

## Blackburn Prayers December 2020

Since March we have seen unprecedented events taking place in our country and around the world in response to the coronavirus outbreak. A regular update for parishes continues to be sent from Bishop Philip and the Coronavirus Task Group; those updates are also available on the main [coronavirus advice page](#) where you will also find other useful information and links onwards to further guidance.

In one of the earliest task group updates after lockdown Bishop Philip wrote that, above all, we must give ourselves at this time to the work of prayer. Several months on, prayer continues to be vital of course. That is why we are continuing to open with a special intention each day in Blackburn Prayers to help us to pray into the current crisis. Meanwhile, if you have not already subscribed to receive our Daily Prayers email into your inbox, please consider doing so. Simply [click the link here](#).

Bishop Julian's Bible verses continue, to meditate on and memorise each month as part of his ongoing 'Bishop's Bible Challenge' which is encouraging the spiritual discipline of learning Bible verses by heart. More information about the Bible Challenge [here](#). We also continue with Vision 2026 prayers reflecting the Vision key themes of Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Youth/Children and Schools. And we have prayers for National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston.

If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, please direct them to [karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org) in the first instance. For more about the parishes in this month's edition, click on the links taking you to either the parish website or its 'A Church Near You' site.

**Key: cw = churchwarden of vacant parish**

### Tuesday 1 December

Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916

Pray for churches, schools and chaplaincies who are seeking to make plans to keep Advent and Christmas. Pray that they may be bold in proclaiming the good news that God is with us and can set us free in the child of Bethlehem.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Romans 8.37-39**

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Vision 2026:** That many church members will be inspired by Bishop Julian's challenge to try learning Bible verses by heart, and that having God's Word stored in our hearts will equip us in our daily life.

**Diocese:** [Coppull](#) and [Coppull St John the Divine](#), Rev Matt Hornby; also in this benefice Coppull St John CofE Primary School, Coppull Parish CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The link between Blackburn Diocese and the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** The Bishop of the Free State, **Bishop Dintoe** and his family

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Seoul (Korea) The Rt Revd Peter Lee; Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada) The Rt Revd Geoffrey Peddle

## Wednesday 2 December

Pray for our nation as the national lockdown ends and we adjust to new restrictions and a new tiered system. Pray for those who are finding the regulations hard to understand, and those who are anxious about the impact on their jobs and businesses.

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39***

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Vision 2026:*** For our parishes in their work to support and develop confident Christian disciples.

***Diocese:*** [Croston, Bretherton and Mawdesley with Bispham](#), Rev Michael Woods, Rev Janet Taylor; also in this benefice Bishop Rawstone CofE Academy, Bretherton Endowed CofE VA Primary School, Croston Trinity and St Michael's VA CofE/Methodist Primary School, Mawdesley St Peter's CofE Primary School

***Braunschweig:*** Growth in links between Blackburn Cathedral and the Braunschweiger Dom

***Free State:*** The Cathedral Church of St Michael and St Andrew and its Dean, **the Very Rev Lazarus Mohapi**

***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** Seychelles (Indian Ocean) The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song (Primate); Eastern Oregon (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Patrick Bell

## Thursday 3 December

Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552

Pray for all who work in our hospitals. Those on the frontline, nurses, doctors, healthcare chaplains and allied health professionals and those who work behind the scenes to support their work, from the domestic and catering staff to laboratory workers, administrators and security staff. Pray that they would have courage and strength as they work, as well as empathy and compassion in all they do.

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39***

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Vision 2026:*** For Carolyn Barton, our Vision Coordinator as she continues to get to know the parishes and seeks to support them in implementing Vision 2026

***Diocese:*** [Eccleston St Mary the Virgin](#) and [Charnock Richard Christ Church](#), Rev Andrew Brown; also in this Benefice Eccleston St Mary's CofE Primary School, Charnock Richard Christ Church CofE Primary School

***Braunschweig:*** The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Poulton, Carleton and Singleton and Flöthe

***Free State:*** The Bishop's Council

***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** Sheffield (England) The Rt Revd Pete Wilcox; Eastern Zambia (Central Africa) The Rt Revd William Mchombo; Easton (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Santosh Marray

## Friday 4 December

John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749;

Nicholas Ferrar, deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Pray for key workers who help to keep day to day life running; all who work tirelessly to deliver post, food, medicines and other vital supplies to our communities.

