

Prayer sheet 8

02 May 2020

A thought about prayer

'In a world where we want action and instant results, it takes faith to pray – to believe that the most powerful 'activity' we can engage in is to speak with our heavenly Father about a situation and listen for His wisdom. Prayer is the God-given key, enabling us to partner with Him in changing lives, situations, our world.'

Our Link Dioceses

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Give thanks that there are few reported cases of Corona virus in DRC and pray that this will continue especially as little PPE, hand sanitiser and oxygen is available;
- Please pray that people put their trust in God but also comply with guidance;
- Freight drivers and traders, who often travel long distances, are allowed to cross the border with inadequate testing. Please pray for the effective detection and follow-up of the positive cases;
- there are many rebel groups which cause hardship, unrest and loss of life for the population. Please pray for peace and that the Congolese army, which is not particularly present in the East of the country, may be more effective.

Melanesia

- We pray for Bishop James Tama and his family as they move into temporary accommodation while they rebuild their home after the cyclone earlier this month;
- We give thanks for the Melanesian Brotherhood, for eight Aspirants who were admitted as novices and a senior novice who became a Brother at the weekend;
- We pray for the ongoing Covid-19 preparedness and prevention activities and training being carried out across Melanesia;
- We pray for safe passage for all the church workers and volunteers travelling across Melanesia to remote villages to run COVID-19 awareness and hygiene training sessions;
- We give thanks for the generosity shown to MMUK's Emergency Appeal which has raised over £16,000 to date.

Prayer from the Anglican Church of Melanesia

- Defend Melanesia, guard her children and grant her protection. And to the nations of the world bring healing and hope. Lord God hear us, we pray in the faith of Jesus your Son our Lord. Amen

NHS and Residential Care

Pray for those who work in all areas of the NHS and residential care for safety, energy and wisdom.

Hospital and Hospice Chaplains

- Please pray for our Hospital and Hospice Chaplains as they care for the patients, staff and families, for words of comfort, and for protection.

For the unseen frontline workers such as those working for the mountain rescues, lifeboats, fire service, police and all who work to ensure that food is available in the supermarkets.

Families and Young People

- Please pray for families in lockdown who care for children and adults with additional needs;
- For those struggling with mental health, especially as access to support is more limited;
- For those experiencing domestic tension in lockdown;
- Also, for those who have recently moved into residential care and their families, at this confusing time when visiting is restricted.

Prisons

- Give thanks that our prisons are still Covid-19 free;
- Our prisons highly value our prayers, especially for those residents who have suffered loss. Please pray for the deep peace and protection of Christ amongst their residents, families and staff.

Rural Matters

- Please pray for the high proportion of older people in rural areas, who are needing support;
- That broadband and mobile services are not overwhelmed so that people working from home are able to do so effectively;
- That there would be enough people to pick fruit and vegetables;
- For farmers affected by the reduced demand in the dairy industry;
- For farmers and landowners concerned about higher footfall along public footpaths increasing the risk of spreading the virus to those living and working on the land. That walkers would keep to the footpaths and keep their dogs on leads.

Transforming Lives Together

- Give thanks that we have managed to secure some funding to provide food to local communities through churches;
- Please pray that we will be able to get food distribution up and running quickly and that we reach the people who need help most.

Pray for our Clergy and Readers and for funeral directors as they reach out to those who are grieving. And for clergy and all who give pastoral support who cannot visit those in their parishes who are in need.

Please pray for our diocesan senior staff, for Bishop Keith, Mike Gilbertson, Ian Bishop, Tim Stratford, George Colville, Liz Geddes, Christine Broad and Roger Clarke as they lead the diocese through this time and for our Rural Deans as they co-ordinate and support their deaneries.

As we walk forward together let us remember the famous statement made by King George VI in 1939:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

If you think of an area/ministry of our diocese for which it would be good to pray, please let us know foxhill@chester.anglican.org

Thank you, for joining us in prayer,

Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.