

Prayer sheet 14
26 June 2020

Thank you for joining us in prayer.

Bishop Keith writes:

“Thank you for prayers for those to be commissioned on 02 July who will be ordained deacons in October.

On Wednesday of this week I led a Cathedral Bible Study on “Read Mark Learn...” (this can be watched on You Tube!).

We read Mark 10:1-52, including v 45 *“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

We minister because Jesus laid down His life for us. As we pray for our brothers and sisters and ourselves, may we know the Lord’s self- giving love enabling all that is to come.”

In our prayers we hold all those who will be commissioned on 02 July to serve in their title parishes, and all to be ordained deacon and priest later in the year:

Phil Bishop (Weaverham), Rob Croft (Christleton), Sam Durdant-Hollamby (Hoole), Helen Eccles (Knutsford, St. John), Marie Flint (Stockport and Brinnington), Gilly Hall (Cheadle, All Hallows), Hana Helvadjian (Lache-cum-Saltney), Catherine Johnson (Cheadle, All Hallows), Vanessa Layfield (Nantwich), Paul Lewis (Poulton Lancelyn), Anna Leyden (Chester, Christ Church), Martin Makin (Bredbury, St. Mark), David Murray (Timperley), Jen Pilling (Thornton-le-Moors with Ince and Elton), Anthony Rigby (Elworth), Danny Sedano (Frankby with Greasby), Frances Skinner (Great Meols), Richard Skinner (Hoylake), Simon Stride (Stalybridge, Holy Trinity), Christine Turner (Seacombe, Poulton & Liscard The Resurrection), Debbie Wilkinson (Birkenhead Priory) and Claire Wilson (Bunbury).

Those to be priested later in the year:

Karen Andrews, Louise Annison, Janine Arnott, Jeremy Beatty, Callum Boothroyd, Lucy Brewster, Ian Chidlow, Debbie Dalby, Peter Dooley, Robert Icke, Heather Kemball, Jenny McKay, Steph Morris, Steve Murphy, Paul North, Julian Osborne,

Giselle Rusted, Anina Thomas, Josie Tuplin, Paul Wheeler, Elaine White, Dot Woods.

Some of those who are being commissioned and priested have shared their requests for prayer:

Can I ask for prayer for my friends, family and former colleagues many of whom don't know Christ, particularly for those who probably wouldn't come to my ordination, but I have been able to invite and I hope may well join the on-line Commissioning Service because it is so much easier to attend. I know it's not intended to be an evangelistic service as such, but I do hope and pray that God will speak clearly to all those who haven't yet come to faith in Christ through the service.

Please pray that as we start our ministry, without the pre-ordination retreat to help prepare for the change from old job to the new life, I can still draw close to God and be ready to serve him and bring him glory.

'O the times, they are a-changing' - pray for good endings and new beginnings, at a time when boundaries are changing rapidly and uncertainly.

Lord God grant reassurance, wisdom and comfort to those you have called to serve you as they take up new roles during this time of uncertainty and as we emerge from a time of isolation.

Please pray for sanity: my whole family (2 girls 'locked' abroad) is struggling with being apart for so long, and my Mum who lost my Dad last year being 120 miles away.

And for the licensing to be a time when our wonderful Lord gives us all real JOY despite nothing being what we'd have chosen.

If you could please pray that we as a church would be faithful in prayer and in dependence on God during lockdown, that would be great.

Please pray for our parishes as we join them in these challenging times.

That my mind will be sharp, and energy found to finish my dissertation and my heart will melt with love for my new parish (a benefice of 3)

I would be grateful for prayers for God's continued protection over my family and for the gift of discernment.

Loving and gracious God enable me and others to bring others to know your love for them and to grow in faith through our priestly ministries where we might use our gifts and play into our strengths. Amen

My request would be that I/we hear God's guiding as we come out of lockdown and seek to minister to the most disadvantaged in society who are under great strain, struggling to make ends meet.

A prayer for those who are being commissioned and those being priested later in the year:

“Lord God, grant me the grace to accept whatever challenges, disappointments and successes come my way so that I may grow in wisdom and experience as I strive to serve you and your Church. Through the obedience I will promise to the bishop at ordination, make me ever more attentive to the unfolding of your will for me and for the people I serve.

“As I draw near to commissioning and ordination, strengthen my hands for service and give me a clear voice to proclaim your word. Be my example and guide. Be my strength and inspiration. Help me always to know my place as one who comes to serve and not to be served.

“As that day of commissioning and ordination draws near, Almighty Father, I lay before you all that I am; everything that I have; what I know and what I don't know. Accept it, transform it, bless it; use it all for the glory of your name. Make me worthy of the trust and confidence placed in me and guard me in the ways of integrity and truth. I ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

—adapted from *Ordained to Serve*, edited by Denis Robinson, O.S.B.

Thank you, for joining us in prayer
Jonathon and the Foxhill Team.