

Week three: 28 May to 3 June

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

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2.1-4



Day 15 Sunday 28 May [Pentecost]

Today is the Feast of Pentecost, the day we sometimes regard as the birthday of the Church of God of which the Church of England is part. The Holy Spirit transformed the lives of the disciples in unforeseen ways to proclaim the good news of Jesus. We pray for the gift of the holy Spirit to transform us for that same purpose today.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the
gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath
of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Helping us to prepare for Archbishop Justin's visit are members of the College of Evangelists, whose members are passionate about transforming communities through speaking about Jesus. The Archbishop of Canterbury commissioned members of the college at a special service held at St John's Church, Waterloo on Tuesday 21 February 2023. "God is making himself known through you," said Archbishop Justin during his sermon, "be overwhelmed by that truth." God is making Jesus known through all of us. May we all be overwhelmed by that truth.

Prayer

Almighty God,
who called your Church to witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news
of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn
to you;
through him who was lifted up on
the cross,
and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Day 16 | Monday 29 May



Jesus said to the crowd, "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.' And he said, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!'

Mark 4.3-9



Day 17 | Tuesday 30 May

A major concern for God's world and everything he has made today is climate change which has already adversely affected the lives of many. As a diocese, we are working towards Net Zero and encouraging our churches and schools to fight climate injustice as a Gospel imperative and sign of the Kingdom.

Prayer

Creator God,
you have lavished us with the beauty and bounty of the world in which you have placed us.

Help us to care for it well

so that all may enjoy it as the 'very good' gift from you that it is.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis 1.31

Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.'

Luke 1.46-40



Day 18 | Wednesday 31 May [Visitation]

Today is the Feast of the Visitation, when we recall the visit of the pregnant Mary to her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth. While there, Mary first sang her Song which, some 2000 years later, we still sing every day at Evensong, the Magnificat. It describes how lives are transformed by encounter with Jesus.

Prayer

Mighty God,
by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced
with Mary
and greeted her as the mother of the
Lord:
look with favour on your lowly
servants
that, with Mary, we may magnify
your holy name
and rejoice to acclaim her Son our
Saviour.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

1 Corinthians 1.18-25



Day 19 | Thursday 1 June [Justin]

Today we remember Justin, martyr. In the second century, Justin became an outstanding apologist for the Christian faith and is honoured as the first Christian thinker to enter into serious dialogue with the other intellectual disciplines of his day. Justin always sought to reconcile the claims of faith and reason. It was at Rome in about the year 165 that he and some of his disciples were denounced as Christians and beheaded. We pray for Justin's namesake today on his mission to our diocese to transform lives with the message of the gospel.

Prayer

God our redeemer,
who through the folly of the cross
taught your martyr Justin
the surpassing knowledge of Jesus
Christ:
remove from us every kind of error
that we, like him, may be firmly
grounded in the faith,
and make your name known to all
peoples.

There are several prisons in our diocese: on Portland, outside Shaftesbury and in Wiltshire. Archbishop Justin will be visiting Erlestoke prison while he is with us in the diocese. We pray for victims of crime, for all prisoners, for those who care for them and for prison chaplains.

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have come so that we may
have life to the full;
listen to our prayers for all in
prison and their families.
Touched by your spirit,
may they find newness of heart
and be open to that new life that is
found only in you.
May they know care and receive
support from those around them.
May they find new purpose in
serving you in their brothers and
sisters.



Day 20 | Friday 2 June

Remember those who are in prison, as
though you were in prison with them.

Hebrews 13.3

Day 21 | Saturday 3 June



At the start of his ministry, Jesus went to the synagogue in his home town of Nazareth and set out the manifesto of his mission, a manifesto that we have adopted in this diocese. It is a challenging manifesto to transform lives. We pray for lives to be transformed today as we work to fulfil that manifesto today.

Prayer

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the
world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of
your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord..

In the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus said, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

Luke 4:18-19