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** Pray for the Whalley Abbey Steering group as they work towards reopening the Abbey as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer in the Autumn of 2021

**Diocese:** [Euxton](#), Rev Jo Smith; also in this Benefice Euxton CofE VA Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The link between the Lancaster City Parishes and the Goslar City Parishes

**Free State:** For greater financial responsibility

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Shinyanga (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Johnson Chinyong'ole; Eau Claire (The Episcopal Church) The Revd William Jay Lambert

## Saturday 5 December

Pray for students and for our universities. Pray especially for those returning home for Christmas: that this movement of people may be managed safely and without a spike in infections.

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** Deepening prayer life.

**Diocese:** [Heapey St Barnabas](#) and [Withnell St Paul](#), Rev Alan Hogarth, Rev Gary Bullock; also in this Benefice Brinscall St John's CofE/Methodist Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The link between St Luke, Brierfield and Delligsen.

**Free State:** For Mosamaria Aids Ministry

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Gasabo (Rwanda) The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda (Primate); Edinburgh (Scotland) The Rt Revd John Armes

## Sunday 6 December Second Sunday of Advent

Pray for all who exercise lay leadership in the local church and for those who seek to witness to their faith in the workplace. Give thanks for those who have discovered new opportunities for service in the pandemic.

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** That people in our churches may have been encouraged, during the three weeks of our recent Call to Pray and Give initiative, to set aside their gift to bring to church today; the first Sunday after the end of the latest lockdown. We give thanks for all gifts offered at this time.

**Diocese:** [Shevington St Anne](#), Rev Andrew Brown, Rev Jenny Brown; also in this Benefice Standish Lower Ground St Anne's CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The parish link between St Mary's Clitheroe and Schandelah and Gardessen

**Free State:** For the link between our two Dioceses

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury); The Rt Revd Carlos López-Lozano - Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Caitlin Carmichael-Davis, instituted as Vicar of Lancaster St Chad Skerton and Lancaster St Luke Skerton

Rev Paul Hunte, instituted as Vicar of Copp St Anne with Inskip St Peter

## Monday 7 December

Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397

Pray for all those who live and work in care homes or sheltered housing complexes; that those who work to care for the residents would have compassion and wisdom as they work and that all may be kept safe.

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Blackpool Ministry Experience:** Pray that God will whisper to the BME participants through the busyness of the season about His love and grace as they bring other people along in their faith journey.

**Vision 2026:** For those who offer the ministry of spiritual direction, and for those looking for a new spiritual director or companion.

**Diocese:** [Standish St Wilfrid](#), Rev Canon Andrew Holliday, Rev Rebecca Feeney, Rev Catherine Gabriel; also in this Benefice Standish St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The parish link between Euxton and Wolfenbüttel (Church of Reconciliation/St James/Gross Stöckheim)

**Free State:** For the President of the Republic of South Africa

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Shyira (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Samuel M Mugisha; Edmonton (Canada) Vacant

**Meeting:** Bishop's Leadership Team

## Tuesday 8 December

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pray for all schools across the Diocese, their head teachers, teaching staff and support staff. Give thanks for all the staff working with the Diocesan Board of Education. Continue to bless and inspire them as they provide resources for schools and parishes.

### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** For men, women and children across Lancashire to hear the gospel in their own language.

**Diocese:** [Whittle-le-Woods St John Evangelist](#), Rev Philip Venables, Rev Paul Davies; also in this Benefice Clayton-le-Woods CofE Primary School, Whittle-le-Woods CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Warton and Timmerlah

**Free State:** For the urban poor in the townships

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Shyogwe (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Jered Kalimba; Egba (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Adekunle; Lafia (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Godwin A Robinson

**Meeting:** Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

## Wednesday 9 December

Ember Day

Give thanks and pray for all research and laboratory staff as they process essential tests and develop new tests. Give them resilience as they strive to understand more about the virus. Inspire their thinking around new ways of approaching the virus.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** For plentiful workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire.

