



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Prayer Diary

March to July 2025

Foreword from Bishop Martin



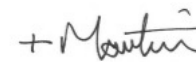
May the power of God enable me
The nakedness of God disarm me,
the beauty of God silence me,
the justice of God give me voice,
the integrity of God hold me
the desire of God move me,
the fear of God expose me to the truth,
the breath of God give me abundant life.

Janet Morley

Thank you for taking this Prayer Diary, and for using it in your daily prayers. It means a lot to me to know you are doing that! Prayer is the beating heart of our life as Christians, and the beating heart of the Diocese of Worcester. Prayer unites us with God who is both beyond and beside us. Prayer connects us with one another as fellow members of the Body of Christ. Prayer unites us with our deepest selves, through the Holy Spirit who prays within us in 'sighs too deep for words.' Romans 8.26

Prayer doesn't have to be complicated. The Lord's Prayer can give us all that we need for example, if we pray that slowly and thoughtfully at the beginning and end of each day. The important thing is to do it.

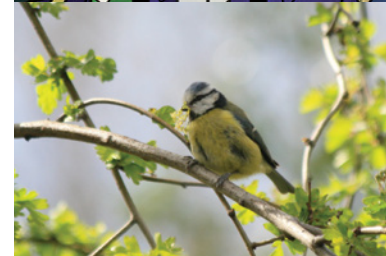
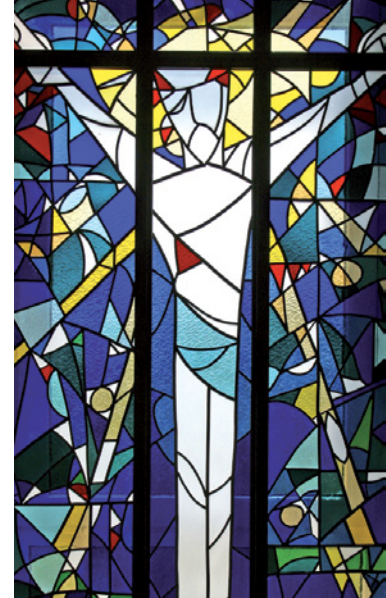
May God bless you as spring moves to summer, Holy Week to Easter, Pentecost and wherever the Spirit leads us!!



Bishop of Dudley and Acting Bishop of Worcester

We try to pray for those with a licence from the Bishop by name,
but please do remember all who minister and witness
with them in each parish.

On Sundays we are offering a monthly prayer for you to pray for your baptism families and we also continue to pray for dioceses around the world through the Poorvoo prayer calendar (Sundays) and the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. These are all placed in a column, on the side edge of each page.



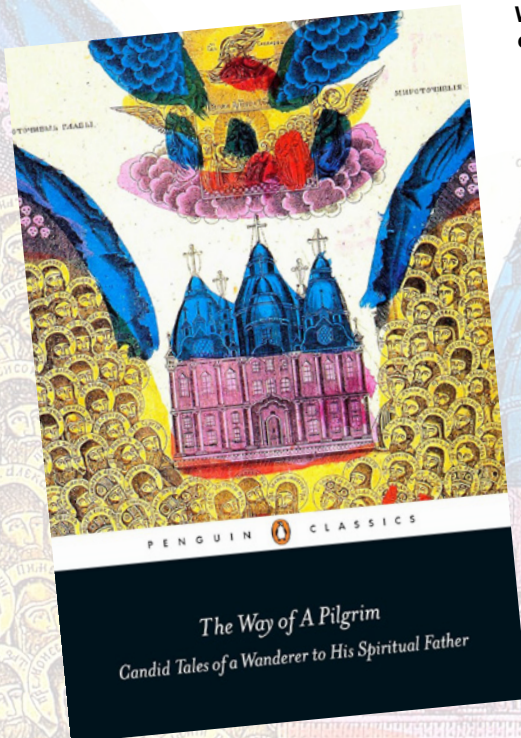
Different Ways of Praying

This is the first in a series from the diocesan Spirituality group, which will explore a particular way of praying. Each prayer diary will have an introduction like this, and then three Sundays (not quite one a month) suggesting a way of using this form of prayer. We begin with a type of prayer that comes to us particularly from Eastern Orthodox tradition, usually known as the Jesus Prayer. It is also sometimes referred to as the Prayer of the Heart. A lot of Western Christians were first introduced to it by a 19th century Russian classic "The Way of a Pilgrim" (available in Penguin Classics, translated by Andrew Louth.)

There are several versions of the prayer. A common one is **"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."** This echoes some New Testament stories. In St Luke's gospel, Jesus tells the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14). In this, Jesus commends the Tax Collector and his prayer: "God be merciful to me, a sinner." St Mark tells the story of blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52), who calls out repeatedly "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." Mercy, sometimes translated loving-kindness, is the fundamental thing we seek from God. This prayer puts that front and centre.

A lot of the teaching about this prayer also ties it both to what St John's gospel says about praying "in Jesus's name" and St Paul's instruction to the Thessalonians to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17). Orthodox spiritual writers talk about how repeated use of this phrase helps prayer sink deep into the heart. At times of distraction, worry or anxiety, returning to a simple repeated phrase can bring the person back to a sense of God's loving presence.

We will look at ways of using this prayer on 27 April, 25 May and 20 July.



Mothering Sunday

Mothering is a strange word...other than as a title for this 4th Sunday of Lent, the most common use is probably a negative one "Oh stop mothering me!" It can be aimed at anyone – man, woman or non-binary. It isn't someone's gender that indicates whether or not they can 'mother' another person, it is their propensity for caring.

Even according to the Collins Dictionary, the definition for the verb to mother, doesn't mention women... it says 'to treat someone with great care and affection, to nurture, to protect or to raise'.

As Christians we are raised in our faith and in this regard, many Christians owe as much to their church community as to their physical parents – maybe more. Rooted in gratitude and love, Mothering Sunday reminds us of God's tender care, often reflected in the selfless love of mother figures in our lives. In Isaiah 66:13, God says, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." This image reassures us of the deep, unconditional love that God has for each of us.

Today we pray for all the mothering figures in our lives, particularly for those who helped to shape our faith journey. We hope that we can help others grow in faith and share your good news.

Mon 31 Deanery Synod Representatives

We give thanks for all those who serve as Deanery Synod Representatives. Bless them in their role as they bring the ideas, hopes, and needs of the parishes to the wider deanery, and as they share the vision and wisdom of the deanery with their church community.

Tue 1 APRIL Worcester Deanery

Give thanks for engagement with children, youth and families across the deanery and pray for all those encouraging and supporting this work. Give thanks for Diane Cooksey's ministry and pray for the new Area Dean. Leadership Team: Sue Rowlands, Anne Potter, Robert Pearce, Paul Wilcox, Paul Fulbrook

Wed 2 Diocese of Peru

Pray for Bishop Jorge, the Bishop's Council and the leadership of the Diocese, as they seek to discern the future direction of the Anglican Church in Peru and guide it through a period of uncertainty and change.

Thur 3 All Saints, Worcester

Pray that we might continue to see God's blessing upon our ministry with children, young people and students, with more coming to faith, baptisms, deepening discipleship and encounters with the Holy Spirit. Pray also for good partnerships with other churches across the city. Clergy: Rich Johnson, James Ellin, Jess Fellows, Jamie Klair, Tim O'Leary

Fri 4 Hallow & Grimley w Holt and Lower Broadheath

Pray for growth in holiness and numbers, as we seek to be inclusive of all in our communities; for eyes, ears and hearts to be opened by the Holy Spirit. Clergy: Kalantha Brewis, Paul Wilcox, David Morphy, Sheila Nall; Reader: Barbara Beard

Sat 5 Growing as Kingdom People

Heavenly Father, guide and equip your people to grow in faith, love, and service. Strengthen us to share your Gospel, build community, and reflect Christ's light in the world. Amen.



