

Blackburn Prayers May 2020

Since March we have seen unprecedented events taking place in our country and around the world in response to the coronavirus outbreak. A Daily Update for parishes is being sent from Bishop Philip and the coronavirus task group; they are also available each day on the main [coronavirus advice page](#). Bishop Philip wrote in one of those Daily Update that, above all, we must give ourselves at this time to the work of prayer. That is why you will notice we have introduced a special intention each day in Blackburn Prayers to help us to pray into the current crisis. Meanwhile, if you have not subscribed to receive our Daily Prayers email into your inbox, now may be the time to do so. Simply [click the link here](#).

We also continue to share Bishop Julian's Bible verses to meditate on and memorise each month as part of his 'Bishop's Bible Challenge' to encourage the spiritual discipline of learning Bible verses by heart. More information about the Bible Challenge [here](#). We also continue with Vision 2026 prayers reflecting Making Disciples, Being Witnesses, Growing Leaders and Youth/Children and Schools and prayers for our 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. For more about parishes in this month's edition, click on the links taking you to either their own website or their A Church Near You site.

Key: cw = churchwarden of vacant parish

Friday 1 May
Philip and James, Apostles

During the coronavirus we pray for all laboratory and research staff as they process essential tests and develop new tests. Give them resilience as they strive to get ahead of the pandemic and inspire their thinking around new ways of approaching the virus.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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: [Blackpool St Paul North Shore and Greenlands St Anne](#), Rev Deborah Prest

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: Mthatha (formerly St John's) (Southern Africa) The Rt Rev Hummingfield Ndwandwe

Yei (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Hilary Adeba Luete

Meeting: Audit/Risk/Governance Committee

Saturday 2 May

Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373

During the coronavirus we pray for all community workers in health and social care as they care for and support vulnerable people in our communities. Pray for their safety and that they would have compassion and wisdom as they work.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For Ruth Hassall, our Director of Discipleship, as she continues getting to know the parishes; supporting them in developing confident Christian disciples

Diocese: [Blackpool St Stephen on the Cliffs](#), Rev Canon Andrew Sage

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: Muhabura (Uganda) The Rt Rev Cranmer Mugisha Yeri (South Sudan) The Rt Rev John Abraham Nyari

Ijumu (Nigeria) The Ven Paul Olarewaju Ojo

Meeting: Bishop's Council and Directors

Sunday 3 May

Fourth Sunday of Easter

During the coronavirus we pray for all schools across the Diocese, their headteachers, teaching staff, support staff and those who work to keep the school running.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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: [Blackpool St Thomas](#), Rev David O'Brien

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

Free State: The Bishop's Council

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan)

The Most Rev Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu - Primate of The Nippon Sei Ko Kai and Bishop of Hokkaido

Monday 4 May

English saints and martyrs of the Reformation Era

During the coronavirus we pray for all hospital nurses, doctors and allied health professionals working to care for the most unwell, that they would have courage and strength as they work, empathy and compassion in all they do.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For Whalley Abbey as it becomes a Centre for Christian Discipleship, and for God to call into being a small community of prayer, resident and dispersed, praying for the Abbey and the Diocese.

Diocese: [Blackpool Trinity the Hospice in the Fylde](#), Rev Paul Berry

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

Free State: For greater financial responsibility

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Mukono (Uganda) The Rt Rev James William Ssebagala

Yewa (form. Egbado) (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi

Ikara (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Yusuf Janfalan

Tuesday 5 May

During the coronavirus we pray for public health professionals that they would have wisdom and compassion, seeking the common good in all complex and difficult decisions they need to make at this time.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For a deepening of the prayer life of our churches, and for those planning Pathways to Prayer events around the Diocese this year.

Diocese: [Layton St Mark and Staining St Luke](#), Rev Peter Lillicrap; also in this Benefice Staining CofE Primary School

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

Free State: For Mosamaria Aids Ministry

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Multan (Pakistan) The Rt Rev Leo Rodrick Paul

Yirol (South Sudan) The Rt Rev David Roch Angong

Nyang (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Paul Tokmach Luar

Aluakluak (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Isaac Nyaryiel Aleth

Ikeduru (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Emmanuel Maduwike

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team

Wednesday 6 May

During the coronavirus we pray for those who are being asked to self-isolate or to shield themselves; that they would sense the care of their community around them and sense God's peace in the middle of the uncertainty.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Vision 2026: For churches using the Generosity, Gift and Grace course, that many will catch a fresh vision of how generous giving to their local church can impact their community for Christ.

