

**Diocese of Chester**

**Cycle of Prayer – 10 - 31 May 2020**



### **Welcome**

Unfortunately we are unable currently to produce the Cycle of Prayer in its usual variety of formats. Instead there follows a list of intentions for this current month in the conviction that it is important to maintain an ordered praying for one another. Where prayer requests from local parishes have been received, they are included in expectation that although things may have changed radically they will give insight into each church's life and plans. The usual Sunday entries have been replaced by some prayer prompts based on the readings for the day in the Common Lectionary. These are offered not as models but as possible spurs to your own further prayers.

As always, intentions for inclusion in future issues are welcome, please email

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**Christopher Burkett**

**Editor and Director of Ministr**

10 May

## The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Most Holy God build us as living stones into the spiritual house of our calling; may we know Christ as the cornerstone of all we attempt, so that our lives and our prayers become the very fabric of Our Saviour's presence.

We hold dear his promise that he has a place for each of us; when we stray from the way that leads us there, forgive us and restore us.

Pray for all whose discipleship is especially hard – the persecuted, the isolated, the misunderstood, and the rejected.

Pray for all carrying heavy burdens of care and responsibility in these troubling times; for those who feel near collapse – may they find their strength renewed.

Pray for all who are crushed by circumstance: the bereaved, the ill, the anxious, and all who have lost what they have built by years of effort and endeavour.

Pray for the best use of the buildings given into our care. Show us all how we may be in ourselves signs of strength, holiness, and continuity. When the things of place are restored to us may we re-enter them conscious that they are but stepping-stones on the way that is Christ.

*Bishop Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira, Namirembe (Uganda). Bishop Eggoni Pushpalalitha, Nandyal (South India).*

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11 May

### **Dunham Massey St Mark**

C: Vacant.

*Vacant, Nasik (North India). Bishop Simon Lual Bang Jal (South Sudan).*

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12 May

### **Hale**

C: Karen Stanton, Giselle Rusted. LM: Julie Withers, John Moss.

*Bishop Dino Gabriel, Bishop Tsietse Edward Seeoane - North West Episcopal Area, Natal (Southern Africa); Archbishop Mark Lawrence MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop (Canada).*

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13 May

## **Oughtrington**

C: Michael Burgess. LM: Ray Hepworth, Roy Bond.

May we, like St Peter our patron, love the risen Lord and feed his sheep.

*Bishop David Bailey, Navajoland Area Mission (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop David F A Obiosa, Ndokwa (Nigeria).*

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14 May

## **St Matthias**

### **Partington & Carrington**

C: Andrew Knight, Lucy Brewster.

Pray with us, for strength to live out our faith confidently in all of life, Monday to Sunday, sharing the love and good news of Jesus in word and action. So that God's power and presence are made a living reality in our urban estate community, lives are transformed and hope is realised.

*Bishop Alphonse Watho-kudi, Nebbi (Uganda). Bishop Scott Barker, Nebraska (The Episcopal Church, USA).*

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15 May

### **Hale Barns with Ringway**

C: Clair Jaquiss. LM: Mary Babbage, Vivienne Plummer.

Give thanks for the ministry team at All Saints including the Revd Gordon Herron and Rebecca Mooney, All Saints' Children and Families Worker. Pray for a blessing on plans for a Place of Welcome and on those working in so many ways to serve the whole community.

*Bishop Steve Maina, Nelson (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia). Bishop Dan Edwards, Nevada (The Episcopal Church, USA).*

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16 May

### **Sale St Anne**

C: Alison Cox. LM: Alan Ward, Paul Edwards.

*Bishop Israel A Amoo, New Busa (Nigeria). Dennis Kabekabe, The New Guinea Islands (Papua New Guinea).*

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17 May

## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, teach us to recognise your presence in every act of love that expresses your Son's command. May your Spirit of truth so enliven our hearts and minds that the world may see the wholeness of life that is your gift.

Make us bold in giving an account of the hope within us – never arrogantly nor grudgingly but as those whose hearts are sanctified by Christ.