Worcester Deanery -
Area Dean: Diane Cooksey
Lay Chair: Sue Rowlands

L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo:
Bishop Georges Titre Ande
Armagh (Ireland):
Archbishop John McDowell
Funen (Denmark):
Bishop Mads Davidsen
Sodor and Man:
Bishop Tricia Hillas

Maryland (UKSA): M
Bishop Carrie Schofield-
Broadbent

Masasi (Tanzania): T
Bishop James Almasi

Maseno East (Kenya): W
Bishop Joshua Owiti

Maseno North (Kenya): Th
Bishop Simon M. Oketch

Maseno South (Kenya): F
Bishop Francis Mwayi Abiero

Maseno West (Kenya): S
Bishop Joseph Otieno Wasonga

Please pray for all involved in the Morogoro Bible College and that this year's Lent appeal will enable more students to benefit from the biblical and theological teaching it provides.

*Bishop of Morogoro:
Godfrey Sehaba*

Praying for our baptism families:

Loving father, bless all families with the ability to love unconditionally even in the hardest moments. Help them realise what Jesus gave up so that they can know love and life. Amen.

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile:

Bishop Enrique Lago Zugadi

Uppsala (Sweden):

Archbishop Martin Modéus,

Bishop Karin Johannesson

Llandaff (Wales):

Bishop Mary Stallard

M *Masindi-Kitara (Uganda):*

Bishop George Kasangaki

T *Massachusetts (USA):*

Bishop Julia Whitworth

W *Western Massachusetts (USA):*

Bishop Doug Fisher

Th *Masvingo (Central Africa):*

Bishop Godfrey Tawonezwi

F *Matabeleland (Central Africa):*

Bishop Cleophas Lunga

S *Matana (Burundi):*

Bishop Sixbert Macumi

Diocesan Lent Appeal

This year's Lent Appeal is supporting the newly created Morogoro Bible College Scholarship Fund.

This fund has been set up by members of our diocesan Morogoro Partnership group to support the costs of tuition and board for catechists, evangelists and pastors from the mission parishes across our link Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania.

The Revd Katryn Leclezio visited the College when she was in Morogoro. She said: "Many students come from rural areas where they are involved in planting new churches in predominantly non-Christian areas. They are required to pay their own fees from the lands which they till. Drought caused by climate change over the last few years has made it increasingly difficult for students to pay sufficient for their education."

Morogoro Bible College is the Anglican Training Centre for the Diocese of Morogoro. It has six members of staff and four programmes are offered to 70 students with only two classrooms.



Mon 7 St Barnabas with Christ Church

We give thanks for the revitalisation of Christ Church as a space for worship and mission, and celebrate our deepening relationships with our two church schools. Pray for us as new patterns for ministry across our cluster of parishes emerge this Spring and Summer. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Rosie Moss, Andy Gandon; Reader: Julie Berrow

Tue 8 St Clement & St David, Worcester

Please join us in giving thanks for the success of St David's Church appeal, raising money for new windows. Pray for both churches as we try to find ways to reach out to the local community and encourage them to join us. Clergy: Sarah Cottrill, Phil Bradford, Gilly Maxim

Wed 9 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for Bishop Godfrey and all the staff who serve in the Morogoro Diocesan Office, especially those who have the responsibility for ensuring the stability of Diocesan finances, that they may be strengthened and upheld by Christ's presence in all that they do.

Thur 10 St John in Bedwardine

We pray for the continuing development of the All Age Communion services where all generations worship, receive the sacrament, grow in faith, and serve together with joy. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Gilly Maxim; Reader: Rob Little

Fri 11 St Michael, Dines Green

We pray that the church is seen as a place in the community where all are welcomed and valued, needs are met, and lives are transformed by faith and fellowship. Clergy: Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Gilly Maxim

Sat 12 Vacancy in See

As we continue in this time of vacancy we pray particularly for Bishop Martin, Archdeacons Nikki and Mark, our Diocesan Secretary Andy and for all other members of the senior team who have taken on extra responsibilities while we are without a diocesan bishop.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most solemn and sacred time in the Christian calendar. On this day, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds welcomed him with palm branches, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9).

This moment of celebration, however, is bittersweet. The same voices that praised Jesus would soon call for his crucifixion. Palm Sunday invites us to reflect on the nature of our own discipleship. Do we follow Jesus only in times of joy, or do we remain faithful even in trials?

As we hold palm crosses in our hands, we are reminded that Christ's path of kingship led to the cross. His victory was not one of earthly power, but of sacrificial love. Through his suffering, death, and resurrection, he opened the way for our salvation.

As Holy Week begins, let us walk with Jesus in prayer and reflection, preparing our hearts to receive the fullness of his love and grace at Easter.

True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you on the way of the cross, which is the path of glory.

Mon 14 St John the Baptist, Claines

Pray for the communities of Claines, St George & St Stephen as we work in partnership with one another and as we seek to grow our children and youth work together. For our Children, Youth & Families Minister: Heather Murphy. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward; Readers: Jan Kear, Rachel Cramp

Tue 15 St George w Mary Magdelene

At Claines, St George's Church & St Stephen's Church, pray for us as we as we work in partnership together. For our Children, Youth & Families Minister: Heather Murphy and our ALMs: Phil Kear & Ian Cramp. Clergy: Sarah Carwardine, Peter Davies, Jennie Hayward; Readers: Jan Kear, Rachel Cramp

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the citizens of Magdeburg and the togetherness of cultures. A new spirit is needed, especially after the attack on the Christmas market last December. Lord, keep us together and heal the wounds in hearts and minds.

Thur 17 Maundy Thursday

Lord Jesus, on this Maundy Thursday, teach us to love as you loved, serve as you served, and humbly follow your example. May we remember your sacrifice and live in your grace. Amen.

Fri 18 Good Friday

Merciful Lord, on this Good Friday, we remember your suffering and sacrifice on the cross. Fill our hearts with gratitude, repentance, and love as we embrace your redeeming grace. Amen.

Sat 19 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, remind us, even on our darkest days, of your eternal love for us. That you sent your only son to be the light in the world, that the darkness will never overcome us.



Worcester Deanery

Leadership Team:

Anne Potter, Robert Pearce,

Paul Wilcox and Paul Fulbrook

The Church of England:

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell

Derby:

Bishop Libby Lane with Malcolm

Macnaughton

Clogher (Ireland):

Bishop Ian Ellis

Aalborg (Denmark):

Bishop Thomas Reinholdt

Rasmussen

Matlosane (Southern Africa): **M**

Bishop Stephen Diseko

Mauritius: **T**

Bishop Gilbert Ratelosen

Rakotondravelo

Mbaise (Nigeria): **W**

Bishop Chamberlain Chinedu

Ogunedo

Mbale (Uganda): **Th**

Bishop Patrick Gidudu

North Mbale (Uganda): **F**

Bishop Samuel Gidudu

Mbamili (Nigeria): **S**

Bishop Uzochukwu Obiora



Easter Day

On the third day after being crucified, Jesus’ tomb was found to be empty by the disciples. Jesus had risen from the dead and so life has triumphed over death. The joy of the resurrection is possible because Jesus endured and conquered death.

Today marks the start of fifty days celebrating Jesus’ resurrection before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

As we celebrate the triumph of life over death, we remember all those who mourn the loss of a loved one. As we celebrate the joy of new life and the hope revealed in it, we pray for those who find hope hard to hold on to. We pray too for our own journeys of discipleship, remembering that to follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in him.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mon 21 St Stephen, Barbourne

Pray for the strengthening of our relationships with Northwick Manor Primary School, and Tudor Grange Primary Academy; for their head teachers Kam Nijjar and Oliver Norman. And we pray for our new Children’s Youth and Families Minister, Heather Murphy. Clergy: Lindsey Coulthard, Stephen Malkinson, Ann Waizeneker; Reader: Margaret Mandrell

Tue 22 St Richard’s Hospice, Worcester

Pray for staff, patients and their families at St Richard’s Hospice and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

Wed 23 Economy & Daily Life

Approaching retirement can be a daunting prospect for some. Pray for those who find adjusting to changes in routine, responsibility and relationships difficult, that they may find new purpose and fulfilment.

