

The Bishop of Lancaster
The Rt Revd Dr Jill Duff

To: All Clergy, Church Wardens, LLMs and Head Teachers

5th April 2023

Dear Friends,

Letter about prayer for our Nation and for our Diocese

This Holy Week we remember how key transition moments of earth-shattering significance were undergirded by time spent by Jesus in prayer, and marked by symbolism which has resonated for two millennia.

These next months include key transition moments in the life of our nation and our Diocese. This letter outlines two opportunities after Easter to undergird these in prayer. I have recorded a video message to summarise these. [Click here for it.](#)

Meanwhile, Bishop Philip has recorded a primary assembly about the symbolism undergirding the Coronation. The video isn't live yet but will go live the week before the Coronation [on this YouTube channel.](#)

Easter to Coronation (6 May)

As you will be aware, the Coronation of King Charles III will take place on Saturday 6th May. He has reached out to the Church of England, asking for our prayers and for help in promoting [The Big Help Out](#) and [The Big Lunch](#). For further details on both of these events and many more resources see our own [Diocesan website](#). This last page will be regularly updated with more information so keep checking back.

We would like to encourage as many people as possible to join in prayer. Details of how you can get hold of these Daily Prayers (digital or booklet) can be found [here](#) and [here](#). Resources for children, young people and families can be found [here](#).

Ascension to Pentecost (18-28 May)

Following the Coronation, between the period of Ascension (18 May) and Pentecost (28 May) we are invited to join in with Christians around the world, praying 24/7, for *Thy Kingdom Come*. We would love to encourage people to get involved in praying for people to come to faith.

There are a number of ways to do this:

- Make use of the [Thy Kingdom Come](#) resources. These include: a Novena; a Prayer Journal; Commissioning prayers; Cheeky Pandas materials for children and 23 ideas to encourage prayer. These resources can be found [here](#).
- Join with us in prayer at the start and end of *Thy Kingdom Come*, Thursday 18 May, 8-8.30am and Sunday 28 May, 8-8.30am. To get the zoom link to join us, please email beingwitnesses@blackburn.anglican.org We would love to pray for people involved in different spheres including: church; family; education; the economy; government; media; arts, sports; health and law.

In addition, at this key time of transition for our Diocese, with Bishop Philip's Confirmation of Election in York Minster as Bishop of Blackburn on 25th April and Installation in Blackburn Cathedral (date to be confirmed shortly), we would also like to cover this period in as much prayer as possible. In my video I speak about a story which has inspired me. In 1727, following spiritual renewal a small village community in Herrnhut, decided to pray 24-7 for mission for a weekend, simply by allocating one-hour slots amongst them.

This continued for 100 years and led to tremendous missionary energy which traced its roots to this community of Moravians. We don't propose 100 years. But it's worth starting somewhere. For the 10 days of *Thy Kingdom Come*, we would like to cover Lancashire with as much prayer as possible. There are also a number of churches hosting 24-7 prayer rooms (details to follow). Many of our healthcare chaplains are also covering our hospitals in prayer on Sunday 20th May. You may wish to set up a prayer corner in your school or church.

- You can also let us know when you are praying during *Thy Kingdom Come*. It will be an encouragement to know the names of groups, churches or schools that are joining together in prayer across Lancashire. A 24/7 prayer calendar for our diocese has been created by Joy Rushton, our Being Witnesses Manager. [Please use this link](#) and follow these steps:
 1. Choose your prayer slot by clicking on the calendar
 2. Click grey box entitled 'Proceed as guest'
 3. Enter the name of your church, school or prayer group
 4. Leave email address box blank
 5. Scroll down to the privacy policy and tick this box. Your details will be hidden from others except for you and the prayer room organiser (Being Witnesses Manager)
 6. Click red box 'Book as guest'
 7. Click red box 'Finish.'
- Let us know answers to prayer (beingwitnesses@blackburn.anglican.org)

Thank you for praying. Words cannot express thanks for all you do seen and unseen in your service of Jesus and the extending of His kingdom in Lancashire.

With many blessings this Holy Week,

+Jill Lancaster