

Diocese of Chester

Cycle of Prayer – 2nd August to 5th September 2020



Welcome

As this is being compiled pandemic restrictions have begun to ease but resources previously used for this Diocesan Cycle of Prayer remain unavailable. Consequently, and like the three previous monthly editions, the Cycle is once again being produced in a temporary format. The intention is that despite the difficulties of present circumstances our informed intercession for one another should be maintained. As always every parish, deanery and church school is included in order over the course of the complete year. The dioceses of the Anglican Communion worldwide are also included – a very longstanding commitment in this diocese that goes back several generations. The one change in content to that in the printed version is that Sunday entries have become prompts for prayer and reflection based on a thought taken from one of the lectionary passages for the day. These entries are simply ‘thoughts for the day’ that may, or may not (!), aid your own reflection on scripture. They are offered not as models but encouragements to your own endeavours. If you would like to contribute to these ‘prompts,’ please be in touch.

As always, intentions for inclusion in future issues are also welcome, please email jane.hood@chester.anglican.org

Christopher Burkett

Editor and Director of Ministry

2 August

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 13A)

Jesus orders the crowds to sit down. I went on a time management course once, and one of the things we were encouraged to do was to let a person know non-verbally when you haven't got time to deal with them – we were told to stand up, and that would send most people on their way! I'm troubled by the pastoral insensitivity of it, but nonetheless it's an interesting point. Standing up moves people on and sitting doesn't. It doesn't work with Zoom calls though!

'Sit down,' says Jesus – this isn't a business meeting, there is no agenda, no worry about efficiency, no hurry, no competition. Sit down and be with the Lord. Stop the rushing around—be!

Be with him. Most of the time Jesus was somebody's guest. He had no home of his own. But here he is host to others, and he will be again at the last supper. His compassion for the crowd goes beyond teaching, beyond healing, he wants to show how much he loves them, and table fellowship is a good way to get to know people better.

Christ's invitation is to 'sit down.' The original invitation was to be seated on the grass by the Sea of Galilee; today it is to gather with others around the Lord's word and his supper. The lockdown has alerted us to just how special that is. Jesus is the host, if we are alive to what is happening: we are filled with what alone can satisfy our deepest longings—the love of God.

Let us sit down with Jesus, our host, our Lord. He caters for us.

Archbishop Laurent Mbanda, L'Eglise Episcopale au Rwanda & Bishop of Shyira; Bishop Samuel M Mugisha, Co-Adjutor Shyira. Bishop Jered Kalimba, Shyogwe (Rwanda).

3 August

Woodford

C: David Russell. LM: Malcolm Evans, Richard Cussons.

The new housing development continues to grow on the old aerodrome site here in Woodford. Please pray for us as we seek to reach out with the Good News about the Lord Jesus, to people moving in. We are making good connections with the new residents, and would dearly love to see more coming and joining us regularly. Thank you for your prayers.

Bishop Alwin John Samuel, Sialkot (Pakistan). Bishop Rennis Ponniah, Bishop Low Jee King, Singapore (South East Asia).

4 August

Great Budworth Deanery

Please pray for the new Deanery Synod, Lay Chair and Rural Dean and for all the parishes, people and ministers, lay and ordained, and especially for the future of the parish of Christ Church, Latchford following the retirement of The Revd John Goode earlier in the year.

Bishop James Min Dein, Bishop Moses Tun Pa, Sittwe (Myanmar). Bishop Peter Eagles, Sodor & Man (England).

5 August

Antrobus

C: Alec Brown, Christina Westwell. LM: Chris Taylor.

Please pray for the farming community following the extremely wet months earlier this year, and for the school which is about to enter into its second year of federation with Great Budworth Primary School. Please also pray for the outreach of St Mark's – the monthly village breakfast and the soon to be launched half-termly "craft church" for children and their carers.

Antrobus St Mark's C of E School.

Bishop Augustine A Omole, Sokoto. Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, South Ankole (Uganda).

6 August

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Appleton Thorn

C: Alan Jewell. LM: Alan Hibbert, Linda Buckley.

Bishop John Tarrant, South Dakota (The Episcopal Church, USA). Archbishop Dharmaraj Rasalam, Moderator of CSI & Bishop of South Kerala (South India).

7 August

Barnton

C: Dave Mock, Paul Pritchard.

Bishop Jackson Nzerebende, South Rwenzori (Uganda). Bishop Matthew Mhagama, South West Tanganyika (Tanzania).

8 August

Daresbury

C: David Felix, Gill Younger. LM: Linda Mills, James Baird, Jocelyn Squires, Gavin Hall.

Bishop Francisco De Assis Da Silva, South Western Brazil (Brazil). Bishop Peter Eaton, Southeast Florida (The Episcopal Church, USA).