Thur 24 Resourcing Church: All Saints Worcester

Pray for our resourcing partnerships and renewal projects across the Diocese. That they may flourish in ministry and mission and be a blessing to others too. Please pray for future partnership opportunities, churches working toward renewal and increased collaboration across all our churches throughout 2025 and beyond!

Fri 25 St Martin in the Cornmarket

For Sue and Robbie, churchwardens during our vacancy. For those who work in Worcester city centre. For our ministry to the Angolan community. For Tim Clarke, Associate priest

Sat 26 Vacancy in See

In this period of Easter – a time of new life and new starts, we pray for those who may be considering whether God is calling them to become our next Bishop of Worcester. Help them to hear your voice as they prayerfully explore this role.

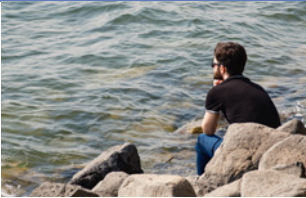
Using the Jesus Prayer

Repetition is fundamental to using the Jesus Prayer (see the introduction at the start of this prayer diary).

One fundamental way of doing this is to link it to our breathing. Ideally find somewhere where you can sit or kneel with your back upright. A straight back is a remarkable aid to prayer. A prayer stool, or a firm upright chair often help. Then breathe in slowly, and slowly let your breath out again. Pay attention to your breathing, becoming aware of the air coming in, and going out.

Then join the words of the prayer to the movement of your breath. As you breathe in, think, or say in your head, “Lord Jesus Christ”, as you breathe out, think “Son of God”; breath in again, saying in your head “have mercy on me” and breathe out, thinking “a sinner.” Repeat this process, keeping the words in rhythm with your breathing.

Perhaps, initially, you might like to begin your prayer with a couple of minutes of doing this, but over time use it more. Perhaps praying like this for five minutes might be a good way to prepare for corporate worship. Over time you may find yourself wanting to use it more.



Mon 28 Economy and Daily Life

Today is Workers’ Memorial Day, commemorating all who die at work, or travelling to work. Pray for safety and wellbeing for those at work; for all under stress at work and vulnerable to mental illness, and for health & safety and environmental health officers.

Tue 29 Worcester Royal Hospital

Pray for staff, patients, and volunteers at the Worcester Royal Hospital and for the chaplaincy team who support them.

Wed 30 St Nicholas, Warndon

We give thanks for the growing connections we are making with people through Craft and Chat, Wander and Wonder and the Bereavement Cafe, praying for a deepening of relationships and an openness in speaking about our faith. Clergy: Rosie Moss, Corinne Brown; Reader: Nick Stephens

Thur 1 MAY St Wulstan, Worcester

We give thanks for the community groups who are now regularly using St Wulstan’s Church as their base, and for our friendships with local schools. Pray for us as new patterns for ministry across our cluster of parishes emerge this Spring and Summer. Clergy: Sarah Northall, Rosie Moss, Paul Swann; Reader: Cary Taylor

Fri 2 The Saltway Team

Please pray for our local communities that we have the privilege of journeying with in many different moments of their lives. Pray that we as the church would continue to show them the love of Christ. For our Ministry Team. Clergy: Laura Handy, Giles Joiner

Sat 3 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all those who lead worship in our churches, that they will feel inspired and inspire others through their preaching and teaching.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Worcester Deanery
Leadership Team:
Anne Potter, Robert Pearce,
Paul Wilcox and Paul Fulbrook

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean:
Bishop Gilbert Ratelosen
Rakotondravelo
Gothenburg (Sweden):
Bishop Susanne Rappmann
Glasgow and Galloway (Scotland):
Vacant

Meridional (Brazil): M
Bishop Marínez Rosa Dos Santos Bassotto

Meru (Kenta): T
Bishop Charles Mwendwa

Mexico: W
Bishop Enrique Treviño Cruz

Del Norte de México (Mexico): Th
Bishop Enrique Treviño Cruz

Michigan (USA): F
Bishop Bonnie A. Perry

Eastern Michigan (USA): S
Bishop Todd Ousley

M *Mbeere (Kenya):*
Bishop Moses Masamba Nthukah

T *Mbhashe (Southern Africa):*
Bishop Mluleki Fikizolo

W *Meath and Kildare (Ireland):*
Bishop Patricia Louise Storey

Th *Medak (India):*
Bishop A.C. Solomon Raj

F *Central Melanesia:*
Bishop Leonard Dawea

S *Melbourne (Australia):*
Bishop Bradly S. Billings

Give thanks for the ongoing work at Great Malvern Priory to care for creation and for all of our churches who are working towards the different levels of Eco Church awards.

Roger Latham – Vicar at Great Malvern Priory & the parish Environmental Group

The Church of Ireland: Bishop John McDowell Southwark:

Bishop Christopher Chessun with Bishops Martin Gainsborough, Rosemarie Mallet, Alastair Cutting

Björgvin (Norway): Bishop Ragnhild Jepsen

Silver Eco Church for Great Malvern Priory

Last year, Great Malvern Priory achieved their Silver Eco Church Award.

The work was led by the Priory Environmental Group, who looked at every aspect of Priory life from an eco-perspective. They have continued many of the things put in place to achieve their Bronze award in 2022, including articles in the Priory magazine to raise awareness of environmental issues, and an Environment Group tip of the month on the weekly notice sheet to encourage ethical or sustainable behaviour.

To achieve Silver, the group has also strengthened the Priory's eco credentials in other ways. They have worked with the local council to establish a wildflower area in the churchyard, developed a Land Management Plan, built a bug hotel, introduced a sustainable flower policy for the flower arrangers and organised a Book and Games Swap. They have also made sure to include the wider congregation with an annual Environment Day service.

The group are now encouraging the Buildings and Grounds Committee to consider the possibilities of generating renewable energy on their premises.



Mon 5 The Saltway Team

Please pray for our churches and those who gather to worship, that we will continue to grow in our love for God and be salt and light in our communities. For our Ministry Team. Clergy: Laura Handy, Giles Joiner

Tue 6 The Saltway Team

Please pray for all involved in our new worshipping communities at 'Sparkle Tot's St Nic's, and Time Together at St Peter's. For those who attend and the team who make them happen. For our Ministry Team. Clergy: Laura Handy, Giles Joiner

Wed 7 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the churches, missions and groups in the Lima area, for their priests, deacons, lay ministers and congregations.

Thur 8 Worcester South East Team

At St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester, 2025 has been designated a year of prayer and mission. Pray for the renewal of prayer across the parish and a mission-lead mindset in all areas of parish life. Pray for Debra Hill, our Children and Families Minister. Clergy: Peter Hart, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood

Fri 9 Vacancy in See

We pray for our diocesan members of the Crown Nominations Commission as they meet today for shortlisting. Give thanks for the time spent reading through the applications of those who might become our next Bishop, and for those who have felt called to the role.

Sat 10 Worcester South East Team

At St Phillip and St. James, Whittington, pray that we may strengthen our links in the community, particularly with the Whittington Community Hall. Pray for our links to Whittington CE School, Headteacher: Kelly Leeming. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood.

Vocations Sunday

This year, Vocations Sunday falls on Sunday 11 May.

Today is the fourth Sunday after Easter and has as its theme Jesus the Good Shepherd. It is time to reflect on what God is calling each and every one of us to do in terms of the living out of our faith, not least in acts of compassion and justice. It allows us to consider what lifestyle God might be calling as to live, which might include ordination or the religious and monastic life, or the life of a licensed lay minister, or, as is the case for most of us, simply the day-to-day living out of our Christian faith and the values it calls us to amidst the ordinary tasks of life.