**Diocese:** Wroughtington Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust, Rev Caroline Tracey, Rev Michele Ryan

**Braunschweig:** For new parish links to be built and old ones renewed

**Free State:** For Fr Joshua Skee, the Free State Link Officer

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Sialkot (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Alwin John Samuel (Diocesan Bishop); Egba West (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Dr Samuel Oludele Ogundeji

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Sheelagh Aston, instituted as Vicar of Blackburn St Silas

## Thursday 10 December

Pray for all those responsible for developing and testing vaccines that will protect us from Covid-19. Pray for those with the huge task of organising vaccination programmes in our own and other nations.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Romans 8.37-39**

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**Vision 2026:** For a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

**Diocese:** [Wroughtington with Heskin St James the Great](#), Rev Stefan Dnistrianskyj; also in this Benefice Heskin Pemberton's CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links in the area of Social Responsibility

**Free State:** For those engaged with the Church Schools in Welkom and Bloemfontein

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Singapore (South East Asia) The Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung; Egba (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Geoffrey Okoroafor; Egypt (Jerusalem and Middle East) The Rt Revd Mouneer Hanna Anis (Diocesan Bishop); nb. The Diocese of Egypt is expected to have become the Province of Alexandria by this time

## Friday 11 December

Ember Day

Pray for public health professionals and all in positions of influence that they would have wisdom and compassion as they analyse statistics and research. Pray that they would seek the common good in all complex and difficult decisions they need to make at this time.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** For it to become normal for every parish to be planting congregations and churches to fulfil the Anglican ambition to be a "Christian presence in every community" across Lancashire.

**Diocese:** [Garstang Deanery Officers](#), Rev Andrew Wilkinson, Rev Stephen Cooper, Mr Douglas Willoughby, Mrs Susan Willoughby, Mrs Jean Matthew

**Braunschweig:** The theological discussions between our two Dioceses

**Free State:** For the Parish Clergy, the Self-Supporting ministers and Lay Ministers

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Sittwe (Myanmar) The Rt Revd James Min Dein; Eha - Amufu (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Daniel Olinya

**Meeting:** Diocesan Advisory Committee



**Saturday 12 December**  
Ember Day

Pray for those who work in food production, food processing or distribution. Give thanks for those running and supporting food banks enabling those who are the most vulnerable to have enough to eat each day.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** For our church communities to enable people to encounter the love of Jesus in word and in action.

**Diocese:** [Copp St Anne](#) and [Inskip St Peter](#), Rev Paul Hunter; also in this Benefice Great Eccleston Copp CofE Primary School, Inskip St Peter's CofE VA School

**Braunschweig:** All who are involved in the next Kirchentag.

**Free State:** For the work of the Mothers' Union

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Ekiti (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Dr Christopher Tayo Omotunde; Ekiti Kwara (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Andrew Ajayi; Ekiti Oke (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Isaac Olubowale; Ekiti West (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Rufus V A Adepoju

**Sunday 13 December**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Give thanks for those who through their talents inspire our worship through writing, music, visual and performing arts. Pray for energy and imagination for those who are maintaining worship, live or online, during the pandemic

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** For all future baptism and confirmation candidates to be fired up to be beacons of faith in their schools, workplaces and communities.

**Diocese:** [Fellside Team Ministry](#), Rev Stephen Cooper, Rev Garry Whittaker, Rev Dr Susan Salt; also in this Benefice Barton St Lawrence CofE Primary School, Bilsborrow John Cross CofE Primary School, Goosnargh Oliversons CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** The work of the Meissen Commission, working for full and visible unity between our two churches

**Free State:** For the St Agnes Guild

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury); The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton - Bishop to the Forces and Bishop to the Falkland Islands

**Monday 14 December**  
John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

Pray for those responsible for the Test and Trace programme in this country and for those doing similar work in other parts of the world. Strengthen them to address problems and help them to play to the full their part in bringing us through the crisis.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Blackpool Centre of Mission:** Pray for the Advent and Christmas programme that the Gospel will be proclaimed: Specifically Carol Services in the community, School and Walking Nativity

**Diocese:** [Garstang St Helen \(Churchtown\)](#) and [St Michael's-on-Wyre](#), Rev Andrew Wilkinson; also in this Benefice Kirkland and Catterall St Helen's CofE VA Primary School, St Michael's-on-Wyre CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** All involved in the work for the Foundation of Ecumenical Learning, including those serving in Blackpool

**Free State:** For the Guild of St Bernard Mizeki

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Sodor and Man (England) The Rt Revd Peter Eagles; El Camino Real (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Mary Gray-Reeves