Pray for all who doubt God – those alienated by present circumstances, the impoverished, the struggling, and the vexed. For those who constantly fear – under threat of illness, of loss, of hunger, of loneliness, of poverty, and of joblessness.

Pray for those pondering faith afresh and those who have come to faith anew in recent weeks. May initiatives in worshipping through social media be productive of faithful living.

Pray for the world's poorest people. Keep aid and care flowing even as wealthier nations struggle, for we all have our origins in the one God. May the requirements of love and righteousness stir us all. As we depend on the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, so make us advocates of the needs of others.

Pray for all who exist as ones abandoned by hope – the orphaned, the desperately ill, victims of war, hunger, and oppression, the suicidal, and those despairing.

May faithful good conduct in Christ issue in the love he promises.

*Bishop Robert Hirschfeld, New Hampshire. Bishop William Stokes, New Jersey (The Episcopal Church, USA).*

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18 May

### **Sale St Paul**

C: Barbara Sharp. LM: Karen Salisbury, Michael Riley, Ann Morris, Yvonne Kerridge.

We ask your prayers for the faithful hard-working members of our community, who serve God, St Paul's and Sale in so many ways.

*Archbishop Melissa Skelton, New Westminster (Canada). Bishop Andrew Dietsche, Bishop Allen Shin, Bishop Mary Glasspool, New York (The Episcopal Church, USA).*

19 May

### **Timperley**

C: Jim Bridgman, Jenny Bridgman, Suzanne Eddleston.

Please pray for the parish and as we discern how God is calling us to be the Church in Timperley as we enter the next phase of ministry here. Pray especially for those whom God may be calling to new ministries within and beyond the Church.

*Bishop Oscar Mnung'a, Newala (Tanzania). Bishop Carlye J Hughes, Newark (The Episcopal Church, USA).*

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20 May

### **Warburton**

C: Michael Burgess.

May we travel in the company of St Werburgh, our patron, praising the risen Lord and serving him in our parish.

*Bishop Christine Hardman, Bishop Mark Tanner, Newcastle (England). Bishop Peter Stuart, Newcastle; Bishop Charlie Murry, Newcastle Coastal Episcopate; Bishop Sonia Roulston, Newcastle Inland Episcopate (Australia).*

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21 May

### **Ascension Day**

#### **Altrincham C of E School**

O Almighty God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to set our affection on things above: grant us so to labour in this life as ever to be mindful of our citizenship in those heavenly places whither our Saviour Christ is gone before; to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

*A Book of Common Prayer, Church of the Province of Southern Africa.*

*Bishop Godwin Awoke, Ngbo (Nigeria). Bishop Susan Bell, Niagara (Canada).*

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22 May

### **Chester Deanery**

*Bishop Vicente Msossa, Bishop Manuel Ernesto, Niassa (Southern Africa). Bishop Sturdie Downs, Nicaragua (Central America).*

23 May

### **Ashton Hayes**

C: Phillip Weston. LM: Alan Downen, Philip Goodall, Margaret Papworth.

*Bishop Wisdom Budu Ihunwo, Niger Delta North; Bishop Emmanuel O Oko-Jaja, Niger Delta West;  
Bishop Ralph C Ebirien, The Niger Delta (Nigeria).*

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24 May

### **The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

God of time and eternity, we hold fast to your unending grace despite the uncertainties of our times. Like those first disciples we confine ourselves to where we are staying. Like them we have glimpsed the things of heaven but now must content ourselves with daily life. Like them we devote ourselves to prayer and trust the effort will confirm our hopes.

Ah! Leave us not to mourn below,  
Or long for Thy return to pine;  
Now, Lord, the Comforter bestow,  
And fix in us the Guest Divine.

If every one that asks may find,  
If still Thou dost on sinners fall,  
Come as a mighty rushing wind;  
Great grace be now upon us all.  
*Charles Wesley 1707-1788.*

Pray for those for whom time and waiting is troublesome: the bored and dejected, those hard pressed by too much work, those without work and struggling to make ends meet, and those who must make hard decisions where timing is crucial.