So today we pray for an increase in vocations to specific ministries such as ordination, religious life, and licensed lay ministry, as well as encouraging each other in our daily vocation.

*God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son, you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Mon 12 Worcester South East Team

Pray that at St Mark in the Cherry Orchard, we may build up our links in the community especially with the groups who use our church hall, with Cherry Orchard School and our links to Acorns Children's Hospice. Clergy: Andrew Stand, Peter Hart, Mike Bunclark, Richard Wood.

Tue 13 Worcester South East Team

Pray for Holy Trinity & St Matthew, Ronkswood, currently in vacancy. For the ongoing work with children and families through the iSingPop afterschool club and our New Worshipping Community - Matty's. For the new satellite of Worcester Food Bank opening at Perry Wood school, a joint school/church project. Clergy: vacant; Reader: Marion May

Wed 14 Diocese of Morogoro

Give thanks for Morogoro Cathedral and its ministry of outreach to the whole Diocese. For Canon Peter Mkengi and the team of Cathedral clergy who have the responsibility for the day-to-day worship and ministry of the Cathedral. We especially pray that our two Cathedrals will be drawn ever closer in the service of Christ our Lord.

Thur 15 Timberdine Community Unit

We pray for all the work the team at Timberdine Community Unit do to be a blessing on all the patients and their families and friends.

Fri 16 Worcestershire West Rural Team

We pray for our worshipping communities across the Worcestershire West Rural Team Benefice in the seven parishes of Alfrick-w-Lulsley, Crown East & Rushwick, Leigh & Bransford, Lower Teme Valley, Martley, Suckley and Wichenford. Clergy: Anne Potter, Sally Knowles

Sat 17 Growing as Kingdom People

Gracious God, inspire us to be true Kingdom People. Strengthen our faith, deepen our love, and guide our actions, so we may reflect Your glory and advance Your kingdom.



Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocation – John Fitzmaurice

*The Nippon Sei Ko Kai:
Bishop David Eisho Uehara
Gloucester:
Bishop Rachel Treweek with
Bishop Robert Springett
Västerås (Sweden):
Bishop Mikael Mogren*

*Mishamikoweesh (Canada):
Bishop Lydia Mamakwa*

*Missionary District (Brazil):
Bishop Maurício Jose Araujo
De Andrade*

*Mississippi (USA):
Bishop Dorothy Sanders Wells*

*Missouri (USA):
Bishop Deon Johnson*

*West Missouri (USA):
Bishop Martin Field*

*Mytana (Uganda):
Bishop Stephen Kaziimba*

*M Northern Michigan (USA):
Bishop Rayford Ray*

*T Western Michigan (USA):
Bishop Wayne Hougland*

*W Micronesia (USA):
Bishop Robert Fitzpatrick*

*Th Milwaukee (USA):
Bishop Steven Miller*

*F Minna (Nigeria):
Bishop Daniel Abu Yisa*

*S Minnesota (USA):
Bishop Craig Loya*

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Easter 5		Sunday 18 MAY		Sunday 25 MAY		Easter 6	
		Finding the next Bishop of Worcester Candidates for our next Bishop of Worcester will be interviewed on 12 & 13 June. This process is being led by the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC), which includes six people from our diocese who were elected from our Vacancy in See Committee alongside six representatives from the national Church, the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Oxford (sitting on our CNC in the place of the Archbishop of Canterbury). Members of the CNC have been meeting since January to develop the person specification for our new bishop which was sent to prospective candidates alongside our Statement of Needs and a report from the Archbishop and Prime Minister's appointment Secretaries following their consultation in the Diocese. Please pray for the whole Commission as they undertake this really important role. And pray for our next Bishop of Worcester, who will have already felt called by God to take up this post. <i>Heavenly Father, We thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People. For your glory and in the name of Christ. Amen</i>		Praying with the Jesus Prayer You will often see Eastern Orthodox Christians wearing a bracelet made of woollen (sometimes wooden) beads. In the Eastern tradition, using the Jesus Prayer (see the introduction at the start of the prayer diary) is often accompanied by using a prayer rope. This is a cord with a fixed number of knots (or beads), often 33 or 100. Traditionally each knot is woven out of several cross shaped turns. Many Orthodox Christians wear them as a reminder of St Paul's injunction to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17). At various times in the day, or at times they need to be focussed, they will begin to move their fingers over the knots. On each knot they pray one repetition of the Jesus Prayer. This has a lot in common with the Catholic tradition of praying the rosary: it is using a physical prop to help a simple repeated prayer sink down from the head to the heart. Having something to do with our hands turns moments we might otherwise simply fidget about with our fingers into an opportunity to recall ourselves to the presence of God and God's grace. Why not experiment with a prayer rope, a set of beads or a rosary this month, using the Jesus Prayer, and see if that helps you?			
<i>Diocesan CNC Members:</i> Kashmir Garton, Nikki Groarke, Rich Johnson, Claire Lording, Hugh Richards, Iren Treasure		<i>The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East:</i> Bishop Hosam Naoum <i>Guildford:</i> Bishop Andrew Watson with Bishop Paul Davies <i>Viborg (Denmark):</i> Bishop Henrik Stubkjær		<i>Worcester Deanery Leadership Team:</i> Anne Potter, Robert Pearce, Paul Wilcox and Paul Fulbrook		<i>The Anglican Church of Kenya:</i> Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit <i>Exeter:</i> Bishop Mike Harrison, Bishop James Grier, Bishop Jackie Searle <i>Nord-Hålogaland (Norway):</i> Bishop Olav Øygard	
M	Mombasa (Kenya): Bishop Alphonse Mwaro Baya	Mon 19	Worcestershire West Rural Team Pray as we continue to seek further ways in which to share the good news of God's love with the children and their families in our local communities. For our Church Primary Schools: Rushwick, Broadwas, Martley. Clergy: Anne Potter, Sally Knowles	Mon 26	Diocesan Registry Team Pray for the Diocesan Registry team and for all the work they do to support the diocese. Kirsty Duxbury (Registrar), Lisa Moncur (Deputy Registrar), Liz Matthews (Registry Clerk)	Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea): Vacant	M
T	Monmouth (Wales): Bishop Chery Vann	Tue 20	Worcestershire West Rural Team We give thanks for the retired clergy on the ministry team. We pray for all the pastoral work across the parishes and especially for the monthly Friendship Lunch in Alfrick and LinC (Lunch in Company) in Martley. Retired Clergy: Jennifer Whittaker, Mike Gardner, Ruth Wintle, John Morris	Tue 27	Education Team Give thanks for the Education team and for all the work they do for the schools in the Diocese. Tim Reid, Spencer Morris, Janine Jenkins, Duncan Hutchison, Nadia Underwood, Gemma Martin & all who are part of the Diocesan Board of Education	Morobo (South Sudan): Bishop Data Amosa Elinama	T
W	Montana (USA): Bishop Martha Stebbins	Wed 21	The Protestant Church of Central Germany We pray for the young people in the EKM, e.g. for the students in Meiningen, who will be welcoming students from the Bishop Perowne Church of England College from 18 - 24 May, and also for those who will celebrate their confirmation in the coming weeks. May they experience the living God in their lives.	Wed 28	Economy & Daily Life During Rogationtide pray for all farmers and market gardeners working to produce food; for those who work in the food processing and distribution industries; and for everyone as consumers in sharing God's good provision.	Morogoro (Tanzania): Bishop Godfrey Sehaba	W
Th	Montreal (Canada): Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson	Thur 22	Worcestershire West Rural Team Pray for all the churchwardens, treasurers, secretaries, safeguarding officers and all other PCC members as they continue to support the clergy and ALMs in carrying our God's mission across the seven churches and their wider communities in the Benefice. Clergy: Anne Potter, Sally Knowles	Thur 29	Ribbesford with Bewdley and Dowles Please pray for St Anne's work with our primary school, and plans to become a Community Hub. For St Leonard in our ministry to visitors and the bereaved. Clergy: Mel Beynon; Readers: Barbara Fauset and Robert Barbour	Mount Kenya Central: Bishop Timothy Gichere	Th
F	Moosonee (Canada): Bishop Anne Germond	Fri 23	Retired clergy in Worcester Deanery We pray for our retired clergy and their families in Worcester Deanery, giving thanks for their ongoing ministry and the support they give our parishes in whatever way they are able.	Fri 30	Wribbenhall Pray for our community and outreach work, connections with families and local schools. That our building will soon be fully open again. For our ALMs Mark and Angela. Clergy: Mel Beynon; Readers: Barbara Fauset, Robert Barbour	Mount Kenya South: Bishop Timothy Ranji	F
S	Moray, Ross and Caithness (Scotland): Bishop Mark Strange	Sat 24	Vacancy in See We pray for all in our churches and for those who support them. We give thanks for the ministry of our leaders and pray for them as they look forward to an announcement about our new Chief Shepherd.	Sat 31	Growing as Kingdom People Pray for all those who feel excluded from our churches and help us to find new ways to ensure they are welcomed.	Mount Kenya West: Bishop Joseph Kagunda	S