Diocese: [Marton St Paul](#), Rev Lesley Atkins; also in this Benefice Blackpool Baines Endowed Primary Academy and Children Centre,

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: Mumbai (Formerly Bombay) (North India) The Rt Rev Prakash Patole

Yokohama (Japan) The Rev Ignatius Osamu Irie

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team

Thursday 7 May

During the coronavirus we pray for all who have a role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene, from hospital cleaners, to those who clean our streets, from those who manage our household waste to those who manage the waste from hospitals. That they would feel valued in the vital work they do and be able to work safely and diligently.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Blackpool Ministry Experience: Pray for the ongoing recruitment process for the next intake of the Blackpool Ministry Experience to be starting in September 2020.

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

Diocese: [Mereside St Wilfrid](#), Rev Linda Tomkinson; Blackpool St George's CofE Academy

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: Mumias (Kenya) The Rt Rev Joseph Wandera

Yola (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Markus Ibrahim

York (England) The Most Rev and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu

Friday 8 May

Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c.1417

During the coronavirus we pray for all those individuals who are ill, that they would be kept safe, sense God's love surrounding them and recover speedily.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Diocese: [Burnley Deanery Officers](#), Rev Patrick Senior, Mrs Patricia Chadwick, Mrs Carol Waddington

Braunschweig: The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Warton and Timmerlah

Free State: For the urban poor in the townships

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Mundri (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Bismark Monday Avokaya Azumu

Ysabel (Melanesia) The Rev Ellison Quity

Saturday 9 May

During the coronavirus we pray for relatives and friends of those who are ill, that they would sense that peace that passes all understanding in the midst of the turmoil of worry and self-isolation.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Diocese: [Briercliffe St James](#), Rev Paul Payton, Mr Alec Oldham (cw); also in this Benefice Burnley St James Lanehead CofE Primary School

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Mundu Area (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Samuel Lomue Eluzai

Yukon (Canada) The Rt Rev Larry David Robertson

Ikka (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Godfrey Ekpenisi

Sunday 10 May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

During the coronavirus we pray for those grieving the death of a loved one, that they would find the support they need.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 9.7

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

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

Diocese: [Burnley St Andrew with St Margaret and Burnley St James](#) and [Burnley St Mark](#), Rev Paul Benfield, Rev Timothy Kaye, Bishop Philip North

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: Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya

The Most Rev Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya

Monday 11 May

During the coronavirus we pray for local councils and local councillors that they would have the resources and the wisdom to work in ways that build up and support their local communities.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Burnley St Catherine with St Alban and St Paul](#), Rev Roger Parker

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: Muranga South (Kenya) The Rt Rev Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru

Zaki-Biam (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Jezreel Vandeh

Ikwerre (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Blessing Enyindah

Tuesday 12 May

Gregory Dix, priest, monk, scholar, 1952

During the coronavirus we pray for the nation, that we would have a real sense of hope and deepening sense of God as our refuge and stronghold.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Burnley St Cuthbert](#) (in plurality with) [Brierfield St Luke](#), Rev Dr Stephen Adesanya, Rev Stephen Large

Braunschweig: All who are involved in the next Kirchentag in Dortmund 2019

Free State: For the work of the Mothers' Union

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Muyinga (Burundi) The Rt Rev Paisible Ndacayisaba

Zanzibar (Tanzania) The Rt Rev Michael Hafidh

Ikwo (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Kenneth Ifemene

Meeting: Bishop's Budget Team

Wednesday 13 May

During the coronavirus we pray for those who work in food production, food processing or distribution and for all who work in supermarkets and in other food outlets; for safety and protection.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Burnley St Matthew the Apostle \(Habergham Eaves\) with Holy Trinity](#), Rev Alex Frost, Rev Kat Gregory-Witham; also in this Benefice Burnley Holy Trinity 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: Zaria (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Abiodun Ogunyemi Saliu Bello

Thursday 14 May
Matthias the Apostle

During the coronavirus we pray for Bishops Julian, Philip and Jill and Archdeacons Mark and David as they lead the Diocese and support the parishes through this time.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Blackpool Centre of Mission: Pray for Blackpool Deanery as the Centre of Mission partners in developing the Deanery Mission Action Plan. Pray for good relationships across the Deanery particularly in encouraging Vision Champions. Pray for development of outreach and opportunities into new ways to serve the Fylde coast community.

