

Week two: 21 - 27 May

Rhythm of Prayer

Archbishop of Canterbury
Missional visit to the
Diocese of Salisbury



Please use this prayer diary to prepare for a missional weekend that will be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury when he visits the diocese.

Our preparation and prayer are structured around the themes of:

Week 1- Transforming Conversations

**Week 2- Transforming
Communities**

Week 3- Transforming Lives

Week 4- Making Jesus Known

Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Mark 9.37



Day 8 Sunday

Hope House in Weymouth is a place of Christian community for children, young people and families. It offers open youth club sessions, after school drop ins, small groups, projects, issue-based groups and one to one mentoring: 'A place that our young people can call home and be proud of. A place where people have fun, develop friendships, explore, grow and share their faith.' As part of his mission to the diocese, Archbishop Justin will be visiting this community, We pray that it may be a place of transformation for all who go there.


Prayer

O God, we place our children and young people in your hands. We ask not that you will shield them from difficulty, but that you will give them strength to face it; not that you will protect them from making mistakes, but that they may be able to learn from them; not that their lives will be easy, but that they will deal with its challenges courageously. Be with them when they are vulnerable, protect them from lasting harm, and keep them always in your love.

The gypsy, traveller and Roma community is probably the largest minority ethnic group in our diocese. Sadly they often suffer racial abuse, bullying and physical attack. The Revd Jonathan Herbert is the diocese's chaplain to this community and will introduce Archbishop Justin to them as part of his visit.

Prayer

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves.



Day 9 Monday

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3.28



Day 10 | Tuesday

Eating together can have a profound effect on relationships and communities. Eating breakfast together after Jesus' resurrection transformed the community of the disciples. The lakeside barbecue restored and strengthened the broken relationship between Jesus and his friends. Throughout our diocese, people meet together to eat – not just at the eucharist but at other times, including breakfasts. Archbishop Justin will be visiting one such breakfast for a community of men who meet at the Ocean Café in Weymouth to encounter Jesus and to deepen their relationship with him. Today we pray for all such communities that they may be places of transformation.

Prayer

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to
your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw our communities to the fire of
your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

When the disciples had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

John 21.9-13

Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Mark 6.32-34



Day 11 | Wednesday

[John and Charles Wesley]

Today we commemorate John and Charles Wesley who were leaders of the revival movement within the Church of England that led to the formation of the independent Methodist Church. During his visit to the diocese, Archbishop Justin will meet people who have been particularly touched by social action projects of the wider Church in Weymouth and Portland. We rejoice in and pray for our ecumenical partnerships which through word and action

seek to join in where God is at work transforming our local communities.

Prayer

God of mercy,
who inspired John and Charles Wesley with zeal for your gospel:
grant to all people boldness to proclaim your word
and a heart ever to rejoice in singing your praises;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5.18b-20



Day 12 | Thursday [Aldhelm]

Today we remember St Aldhelm, who in 705 became the first Bishop of Sherborne from which see our present diocese of Salisbury was formed. Aldhelm was a great scholar, teacher and singer who, according to Bede, 'by his preaching completed the conquest of Wessex'. Tradition has it that he would go to public places and attract listeners by singing hymns and passages from the gospels interspersed with bits of clowning to draw attention to his message of making Jesus know. We pray for all the musicians

in our church communities today who seek to make Jesus known today through music.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
open our minds to your Spirit,
and grant that what we sing with
our lips, we may believe in our
hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts,
we may show forth in our lives to
your glory,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we remember Augustine in whose chair in Canterbury cathedral his successor, Archbishop Justin, sits today. In 596, at the instigation of Pope Gregory the Great, Augustine was dispatched as the leader of a group of forty monks to re-evangelize the English Church. The mission became established and transformed the communities it encountered. Ultimately, Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray again today for his successor, Archbishop Justin, as he leads the mission to our diocese, that the seed he sows in hearts and minds may grow abundantly.

Prayer

Almighty God,
whose servant Augustine was
sent as the apostle of the English
people:
grant that as he laboured in the
Spirit to preach Christ's gospel in
this land,
so all who hear the good news
may strive to make your truth
known in all the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Day 13 | Friday [Augustine]

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

Matthew 13.31,32

Day 14 | Saturday [Alcuin]



Archbishop Justin will be visiting the children of Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School in Blandford Forum, named after one of his predecessors in the 18th century, Archbishop William Wake, who was born in the town. Contrary to the culture of the time, Jesus welcomed and valued children and young people. We seek as a diocese to value them too and to keep them at the heart of everything we do. We pray for children and young people, for their carers and teachers and for those who are governors that our Church schools may be communities in which the transforming love of Jesus is made known.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, friend of children,
we thank you for the children and young
people of our diocese
and what we may learn from them.
Bless them and may we be open to
receive the blessing that they are to us.

Little children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Matthew 19.13-15