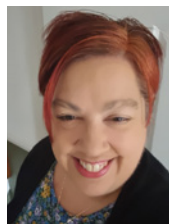
New Worshipping Communities Co-ordinator in Halesowen

Claire Biggs started as New Worshipping Communities (NWC) Co-ordinator at St John's in Halesowen in November. St John's is one of our renewal churches, so her role has been funded by the national church.

Claire previously worked as a Children and Young People worker for the Methodist church and describes herself as being "a church lay worker who loves cake and has a passion for community and tradition."

Claire has already launched a New Worshipping Community in a nearby Care Home, with the support of the Rector, Hazel Charlton, and she is currently exploring what else might be possible, particularly in the town centre and with local schools.

Lord we pray for Claire and all at St John's Halesowen, let your good news be shared in the community and help to grow your kingdom. We pray for all who are embarking on work in new worshipping communities, help to guide them and discern what is right in each area. Amen



Mon 2 Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery

Pray for parishes in vacancy, giving thanks for those working hard to keep things going. Pray for God's guidance as we seek to move forward in reshaping the Deanery and give thanks for the Rural Mission Area and those moving this exciting project forward. Deanery Leadership Team: Tim Williams, Clare Stockford, Mark Hall, Julia Curtis, Paul Blackham

Tue 3 Areyley Kings & Astley

Pray for the ministry and mission of our churches. For the staff and pupils of our schools; those preparing for baptism and confirmation; for our worship leader and churchwardens. Give thanks for all God's blessings. Clergy: Andrew Hutchinson; Reader: Sue Matthews

Wed 4 Diocese of Peru

Pray for the churches, missions and groups in the southern area of Arequipa, Cabanaconde and Juliaca, for their priests, deacons, lay ministers and congregations, remembering especially the distances and dangers people face in travelling around this area, and the challenges of altitude.

Thur 5 Kidderminster East

Give thanks for our new Vicar and pray for our creative response to the new team dynamics. Clergy: David Hildred, Jacqueline Shalloe; Readers: David Grist, John Chesworth, Elaine Voice, Lisa Manser, Carol Morris, Tony Bill (in training)

Fri 6 Kidderminster East

We pray for those newly-elected at this year's APCM and those who continue in posts and responsibilities from previous years; that we will work well together on the Lord's agenda.

Sat 7 Vacancy in See

With the interviews for the next Bishop of Worcester next week, we pray for the potential candidates and for the members of the Crown Nominations Commission who form the interview panel. We pray for wise discernment and a clear decision on our next Bishop of Worcester.

Love your Burial Ground Week & Churches Count on Nature

Love your Burial Ground Week runs from 7 – 15 June and is a celebratory week which has been running for many years. Caring for God's Acre has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June – in any way you choose. We've seen history talks, picnics, volunteering work parties and even abseiling teddy bears!

Churches Count on Nature 2025 runs at the same time as Love Your Burial Ground Week and focuses on the brilliant wildlife to be found in churchyards and chapel yards. It is a joint initiative promoted by Caring for God's Acre, the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK.

Lord we thank you for the gift of creation. Help us to better steward this wonderful gift. We pray we are able to welcome more people during this initiative and look forward to seeing the brilliant wildlife we are blessed with.

Mon 9 Kidderminster East

We praise God for the families he has brought amongst us and for the volunteers who work with them on Sundays or mid-week, praying they will be firmly established as disciples. Clergy: David Hildred, Jacqueline Shalloe; Readers: David Grist, John Chesworth, Elaine Voice, Lisa Manser, Carol Morris, Tony Bill (in training)

Tue 10 Kidderminster Hospital & Tenbury Wells Community Hospital

Pray for Kidderminster Hospital and the Tenbury Wells Community Hospital. For all the medical teams that support them. For those who work in the background: medical secretaries, admin support and the facilities teams. Give thanks for all volunteers and the chaplaincy and pastoral support teams.

Wed 11 Diocese of Morogoro

We pray for the ministry of 'Five Talents' - a Christian organisation devoted to helping those who have little money. Individuals join a group learn to save and to spend wisely, including taking out a loan where appropriate. We pray for this project as it seeks to lift the standard of living of some of the poorest in Morogoro.

Thur 12 Kidderminster Ismere Urban

Pray for the ongoing work of team-building, for our work and churches in a wide variety of contexts, for growing congregations and faithful volunteers. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson, Hayward Osborne

Fri 13 Kidderminster Ismere Urban

Pray for our outreach and engagement with our communities and people of all ages and for the wider use of our church buildings; for growth in unexpected places and for courage and confidence to embrace change. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

Sat 14 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, help us to see the opportunities for coming alongside others and sharing the good news of Jesus. We pray for those just starting on their journey of faith, that they will continue to grow and develop as your disciples.



*Kidderminster & Stourport Deanery -
Area Dean: Tim Williams
Lay Chair: Clare Stockford*

*The Anglican Church of Melanesia:
Archbishop Leonard Dawea
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland:
Bishop Gudrun Karls-Helgudottir with Bishops Kristjan Björnsson, Gisli Gunnarsson
The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church:
Bishop Carlos Lopez Lozano*

*Multan (Pakistan): M
Bishop Leo Rodrick Paul*

*Mumbai (India): T
Bishop Prakash Patole*

*Mumias (Kenya): W
Bishop Joseph Wandera*

*Mundri (South Sudan): Th
Bishop Bismark Monday
Avokaya Azumu*

*Mundu (South Sudan): F
Bishop Samuel Lomude*

*Murang'a South (Kenya): S
Bishop Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru*

*Halas New Worshipping Communities Co-ordinator –
Claire Biggs*

*Praying for our baptism families:
Jesus, we ask that your presence will be with all families. Help them to know that in the face of everything Your power, love and authority goes with them. Amen.*

*The Anglican Church of Korea:
Bishop Onesimus Dongsin Park
Hereford:
Bishop Richard Jackson
Portugal:
Bishop José Jorge Pina Cabral
The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church Worldwide:
Archbishop Lauma Zuševica*

*M Mount Kilimanjaro (Tanzania):
Bishop Stanley Elilekia Hotay*

*T Mpumalanga (Sothorn Africa):
Bishop Daniel Kgomoosotho*

*W Mwapwa (Tanzania):
Bishop Luzineth Kingamkono*

*Mthatha (Southern Africa): Bishop
Thembinkosi Ngombane*

*F Muhabura (Uganda):
Bishop Cranmer Mugisha*

*S Mukono (Uganda):
Bishop James William Ssebaggala*



Kidderminster & Stourport
Deanery Leadership Team:
Mark Hall, Julia Curtis
and Paul Blackham

La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico:
Bishop Enrique Treviño Cruz
Argyll and the Isles (Scotland):
Bishop David Raitlon
Diocese of Connor (Ireland):
Bishop George Davison
Lolland-Falster (Denmark):
Bishop Marianne Gaarden

- M

The Murray (Australia):
Bishop Keith Dalby
- T

Muyinga (Burundi):
Bishop Jean Berchmans
Mweningoma
- W

Myitkyina (Myanmar):
Bishop John Zau Li
- Th

Mzimvubu (Southern Africa):
Bishop Phumzile Cetwayo
- F

Nagpur (India):
Vacant
- S

Nairobi (Kenya):
Bishop Joel Waweru Mwangi

Fathers’ Day

Fathers’ Day is a time to give thanks for fathers and father figures who offer love, guidance, and strength. In Scripture, we see the image of God as a loving Father who cares deeply for His children. Psalm 103:13 reminds us, “As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.”