9 August

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Today is the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945 (three days after the bombing of Hiroshima). Somewhere between 60,000 and 80,000 people died as a result. Nagasaki had contained one of the largest and oldest Christian communities in East Asia. Now it is a spiritual centre for movements to ban nuclear weapons.

*Lord, into your hands we commend our earth,
ever-threatened with disaster,
and all persons and situations we have spoken about,
written down or remembered in the silence of our hearts this day.
Strengthen our will for peace and justice;
increase our faith in your kingdom where 'love and faithfulness will meet,
righteousness and peace will embrace'
and may your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.*

***Blessed is our God, now and unto the ages of ages.
Blessed is our God, who grants us peace and is the source of all peace.
Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.***

Prayers for Peace and Justice on Hiroshima Day, World Council of Churches

Prompted by today's Gospel, we pray on where may find calm the storms of our present times.

Bishop Julio Trejo, Bishop Julio C Martin, Southeastern Mexico (Mexico). Bishop Humberto Maiztegue Goncalves, Southern Brazil (Brazil).

10 August

Grappenhall

C: Jane Proudfoot. LM: John Prytherch, Christine Hunter.

Please pray that as we undertake our building programme work will progress well. That we can witness to the workers as they work and to our community as the building rises. As we provide facilities for the benefit of all, pray that Jesus' inclusion and welcome of all people will be extended and enhanced at St Wilfrid's and that God's Kingdom may grow.

Grappenhall St Wilfrid's C of E School.

Bishop Julius Lugendo, Southern Highlands (Tanzania). Bishop Alinafe Kalemba, Southern Malawi (Central Africa).

11 August

Great Budworth

C: Alec Brown, Christina Westwell, Jenny McKay. LM: Janet Rees.

Please pray for the farming community following the extremely wet winter and spring months, and for the school which is about to enter into its second year of federation with St Mark's Primary School, Antrobus.

Great Budworth C of E School.

Bishop Simon Onyango, Southern Nyanza; Bishop John Orina Omangi, Southern Nyanza - Kisii Area (Kenya). Bishop Thomas Breidenthal, Southern Ohio (The Episcopal Church, USA).

12 August

Latchford Christ Church

C: Vacant. LM: Ian Burton-Baddeley, Garry Hammond.

Bishop Danilo Labacanacruz Bustamante, Southern Philippines (Philippines). Bishop Susan Hayes, Southern Virginia (The Episcopal Church, USA).

13 August

Latchford St James

C: Michael Ridley, Robert Icke. LM: Victoria Palfreyman, Frances Ireland.

We give thanks to God for the good relations with the joining of two parishes (Latchford and Stockton Heath). We pray that we will continue to grow together as we work through the Healthy Church programme together and thank God for the signs of growth. We pray for St James' C of E School, that we continue to work together and that the seed of God's grace is sown into their lives. We pray for Robert Icke and the continuation of his ministry after his recent priesting.

Latchford St James' C of E School.

Bishop Christopher Chessun, Southwark, Bishop Johnathan Clark, Southwark - Croydon, Bishop Woyin Karowei Dorgu, Southwark - Woolwich, Bishop Richard Cheetham - Kingston (England).

14 August

Lymm

C: Beverley Jameson. LM: Carole Riley, Ian Bunday, Heulwen Smith, Derek Buckthorpe.

Please pray for St Mary's Church Family Crafts and Snacks which was launched at 11am Saturday 14 March. It is our main outreach and mission to families in Lymm and is open to children and their parents/guardians and involves 30-40 minutes of craft activities on a biblical theme – 10-15 minutes of songs, Bible talk etc. and ends with eating a buffet snack of sandwiches, crisps and cake. Please pray for the volunteers who help and the families who come that we may share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our wider community

Bishop Paul Williams, Bishop Anthony Porter, Southwell & Nottingham (England). Bishop Dabney Smith, Southwest Florida (The Episcopal Church, USA).

15 August

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Stockton Heath

C: Michael Ridley, Robert Icke. LM: Christine Chapman, Claire Hutt, Joanna Woodward, Olu Olojugba, Julie Brown, Adam Post.

We give thanks to God for the good relations with the joining of two parishes (Stockton Heath and Latchford) We pray that we will continue to grow together as we work through the Healthy Church programme together and thank God for the signs of growth. We pray for St Thomas' C of E School, that we continue to work together and that the seed of God's grace is sown into their lives. We prayer for Robert Icke and the continuation of his ministry after his recent priesting.

Stockton Heath St Thomas' C of E School.

Bishop Mark Allen Boutilakas, Southwestern Virginia. Bishop Gretchen Rehberg, Spokane (The Episcopal Church, USA).