## Tuesday 15 December

Give thanks for those who stand up for justice in our communities; pray for all those who serve our communities, from the police, those who collect the bins and keep public transport running, to those elected to serve on our local and county councils.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Give thanks for all who exercise leadership in our Diocese, for clergy and lay leaders. Pray that they may have the faithfulness, the wisdom and the joy that they will need to lead churches that transform their local communities in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Diocese:** [Garstang St Thomas](#), Rev John Griffiths; also in this Benefice St Thomas' CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between University Chaplaincies in our two Dioceses; Growth in school partnerships between our two Dioceses

**Free State:** For the judiciary based in Bloemfontein

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Sokoto (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Augustine Omole; El Salvador (Central America) The Rt Revd Juan David Alvarado Melgar

## Wednesday 16 December

Pray for families who are struggling to make ends meet, for people who have lost jobs and for those who do not know how they will feed their children. Pray for a spirit of generosity and compassion in our nation.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Pray that all might hear God's call in their life and be ready to respond with faithful obedience. Pray that all Christians may feel equipped to live out their faith in the family, the workplace and in their local communities.

**Diocese:** Over Wyre ([Pilling St John](#), [Stalmine St James](#), [Hambleton The Blessed Virgin Mary](#), [Out Rawcliffe St John](#), [Preesall St Oswald](#)), Rev Andy Shaw, Rev Naomi Barraclough; also in this Benefice Pilling St John's CofE Primary School, Preesall Fleetwood's Charity CofE Primary School, Preesall St Aidan's CofE High School

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between youth workers in our two Dioceses

**Free State:** For the Archbishop of the Province of Southern Africa

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** South Ankole (Uganda) The Rt Revd Nathan Ahimbisibwe; Eldoret (Kenya) The Rt Revd Christopher Ruto

## Thursday 17 December

### O Sapientia

Eglantyne Jebb, social reformer,  
founder of 'Save the Children', 1928

Pray for people who will be alone this Christmas and for those who are isolated from family and friends. Pray for those churches who are seeking to reach out and serve those who are lonely.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for more lay leaders in our congregations.

**Diocese:** [Scorton and Barnacre and Calder Vale](#), Rev Anton Muller; also in this Benefice Calder Vale St John CofE Primary School, Scorton CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** All working in church kindergartens

**Free State:** For Chaplains

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** South Dakota (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Tarrant; El-Obeid (Sudan) The Rt Revd Ismail Gabriel Abudigin

## Friday 18 December

Pray for Christian healthcare workers, for chaplains and for all who seek to live out the Gospel in the healthcare profession.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for more vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life, especially for vocations amongst young adults.

**Diocese:** [Woodplumpton St Anne](#), Vacant, Mr John Hartley (cw), Mrs Joyce Lownsborough (cw), Mrs Victoria Milsop (cw)

**Braunschweig:** All preparing for confirmation in the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** For all victims of crime

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** South Kerala (South India) The Rt Revd Dharmaraj Rasalam (Primate); Ely (England) The Rt Revd Stephen David Conway; Embu (Kenya) The Rt Revd David Muriithi Ileri

## Saturday 19 December

Pray for national government, the cabinet and civil servants that they would make wise and compassionate decisions that protect the most vulnerable and build up our common life.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for all whose leadership is hidden or unacknowledged and for those who are yet to discover the gifts that the Holy Spirit has given them.

**Diocese:** [Kirkham Deanery Officers](#), Rev David Lyon, Rev Chris Scargill, Dr Peter Roberts

**Braunschweig:** All who teach RE in state schools within the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** For those engaged in youth work across the Free State

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** South Rwenzori (Uganda) The Rt Revd Jackson Nzerebende; Enugu (Nigeria) The Most Revd Dr Emmanuel Chukwuma; Enugu North (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Sosthenes Eze

## Sunday 20 December Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pray for those without a permanent home, those living on the streets, sofa surfing or relying on hostels for a bed each night that they would find places where they could receive the support they need.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 1 Peter 3.15**

But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for lay and ordained leaders who are struggling, for those who have lost the joy of ministry or who feel despondent or overwhelmed by the challenges that face them. Pray that they draw strength from a deeper awareness of the power of God in their lives.