This day is an opportunity to celebrate those who have nurtured and supported us, whether they are our biological fathers or others who have shown us fatherly love. We pray for all fathers, asking that they be blessed with wisdom, patience, and kindness as they fulfil their role.

We also remember those for whom this day is difficult—those who have lost fathers, those who long to be fathers, and those who have experienced broken relationships. May they find comfort in God’s unchanging love.

As we reflect on Fathers’ Day, may we be inspired to show gratitude, love, and encouragement to those who guide us in faith and life, pointing us always to our heavenly Father.

Mon 16 Upper Arley, Wolverley & Cookley

We ask for prayers for the development of new worshipping communities in our villages and their growth in faith. Pray for our forthcoming reorganisation in our parishes, uniting us in God’s divine wisdom. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong, Peter Greaves; Readers: Sue McAskill, Ian Strongman

Tue 17 Churchill in Halfshire with Blakedown & Broome

We ask for prayers for the development of new worshipping communities in our villages and their growth in faith. Pray for our forthcoming reorganisation in our parishes, uniting us in God’s divine wisdom. Clergy: Shaun Armstrong; Reader: Andrew Hewines

Wed 18 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the church districts and parishes in the Magdeburg region, who have to consider merging. God, help them to not only accept but to design the new structures with joy.

Thur 19 Kidderminster West

Pray for St John, Holy Innocents and St Peter; for our mission and outreach to the community, for our work with schools and for new initiatives for our buildings and services. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

Fri 20 Kidderminster West

Pray for the work we are doing towards forming a new team and for the process to find our new Team Rector. For all who minister, lay and ordained, in so many different ways. Clergy: Laura Betson, Alex Vaccaro, Chris Betson

Sat 21 Vacancy in See

Heavenly Father, in the busyness of following you and the excitement of soon hearing who our next bishop might be, help us to find time to stop and be in your presence. We pray that we will know that you are guiding us in all things as we seek to do your will for the people and communities of our diocese.

Ordination to the Priesthood

We pray today for all those being ordained at this time and for those preparing for ordination. We pray especially for those to be ordained priest in our diocese next Saturday.

- Michael Edwards, serving at St Peter’s Church in Bengeworth, Evesham
- Peter Greaves, serving in the Kidderminster Ismere Team
- Dean Hall, serving in the benefice of Tardebigge, Redditch
- Sooz Magee, serving at the churches of St Wulstan, St Barnabas and St Nicholas in Worcester
- Gilly Maxim, serving in the Worcester City West Team
- Tim O’Leary, serving at All Saints with St Helen in Worcester
- Prajna Pal-Lad, serving at All Saints in Evesham
- Chris Smith, serving in Kingswinford and Wall Heath
- Sarah Tranter, serving in the Halas Team in Halesowen

Mon 23 Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge

Pray for all those working at and through Mary Stevens Hospice. For nurses working in the community and providing care in people’s homes, who are experiencing a big increase in demand for their services. For the chaplaincy team.

Tue 24 St Michael, Stourport & All Saints Wilden

Pray for the bonds between our congregations and moving towards a Benefice council; for Happy Memories (dementia cafe), Warm Space, Lunch Club and our Open Mornings. For our church school and our vision that our children may see how they can be salt and light in the world. Clergy: Carey Saleh; Readers: Sandra Baty, Phil Saleh, Richard Standing

Wed 25 Economy & Daily Life

Pray for Workplace Chaplaincy Local Ecumenical Partnerships, Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW), the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) and all volunteer Workplace Chaplains in their ministry to those at work in a variety of contexts.

Thur 26 Four Rivers Group

In Teme Valley North, pray for the communities of Knighton on Teme, Lindridge, Stockton on Teme and Pensax as we ask for the Lord’s blessing on REVS, the Men’s Group, our choir and the Rural Mission Area. We give thanks for the Friends of St Andrew’s, the NWC in Eardiston, and our links with Lindridge School (Head: Amanda Greenow-Langford) and the church/school partnership. Clergy: David Morris; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

Fri 27 Four Rivers Group

In the wonderful countryside surrounding the churches of St Mary and St Michael in Abberley, we give thanks for our links with the farming community and the YFC. Pray for Abberley Care Farm and Abberley School, Head: Claire Shelley. Give thanks for our choral tradition and for our reflective Celtic services. Clergy: David Morris; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild

Sat 28 Growing as Kingdom People

Pray for all the leaders in our churches, both lay and ordained. Pray that they will feel supported in their role as they work to develop the discipleship of their congregations and welcome new Christians.



All those being ordained Priest
next Saturday

Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola:
Bishop Vicente Msosa
Europe:
Bishop Robert Innes
Visby (Sweden):
Bishop Erik Eckerdal
Copenhagen (Denmark):
Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen

- Nakuru (Kenya):

Bishop Anthony Mambo

M
- Nambale (Kenya):

Bishop Isaiah Obuya

T
- Namibia (Southern Africa):

Bishop Patrick Djuulume

W
- Namirembe (Uganda):

Bishop Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira

Th
- Nampula (Mozambique):

Bishop Manuel Ernesto

F
- Nandyal (India):