16 August

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 15A)

'The day you can no longer change is the day you stop being a human being,' or so they say. Well, Jesus is a human being, and this day he changes. His outlook, his worldview we might call it now, is lifted to something new. Let Jesus be our exemplar: we must dare to let our outlooks be changed too. We must dare to truly engage with the world and let life's encounters work with what we know of God and so shape our living and understanding. According to Matthew the gospel writer in this story, that is a Jesus thing to do.

A brave and faithful woman challenges Jesus, and he discovers, and we discover too, that it doesn't matter whether you're a Canaanite from Tyre or Sidon or anywhere else. All those boundaries and barriers we make so much of – ethnicity, class, nationality, upbringing—so many barriers, so many divisions—none of them matter. What matters is the person before God—every single person. As St Paul puts it, there is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. The 'dividing wall of hostility' is broken down in Christ. It's hard to think of God's grace as leftovers, but isn't that what this story says? There are enough leftovers for ALL.

Lord, widen our compassion and move us to learn from others that we may learn from you.

Bishop Daniel Martins, Springfield (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Alan Smith, St Albans; Bishop Richard Atkinson, St Albans - Bedford; Bishop Michael Beasley, St Albans - Hertford (England).

17 August

Stretton

C: Alan Jewell. LM: Alan Hibbert, Linda Buckley, Sheila Goulston.

Stretton St Matthew's C of E School.

Bishop Ian Paton, St Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane (The Scottish Episcopal Church). Bishop Gregory Cameron, St Asaph (Wales).

18 August

Thelwall

C: Douglas Black. LM: Pip Horne, R Lester, Colin Horrabin.

Bishop Joanna Penberthy, St Davids (Wales). Bishop Martin Seeley, Bishop Michael Harrison, St Edmundsbury & Ipswich - Dunwich (England).

19 August

Walton

C: Anita Raggett. LM: Stephen Clague, Ian Jerrard-Dinn, Gill Povey-Robins.

Bishop Dale Bowers, St Helena (Southern Africa). Bishop Martin Breytenbach, St Mark the Evangelist (Southern Africa).

20 August

Aston by Sutton, Little Leigh and Lower Whitley

C: Collette Jones. LM: Philip Littlemore, Joan Sears, Jean Davies.

Bishop Festus Yeboah-Asuamah, Sunyani (West Africa). Bishop John Davies, Swansea & Brecon (Wales).

21 August

Sir Thomas Boteler C of E High School

Bishop Ellinah Ntfombi Wamukoya, Swaziland (Southern Africa).

22 August

Congleton Deanery

Archbishop Glenn Davies, Archbishop of Sydney; Bishop Michael Stead, Sydney - South; Bishop Gary Koo, Sydney; Bishop Malcolm Richards, Sydney; Bishop Chris Edwards, Sydney - North; Bishop Peter Lin, Sydney - Georges River; Bishop Ivan Lee, Sydney - West;

23 August

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 16A)

At this very moment in crowded streets, and in dilapidated shanties of tin and cardboard, men and women are tending the sick, comforting the dying, teaching the children of the slums to read, and lending a street trader a few dollars to continue his trade. Ask them why they do these things, and they will reply 'we do it for Jesus. He wants us to care for those broken and worried.'

At this very moment on a street corner or in the market place a young voice is shouting of the glories of Jesus, of his saving death and his call to all people – trying to make themselves heard amongst the hubbub. Or others in more unfamiliar ways, are sharing their hope by any means permitted under pandemic regulations. They do it because Jesus has told them to share the message.

At this very moment in thousands of buildings across Europe people are praying, talking, and thinking of Jesus. They are trying answer for themselves that question, 'Who do people say that I am?' Who do you say that I am? Who is this Jesus?

God of our redemption show us Jesus, that we may know deep within ourselves his saving presence.

Bishop Elias Chakupewa, Tabora (Tanzania). Bishop Liverson Mng'onda, Taita-Taveta (Kenya).

24 August

St Bartholomew

Alsager St Mary Magdalene

C: Michelle Goodrich. LM: Christine Redstone.

Bishop David Lai, Taiwan (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Jacob Ayebo, Tamale (West Africa).

25 August

Alsager Christ Church

C: Daran Ward, Heather Kemball. LM: Dave Fidal, Keith Davies, Andrew Warren, Matt Brown, Rachel Mason.

Please pray that we may inhabit the abundant life that the Lord offers us so that we may grow as ambassadors for Christ.

Archbishop Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop of Tanzania & Bishop of Tanga. Bishop Mwita Akiri, Tanga (Tanzania).

26 August

Astbury

C: Anne-Marie Naylor.

Astbury St Mary's C of E School.

Bishop Richard Condie, Bishop Christopher Jones, Tasmania (Australia). Bishop Ngarahu Katene, Te Pihopatanga o Manawa o Te Wheke (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia).

27 August

Barthomley

C: Peter Ennion.