May we experience anew the reassurance of casting our anxieties on the God who cares for us. Where the pandemic has exacerbated divisions and inequalities amongst people, we pray in the hope of new begins where every life is valued and given the chance of fulfilment. Pray for those marginalised and excluded.

In our fretful waiting, Lord, give us the reassurance that eternal life is this 'to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.'

*Bishop Johnson N Ekwe, Niger West; Bishop Christian Onyia, Nike (Nigeria).*

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25 May

**Barrow**

C: Andy Stinson. LM: Judith Smith, June Willis, Martin Welch.

*Bishop Martin Abuni, Bishop Gabriel Angok Arok, Nimule Area (South Sudan). Archbishop Godwin Izundu Nmezinwa Okpala, Nnewi (Nigeria).*

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26 May

**Chester St John the Baptist**

C: David Chesters. LM: Keith Allen.

Dear Lord we thank you for the ancient foundation of the Church of St John the Baptist Chester and for its witness to Christ throughout its long history; we pray that it may continue to be a beacon to all, for in Christ there are no barriers of age, race, colour, class, creed or sexual orientation, we are all precious children of God.

*Bishop Muhindo Isesomo, Nord Kivu; Bishop Stephen Namanya, North Ankole (Congo).*

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27 May

**Chester Holy Trinity Without-the-Walls (Blacon)**

C: Tina Upton, Christopher Burkett, Louise Annison. LM: Sarah Dutton.

Please pray that we may boldly share the Good News of Jesus with all those who come to the church for various outreach activities, as well as with our own families and friends.

*Bishop Samuel Rodman, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, North Carolina (The Episcopal Church, USA). Archbishop Joel Atiwag Pachao, Bishop Nestor D Poltic, North Central Philippines (Philippines).*

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28 May

**Chester St Mary Without-the-Walls (Handbridge)**

C: Ric Whaite, Laura Rhodes. LM: Robert Croft, Linda Manning.

*Bishop Michael Smith, North Dakota (The Episcopal Church, USA). Bishop Michael Herenz, North East India (North India).*

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29 May

### **Chester St Paul with St Luke**

C: Chris Blunt. LM: Jennifer Gilbertson, John Somerville, Marin Watts, Sylvia Walley, Ray Walley, Richard Price, Keith Taggert, Su Ogunyemi.

*Bishop L Errol Brooks, North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba (West Indies). Bishop James Nasak, North Karamoja (Uganda).*

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30 May

### **Christleton**

C: Stefan Collier.

Please pray for us in our work to grow disciples both within our church and the wider community. We pray especially for the ongoing blessing of our Sunday School, 'Lighthouse' and for our new Play and Praise toddler group: 'The Ark'. May all who come, enjoy the fun and fellowship as we get to know Jesus together.

*Bishop Benon Magezi, Bishop Samule Gidudu, North Kigezi (Uganda).*

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31 May

### **Pentecost**

'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me,' says Jesus. And so, merciful Saviour, we make our prayer that our many thirsts may be quenched:

- the thirst for change, longing for better things
- the thirst for relief, desperate for assistance
- the thirst for solutions, confused by complexity and fear
- the thirst for security, obscured by anxiety and chaos
- the thirst for the ordinary, displaced by worry

You manifest your Spirit for the common good; give us faith to trust your promise of living water in the droughts of our lives.

On that first Pentecost, the crowd, astonished, said, 'How is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?' Give us fresh awareness of being part of that new company of people created that day. The boundaries that held us back are crossed. The old hostilities are ended, and a new life has begun. We rejoice that we are all members of the one body. Empower your people to let the rivers of living water flow. ...

Spirit of truth lead us.



Spirit of discernment guide us.

Spirit of compassion unite us.

Spirit of Jesus, inspire us,

and all for your love and mercy's sake. Amen.

*Bishop William Ray, Bishop Keith Joseph, North Queensland; Bishop Gary Nelson, North West  
Australia; (Australia).*