Bishop Eggoni Pushpa Lalitha

S

Peter & Paul		Sunday 29 JUNE		Sunday 6 JULY		Trinity 3	
		Ordination to the Diaconate We pray for those who today begin their life of ordained ministry as they are ordained deacon. We pray that they may have loving hearts and hands the reach out to serve. We pray that they will know God's presence and love when times are hard and that they will rejoice when times are good. We pray for their families and all that support them, for all amongst whom they will minister. We give thanks for the theological educational institutions that have trained and formed them. Give them grace to root the life of Christ that, by grace, the likeness of Christ may be formed in them.		Working with children, families & schools in Pershore Sam Andrews is the Children and Families' worker at Pershore Abbey. Her work is funded in part thanks to a grant from the Healthier Churches Fund. Since 2023 Sam has extended the programme of events for children and families, which is where they get the best levels of engagement. She has introduced a weekly 'Little Seeds' group in August and a Summer Activity Morning in the school summer holidays for parents to come along to with their children, where they can do a variety of craft activities, supported by a team of volunteers. These have been really popular, with 30 children and their parents attending in the course of each morning. Sam has also introduced A Light Party event relating to John 1:5 as an alternative to Halloween.		Lord, we pray for the continuing work with families in Pershore. We thank you for all the children, families and young people workers across the Diocese and hope they know your love as they continue to encourage new people to join your family.	
All those being ordained Deacon this morning		Pray particularly for those to be ordained Deacon this morning in the Cathedral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tobias Thornes who will serve in the Rural Mission Area Jon Turner who will serve in the Saltway Team Paul Latham who will serve at St Thomas in Stourbridge Philippa Lowe who will serve at Great Malvern Priory 				Sam Andrews - Children and Families' worker at Pershore Abbey	
The Church of the Province of Myanmar: Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo Lincoln: Bishop Stephen Conway with Bishops David Court, Nicholas Chamberlain Härnösand (Sweden): Bishop Teresia Derlén Lapua (Finland): Bishop Matti Salomäki		Mon 30 Four Rivers Group Pray for the communities of Shrawley, Little Witley and Great Witley. For our weddings ministry, our community outreach, Great Witley School (Head Kate Ramsey), and the Open the Book team. Pray for our vision for Great Witley Church as a major church and give thanks for all those who volunteer as stewards. Clergy: David Morris; Readers: Christine Clarke, Mark Wild		Mon 7 Muddy Boots Mission Area Pray for our Rural Mission Area as we continue to discern God guiding our mission and ministry across the benefices of Teme Valley South, Far Forest and Four Rivers. Please pray for all who minister across our 26 churches including our lay persons and retired clergy for their support and invaluable insights.		Praying for our baptism families: Loving Father, you know that parenting can be tough, help parents to be strong and help them to use their power and influence to make just and right decisions for the lives of their children. Amen	
M Nasik (India): Vacant		Tue 1 JULY Teme Vally South We pray our communities of Eastham, Rochford, Stanford, the Hanleys, Stoke Bliss and Kyre as we continue to work together seeking ways to enhance our worship as we go forward together with God. We pray also for our Relishing Rural Choir and Musical Director Chloe Kenrick and give thanks for the gift of music and singing. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Jones, Robert Barlow; Reader: Peter Thorp		Tue 8 Severn Parishes At St James, Hartlebury, pray for new opportunities in the village and with the school and the future of the mission church at Crossway Green. Clergy: Tim Williams, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jeynes, Marjorie Workman, Richard Berry		The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion): Bishop Henry C. Ndukuba St Albans: Bishop Alan Smith with Bishops Richard Atkinson, Jane Mainwaring Linköping (Sweden): Bishop Marika Markovits	
T Nasir (South Sudan): Bishop Simon Lual Bang Jal		Wed 2 Diocese of Peru Pray for all those responsible for discipleship and training in the Diocese of Peru, for all those currently undertaking study courses online or overseas, and for the work of AMA (the Anglican Women's Association).		Wed 9 Diocese of Morogoro We give thanks for the ministry of the Mission Morogoro Charity as it seeks to serve all those live in the Tunguli area. We give thanks that it has enabled so many young people to play a part in making significant improvements to the health and hygiene of the villages by joining an annual football tournament.		Nebraska (USA): M Bishop Scott Barker	
W Natal (Southern Africa): Bishop Nkosinathi Ndwandwe		Thur 3 Teme Valley South Pray for our churchwardens who bring fresh insights and new ideas. We pray for farms, farmers and businesses that they may continue to thrive in the changing economic and environmental climates. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Jones, Robert Barlow; Reader: Peter Thorp		Thur 10 Severn Parishes At St Andrew, Ombersley, pray for the ongoing programme looking forward to the 200th anniversary of the current church in 2028. At St Mary, Doverdale, pray for links with Sytchampton school and the securing of the church fabric. Clergy: Tim Williams, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jeynes, Richard Berry, Marjorie Workman		Nelson (New Zealand): T Bishop Steve Maina	
Th Navajoland (USA): Bishop David Bailey		Fri 4 Clifton on Teme, Lower Sapey and the Shelsleys Pray for our churchwardens and local committees as they grow in faith and fellowship together. We ask for prayers for our outreach with 'Warm Spaces', Open the Book at Clifton Primary school, Welly Church and new worshiping community 'Soul Space'. For our ALM. Clergy: Julia Curtis, Jen Dennison; Readers: Jill Smith, Pat Snelling		Fri 11 Severn Parishes At St Michael, Elmley Lovett, pray for plans for the church building and links with Cutnall Green school. At St Mary & All Saints, Hampton Lovett, pray for the vision for the future of the church building. At St Mary, Elmbridge, for our All Age Worship and at St Michael, Rushock, for the opportunities with young families. Clergy: Tim Williams, James Homer; Readers: Richard Jeynes, Marjorie Workman, Richard Berry		Nevada (USA): W Bishop Dan Edwards	
F Ndokwa (Nigeria): Bishop David F. A. Obiosa		Sat 5 Vacancy in See We pray that we will soon be able to announce who the next Bishop will be. Pray for the candidate and for all those who will be planning the announcement.		Sat 12 Growing as Kingdom People Lord, we pray for all the children and staff in our church schools. Help them to know you and enjoy their time in school and pray that as churches we will find ways to connect with these communities.		New Bussa (Nigeria): Th Bishop Israel A. Amao	
S Nebbi (Uganda): Bishop Pons Ozelle						New Guinea Islands (Papua New Guinea): F Bishop Reginald Makele	
						New Hampshire (USA): S Bishop Robert Hirschfeld	

*May this day inspire us all
to support one another in
faith, remembering that
we are part of God's family,
called to walk together in
His love.*

Kidderminster &
Stourport Deanery -
Area Dean: Tim Williams
Lay Chair: Clare Stockford

**The Church of North India
(United):**
Bishop Bijay Nayak
Newcastle:
Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley
with Bishop Mark Wroe
Møre (Norway):
Bishop Ingeborg Midttømme

Godparents' Day

Godparents play a vital role in the Christian journey, offering love, guidance, and spiritual support to their godchildren. Godparents' Day is a time to celebrate and give thanks for their commitment to nurturing faith and providing encouragement throughout life.



At baptism, godparents make promises to pray for their godchild, help them grow in faith, and support them in their walk with Christ. This sacred responsibility reflects the love and care of God, who calls each of us into His family. In Proverbs 22:6, we are reminded, *"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."*

On this day, we pray for all godparents, asking God to bless them with wisdom, patience, and joy as they fulfill their role. We also pray for godchildren, that they may grow in faith and experience God's love throughout their lives.

Mon 14 Mucknell Abbey

We pray for the community at Mucknell Abbey. For their discernment in responding to the local land development proposals. We join with their prayers for vocations to Religious Life, and for a greater commitment to climate change mitigations across the Anglican Communion.

Tue 15 Wyre Forest West

We celebrate our growing work with Bayton and Far Forest primary schools and how introducing them to Godly Play and Out of the Box has helped so many children learn more about God and their faith. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Wed 16 The Protestant Church of Central Germany

We pray for the Protestant Hospice in the city of Stendal, for the new building and the relocation, as well as for the staff and their director, the Revd Ulrich Paulsen. Guide their work with wisdom and strength.

Thur 17 Wyre Forest West

We give thanks for all the work that was done during 2024 looking at ways to help our village churches 'Thrive'. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Fri 18 Wyre Forest West

We look forward to continuing our 'Thrive' work, to discover what is unique about each of our churches, and how each can contribute to the growing of God's Kingdom. Clergy: Sallie Butcher, Julia Quinn

Sat 19 Vacancy in See

Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church. As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester, help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance, give us heavenly wisdom, and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People.

Praying the Jesus Prayer

One of the ways many churches celebrate the continuing presence of Christ in his Church is by keeping the Sacrament reserved in a tabernacle or aumbry (a special cupboard) in the church. This is not something all Christians do or agree with, but many people find it a helpful physical focus for prayer, and a reminder that God comes to us, first in the physical flesh of Jesus, and today in the physical elements of the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist.



Using the Jesus Prayer (see the introduction at the start of this prayer diary) can be a helpful way of attending to the presence of Christ in his church, either by sitting simply in church, or very specifically sitting before Jesus in his Blessed Sacrament. As we recollect the presence of Jesus with us, we can attend to him more fully by praying repeatedly the words "Lord Jesus Christ, Son

of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." Mercy – God's loving-kindness – is at the heart of the Sacrament, and the heart of God's relationship with us. If you pass an open church on your summer holidays, why not go in and pray?