Let us pray for farmers: we depend on them for our daily food yet we forget the kind of work they do. It is often hard and messy. Your son appreciated and understood the work of shepherds and farmers, but we so often take them for granted. Help farmers in their work, give them encouragement and strength to face the many problems that have beset them recently. Help them to be aware of your presence and not to feel isolated and depressed.

Bishop Te Kiohi Wiremu Pikaahu, Te Pihopatanga o Tai Tokerau; Archbishop Don Tamihere, Primate and Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Te Pihopatanga o Tairāwhiti (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia).

28 August

Brereton

C: Sandi Fisher. LM: Roy Ashton.

Brereton C of E School.

Bishop Waitohiariki Quayle, Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Ika; Bishop Richard Wallace, Te Pihopatanga o Upoko o Te Waipounamu (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia).

29 August

Holmes Chapel

C: Rob McLaren.

We pray that the Gospel will have a strong impact in our village as we seek to multiply good ministries of God's Word and establish fruitful work amongst pre-schoolers and teenagers.

Bishop Willie Tungale, Temotu (Melanesia). Bishop Abelino Manuel Apeleo, Temuco (Chile).

30 August

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

(Prompted by the Gospel set for Proper 17A)

Any cosy idea of Jesus and his disciples is disturbed by this Gospel passage. A real struggle seems to be going on here. The pattern shows the power of it

1. Peter says Jesus is the Christ
2. Jesus silences him and the others – 'Don't say that.'
3. Jesus says he must suffer many things, even death.
4. Peter silences him – 'Don't say that.'
5. Jesus silences Peter – it's as if he is speaking for Satan.

Jesus presents a counter-confession, this Son of Man will come in glory but only after he has suffered these things. Peter's refusal to acknowledge that makes him the mouthpiece of Satan. Jesus is on 'the way,' but are the disciples on the way with him? Remember the earlier words of Jesus in the parable of the Sower, 'When a person hears the message of the Kingdom but fails to commit himself to it, the devil comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart' (13.19).

The battle rages in the hearts and souls of the ones who think themselves disciples. Those on the way find Satan very close and eager to diver them. The battle rages in our hearts and souls. Verse 23b makes it plain, 'You are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Isn't Jesus saying that there is no middle ground? You are either for the Jesus way, or you've sold-out. Matthew is telling us that we've arrived at the very heart of the conflict– and it is not 'out there,' it is not someone else's problem. No, it's here – in our wills, in our choices, in our loyalties. And it has been

like that from the start – the ones who would go on the way with Jesus are always tempted to sell-out.

Saviour, keep us true to you.

Bishop John Bauerschmidt, Tennessee (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Paul Modi Farjala, Terekeka (South Sudan).

31 August

Congleton St James

C: Colin Sanderson. LM: Kenneth Hill.

Bishop Lincoln McKoen, Territory of the People (Canada). Bishop Andrew Doyle, Bishop Dena Harrison, Bishop Jeff Fisher, Bishop Hector Monterroso, Texas (The Episcopal Church, USA).

1 September

Congleton

C: Ian Enticott. LM: Geoff Scott, John Millington, Mike Hutchison, Eileen Walker, Lesley Smith.

We pray (in faith at the time of the print deadline!) that our new Rector will be settling in and leading us forward together, in discipleship, in care of each other, and in reaching out to the community around us. Pray also for wisdom as we decide how best to use our buildings, especially St John's and Holy Trinity that are now Chapels of Ease, and how best to develop St Peter's with its Georgian box pews.

Mossley C of E School.

Bishop David Parsons, Bishop Lucy Nester, Nishop Annie Ittoshat, Bishop Joey Royal, The Arctic (Canada). Bishop Gladstone Adams, South Carolina (The Episcopal Church, USA).

2 September

Eaton with Hulme Walfield

C: Ian Arch. LM: Diane Wisener, Douglas Wisener, Howard Lawton.

Bishop Keith Dalby, The Murray (Australia). Bishop Carlos López-Lozano, The Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church (Spain (E-P to the Archbishop of Canterbury)).

3 September

Elworth

C: David Page. LM: Anthony Rigby, Steve Coppenhall, Kate Page, Michelle Walker, Sue Yarwood, Cathryn Houghton.

Elworth C of E School.

Bishop Julius Njuguna Wanyoike, Thika (Kenya). Bishop Samuel Devasahayam Ebenezer Clement, Thoothukudi - Nazareth (South India).

4 September

Goostrey

C: Heather Buckley.

Bishop Jayaraj Christdoss, Tirunelveli (South India). Bishop Jean Paul Solo, Toamasina (Pacific Ocean).

5 September

Chester Cathedral

Tim Stratford, Jane Brooke, Sarah Fenby, Jeremy Dussek. LM: Chris Jones.

Bishop John Masato Yoshida, Tohoku. Bishop Francis Xavier Hiroyuki Takahashi, Tokyo (Japan).
