

Lord, we conclude our prayers for Oswestry Deanery by praying for the deanery as a whole. We pray for the growing relationship with neighbouring Ellesmere Deanery, that it will prove mutually supportive and encouraging. So too we pray for an ever-stronger relationship between the town centre churches of Holy Trinity and St Oswald's, and the various village churches that surround it, towards building your kingdom and spreading your word in that place.