Mon 21 Belbroughton w Fairfield

It's an exciting time for all as we explore new working relationships with Chaddesley Corbett. Pray for our worshipping community and for all those supporting us through our vacancy. Clergy: Vacant; Reader: Christine Hickman-Smith

Tue 22 Retired Clergy in Kidderminster Deanery

We pray for our retired clergy and their families in the Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery, thankful for all that they have given and continue to give. We pray for their continued journey of faith, mindful of new challenges they may be facing in retirement. May God's blessing and peace be upon them.

Wed 23 Economy and Daily Life

As the school year ends, give thanks for all that has been achieved. Pray for those moving into employment, looking for work or planning to enter further or higher education, for guidance in decisions; and for all teachers and staff in the summer holidays that they would find rest and relaxation.

Thur 24 Bishop's Advisers

Dear lord we thank you for the team of Bishop's Advisers and for all the work they do to support the Bishop and the Diocese. Paul West (Criminal Justice), Clare Griffiths (Healthcare), Mary Flitcroft (Spirituality), Christine Holzapfel (Healing Ministries)

Fri 25 Finance Team

Pray for the diocesan finance team and give thanks for all they do to support parishes. Sarah Powell, Ryan Bates, Chris Boden, Sucki Dhaliwal, Jo Burr, Jessica Lambert, Robyn Rooney

Sat 26 Growing as Kingdom People

Lord, grant us your grace and blessing in the work we do. Guide us to be more like Christ in our daily life, to bring the joy of your kingdom to others.

*Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of God,
have mercy on me,
a sinner.*

Kidderminster & Stourport
Deanery Leadership Team:
Mark Hall, Julia Curtis
and Paul Blackham

The Church of Pakistan (United):
Bishop Azad Marshall
Skara (Sweden):
Bishop Ulrica Fritzon
Leeds:
Bishop Nick Baines with Bishops
Anna Eltringham, Toby Howarth,
Smitha Prasad, Arun Arora

Newcastle:
Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley

**Eastern Newfoundland
and Labrador (Canada):**
Bishop Sam Rose

Central Newfoundland (Canada):
Bishop John Watton

Western Newfoundland (Canada):
Bishop John Organ

Ngbo (Nigeria):
Bishop Godwin A. Awoke

Niagara (Canada):
Bishop Susan Jennifer Anne Bell

M **New Jersey (USA):**
Bishop Sally French

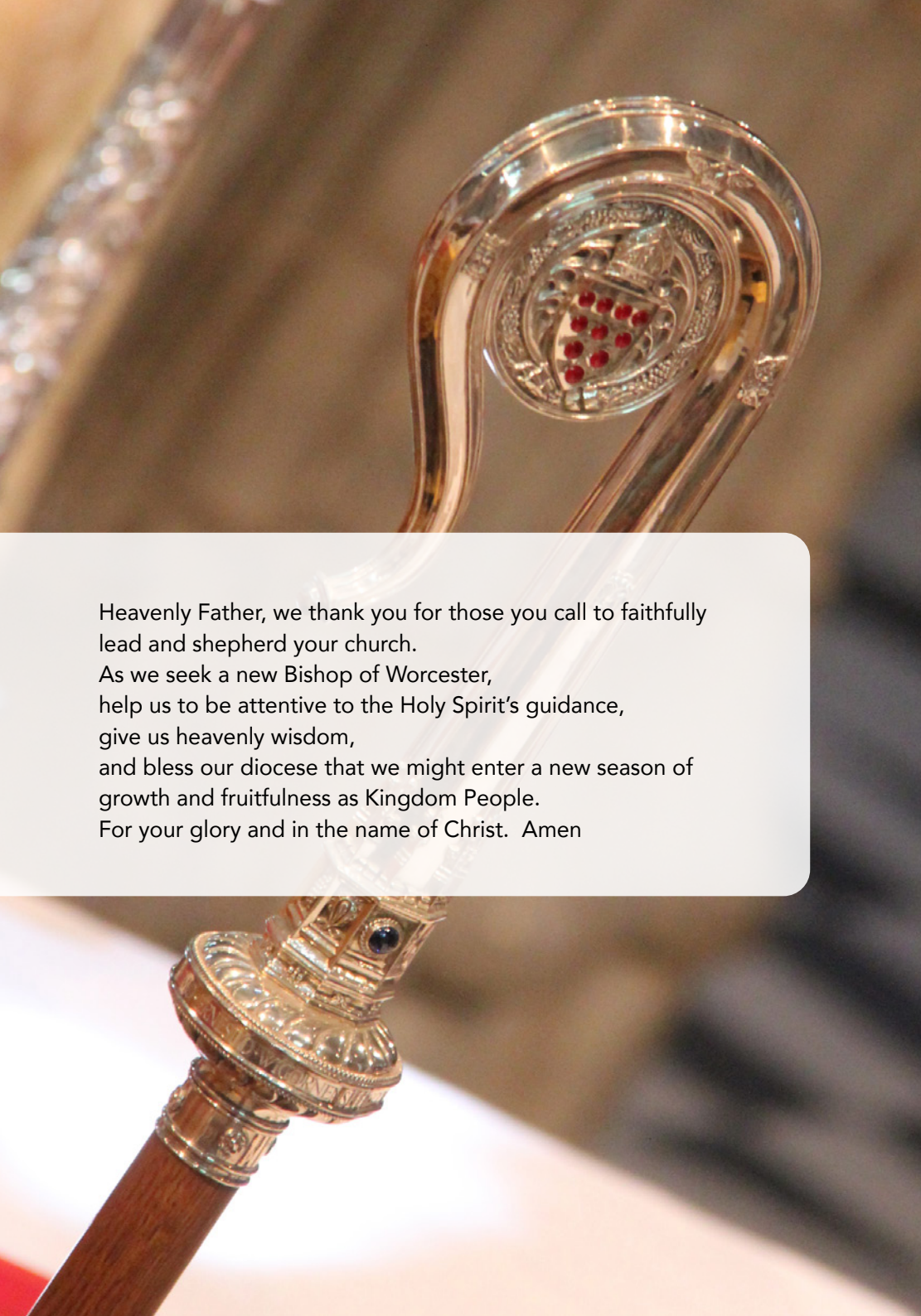
T **New Westminster (Canada):**
Bishop John Stephens

W **Central New York (USA):**
Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe

Th **Newala (Tanzania):**
Bishop Oscar Mnung'a

F **Newark (USA):**
Bishop Carlye J Hughes

S **Newcastle (Australia):**
Bishop Peter Stuart



Heavenly Father, we thank you for those you call to faithfully lead and shepherd your church.
As we seek a new Bishop of Worcester,
help us to be attentive to the Holy Spirit's guidance,
give us heavenly wisdom,
and bless our diocese that we might enter a new season of growth and fruitfulness as Kingdom People.
For your glory and in the name of Christ. Amen

In this prayer diary, we're praying for the deaneries of Worcester and Kidderminster & Stourport

Worcester Deanery encompasses a large area spanning both the eastern and western sides of the River Sever. Serving a population of 149,405, it includes the city of Worcester and the historic Spa town of Droitwich. The deanery consists of 28 parishes with 37 churches located in areas of varying affluence across urban, suburban and rural contexts. The presence of the Cathedral and All Saints Resourcing Church located in the city centre enrich the deanery.



Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery encompasses both rural and urban areas of Worcestershire stretching from the borders of Herefordshire in the West to Droitwich in the South-East. A deanery restructuring process still being finalised has created more distinct rural and urban parishes better able to support one another. In the West of the deanery, we are developing a collegiate group working across a large rural area covering 26 churches. This 'Muddy Boots' mission area seeks to relish being rural Christians, sharing the joys and challenges that life in the countryside brings. We hope and pray our learning can inform and inspire others.



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WORCESTER



If you have a story to feature on a Sunday in a future diary, please do get in touch! Large print copies of the diary are always available – email Sam Setchell, Communications Officer on ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk, or contact the Diocesan Office reception on **01905 20537** if you or someone you know would like one.