**Diocese:** [Ansdell and Fairhaven St Paul](#), Rev Paul Bye, Rev Kyle Mulholland

**Braunschweig:** For new links between our secondary schools

**Free State:** For our linked parishes

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world.

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Rie Walker, instituted as Vicar of Ingol St Margaret



## Monday 21 December

Pray for the economy of our nation and our communities and for the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his team. Pray for all those whose businesses are in decline, those who are grappling with new ways of working and those who have lost or fear losing their livelihoods because of the pandemic.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**M:Power:** Pray for the tutors and mentors who give up their time to teach and support students on the M:Power programme. We thank god for all they give to the M:Power programme alongside their other roles.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for all charged with the responsibility of discerning vocation in others in the local church and across the Diocese. Pray for our Director of Vocations, Nick McKee, our Vocations Team, our Assistant Directors of Ordinands and our Examining Chaplains.

**Diocese:** [Freckleton Holy Trinity](#) and [Warton St Paul](#), Rev Jane Greenhalgh; also in this Benefice Freckleton CofE Primary School, Bryning with Warton St Paul's CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** All who work at Braunschweig Theological Centre

**Free State:** For **Canon John Hall**, Commissary to the Bishop of the Free State

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** South West Tanganyika (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Matthew Mhagama; Esan (Nigeria) The Most Revd Friday Imaekhai

**Meeting:** Bishop's Appointments Team

## Tuesday 22 December

Pray for all who live in fear of death and all who are gripped by anxiety or despair. Pray for those who are living with grief following the loss of a loved one, especially those who have lost a family member with Covid.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For parents that they have confidence and are equipped to raise children who have a living relationship with God.

**Diocese:** HMP Kirkham, Rev Fiona Haines

**Braunschweig:** All training for ministry at Braunschweig Theological Centre

**Free State:** For the Blackburn Link Committee

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Etche (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Precious Nwala; Etsako (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jacob Bada

## Wednesday 23 December

Pray for families and for family life as many families begin to gather for Christmas. Pray for families who, for whatever reason, will be apart from each other this Christmas. Pray for those who have no families or whose family life is joyless.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For children and young people that they are able to identify their gifts and recognise God's calling on their lives, allowing them to passionately serve and lead others.

**Diocese:** [Kirkham St Michael](#), Vacant, Mr Anthony Kay (cw), Mr Michael O'Brien (cw); also in this Benefice St Michael's CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Chair of the Braunschweig Link Committee in Blackburn Diocese

**Free State:** For the Cathedral Staff and members of the Diocesan Office

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Evo (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Innocent Ordu; Exeter (England) The Rt Revd Robert Atwell

**Thursday 24 December  
Christmas Eve**

On Christmas Eve, pray for churches who are holding events and carol-services in person or online, that hearts may be touched with the news of the Incarnation. Pray especially for preachers.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For young people's faith, rooted in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured, disciplined and shared within their communities.

**Diocese:** [Lund St John the Evangelist](#), Vacant, Mrs Rosemary Cartwright (cw); also in this Benefice Newton Bluecoat CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Ralph Ohainski, Chair of the Blackburn Link Committee in Braunschweig

**Free State:** For the Fellowship of Vocation

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Ezo (South Sudan) The Rt Revd John Kereboro Zawo; Faisalabad (Pakistan) The Rt Revd John Samuel; Falkland Islands (Parish of Falkland Islands) The Rt Revd Timothy Thornton (Diocesan Bishop)

**Friday 25 December  
Christmas Day**

On Christmas Day, pray that all might come to know the peace and joy that can be found in the child of Bethlehem. Pray for Christians throughout the world as, even in Christmas, we celebrate the news that God is with us.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For the Youth Provision Development Team's engagement with churches across the Diocese to empower, instil confidence and enable growth in leaders and youth ministries.

**Diocese:** Lytham St Annes Clifton Hospital, Rev Clive Lord

**Braunschweig:** All who work in the RE-Institute (ARPM) at Wolfenbüttel

**Free State:** For the Anglican Women's Fellowship

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and the People of Bethlehem

**Saturday 26 December  
Stephen, deacon, first martyr**

On the Feast of St Stephen, pray for all those who are demonstrating courage and boldness in standing up for their faith. Pray especially for all ministering to those suffering as a result of Covid-19.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** Pray for all schools and academies to be beacons of faith in their communities.

**Diocese:** [Lytham St Cuthbert](#), Rev Canon Nicholas Wells, Rev Adam Thomas

**Braunschweig:** All involved in the Synod of the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

**Free State:** For all Archdeacons and their respective Archdeaconries

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Fianarantsoa (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd Gilbert Ratelason Rakotondravelo; Florida (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd John Howard; False Bay (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Margaret Brenda Vertue

**Sunday 27 December  
First Sunday of Christmas  
John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Pray for all parish clergy and those who hold office within each parish, especially those who are tired and weary and those struggling to have a break or time away this Christmas.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** Pray for all schools and academies to encourage and equip pupils to be courageous advocates for the Gospel, fighting injustice locally and globally.

**Diocese:** [Lytham St John the Divine](#), Rev Canon Nicholas Wells, Miss Joanne Hutchinson; also in this Benefice Lytham CofE VA Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Bishop Christoph and all who work in the Landeskirchenamt (Diocesan Offices) at Wolfenbüttel

**Free State:** For all school Chaplains

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement; His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches

## Monday 28 December The Holy Innocents

Pray for all prisoners, prison officers, prison chaplains, governors and support staff. Pray too for the criminal justice system, magistrates and judges as they continue to administer justice in these challenging times.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Preston Resourcing Parish:** "Come to me... and I will give you rest" We are in a very poor parish – people are burdened and heavy laden. Pray that people will find Jesus and find rest in the Preston Resourcing Parish this Christmas.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for our chaplains in schools and universities, that they may be a Christian presence in education, witnessing to the transforming effect of Jesus on people's lives and encouraging the exploration of the Gospel

**Diocese:** [Ribby cum Wrea St Nicholas](#) and [Weeton St Michael](#), Rev Philip Chew; also in this Benefice Ribby cum Wrea Endowed CofE Primary School, Weeton St Michael's CofE VA Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Deputy Bishop Thomas Hofer

**Free State:** For all involved in Ordination training

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Fond du Lac (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Matthew Alan Gunter; Fort Worth (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Scott Mayer

## Tuesday 29 December John, Apostle and Evangelist Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170

On the Feast of St Thomas Becket, pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury as he leads the church through times of unprecedented challenge. Pray that he may know deep in his heart the peace and joy that the Christ-child brings.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For the teams giving support to parishes through finance, safeguarding, communications, legal and governance, as they share their knowledge and skills for the benefit of mission.

**Diocese:** [St Annes on Sea St Anne \(Heyhouses\)](#), Rev David Lyon; also in this Benefice Heyhouses Endowed CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between the Education Departments in our two Dioceses

**Free State:** For Bishop Tom and Bishop Paddy, former Bishops of the Diocese.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Fredericton (Canada) The Rt Revd David Edwards; Freetown (Sierra Leone) (West Africa) The Rt Revd Thomas Arnold Ikunika Wilson

## Wednesday 30 December

Pray for those who are suffering long-term with the impact of Covid-19 and for those with long Covid. Pray for all researching the long-term impacts of the illness.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For the support provided to clergy and their families to have suitable homes from which to be leaders in mission.

**Diocese:** [St Annes on Sea St Margaret of Antioch](#), Rev Tony Hodgson

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between parishes and Dioceses in England and Germany

**Free State:** For all engaged in national and local politics

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Gahini (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Alexis Bilindabagabo; Gambia (West Africa) The Rt Revd James Allen Yaw Odico

## Thursday 31 December John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

On the last day of 2020, pray for our nation as a new year begins. Pray that, as we look to emerge from this crisis, we may seek to renew our common life through caring for the planet, meeting the needs of the poor and finding new ways to live together in harmony.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17**

And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

**Vision 2026:** For the whole community in Clayton House, the Diocesan offices, who through their varied ministries support the work of all the churches and church schools in the Diocese of Blackburn

**Diocese:** [St Annes on Sea St Thomas](#), Rev Chris Scargill; also in this Benefice St Thomas' CofE Primary School

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between parishes and Dioceses in England and Germany

**Free State:** For all engaged in national and local politics

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Gasabo (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Onesphore Rwaje; Gboko (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Emmanuel Nyitsse; George (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Brian Marajh; Georgia (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Scott Benhase