Vision 2025: For God to raise up intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

Diocese: [Burnley St Peter](#) and [St Stephen](#), Rev Patrick Senior; also in this Benefice Burnley St Peter's CofE Primary School and Burnley St Stephen's CofE VA 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: Mytikyina (Myanmar) The Rt Rev John Zau Li Zonkwa (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Jacob Kwashi Zululand (Southern Africa) Vacant

Meeting: Investment Committee

Friday 15 May

During the coronavirus we pray for all those whose businesses have been shut down and those who have lost, or fear losing, their livelihoods because of the pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Burnley West All Saints with St John Baptist](#), Rev Charlie Hill; also in this Benefice Wellfield Methodist and Anglican Church 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: Nagpur (North India) The Rt Rev Paul Dupare Aba (Nigeria) Vacant

Meeting: Diocesan Advisory Committee

Saturday 16 May
Caroline Chisholme, social reformer, 1877

During the coronavirus we pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Holme in Cliviger St John the Divine](#) with [Worsthorne St John Evangelist](#), Rev Chris Casey; also in this Benefice Cliviger St John's CofE Primary 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: Nairobi (Kenya) The Rt Rev Joel Waweru Mwangi Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Nathan Kanu Ikwuano (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Chigozirim Onyegbule

Sunday 17 May
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Pray for national government and the cabinet; for civil servants working at a national level and those on the local frontline, that they would face the current pandemic with courage, make wise and compassionate decisions that protect the most vulnerable.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Padiham with Hapton and Padiham Green](#), Rev Canon Mark Jones, Rev Kit Walker; also in this Benefice Hapton CofE Methodist School, Padiham Green CofE Primary School, Padiham St Leonard's VA CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: All working in church kindergartens

Free State: For Chaplains

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of Korea
The Most Rev Moses Nagjun Yoo - Primate of Korea and Bishop of Daejeon

Monday 18 May
Rogation Day

During the coronavirus we pray for your community, that it might be a place of trust and friendship at this time.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

Diocese: [Chorley Deanery Officers](#), Rev David Arnold, Rev Canon Andrew Holliday, Mr Andrew Stokes, Mr Peter Mason

Braunschweig: All preparing for confirmation in the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

Free State: For all victims of crime

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nakuru (Kenya) The Rt Rev Joseph Muchai
Abakaliki (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Monday Nkwoagu
Ilaje (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Fredrick Olugbemi

Tuesday 19 May
Rogation Day;
Dunstan, archbishop,
monastic reformer, 988

During the coronavirus we pray for all care homes, the residents and staff, that they may sense God's love and care for them in the midst of self-imposed isolation.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Adlington St Paul](#), Rev David Arnold; also in this Benefice Adlington St Paul's CofE Primary School

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: Nambale (Kenya) The Rt Rev Robert Magina
Barasa

Aberdeen and Orkney (Scotland) The Rt Rev Anne Dyer

Ile - Oluji (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Abel Oluyemi Ajibodu

Meeting: Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Wednesday 20 May
Rogation Day;
Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804

During the coronavirus we pray for foodbanks and all those groups and individuals who will be providing food for someone today.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - John 3.16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

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: [Appley Bridge](#) and [Parbold](#), Rev Sue Timmins; Appley Bridge All Saints CofE Primary School, Parbold Douglas CofE Academy

Braunschweig: For new links between our secondary schools

Free State: For our linked parishes

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Namibia (Southern Africa) The Rt Rev Luke Pato Abuja (Nigeria) The Most Rev Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba (Primate)

Meeting: Bishop's Appointment Team

Thursday 21 May
Ascension Day

During the coronavirus we pray for all the young people who are unable to meet together at church, as part of uniformed organisations, youth groups or other groups.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

M:Power: Pray for the plans to expand M:Power onto the Fylde Coast, that participants, tutors and mentors can be found. Pray for this year's students as they come to the end of their course and look at their ministries in their churches.

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: [Brindle St James](#), Rev David Ward; also in the Benefice Brindle St James CofE VA 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: Namirembe (Uganda) The Rt Rev Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira

Abyei (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Michael Deng K Bol

Accra (West Africa) The Rt Rev Daniel Sylvanus Mensah Torto

Friday 22 May

During the coronavirus we pray for those who are struggling with their mental health as result of the pandemic that they would find a sense of peace and affirmation.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

Diocese: [Chorley All Saints](#), Rev Edmund Straszak; also in this Benefice Chorley All Saints CofE Primary School and Nursery Unit

Braunschweig: All training for ministry at Braunschweig Theological Centre

Free State: For the Blackburn Link Committee

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nandyal (South India) The Rt Rev Eggoni Pushpalalitha

Adelaide (Australia) The Most Rev Geoffrey Martyn Smith

Saturday 23 May

During the coronavirus we pray for those who feel their lives are on hold that they may retain a sense of hope.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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: [Chorley St George](#), Rev Mike Print; also in this Benefice Chorley St George 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: Nasik (North India) Vacant

Afikpo (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Paul Udogu

Ilesa (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Samuel Olubayu Sowale

Ilesa South West (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Samuel Egbebumi

Sunday 24 May
Seventh Sunday of
Easter;
Sunday after Ascension
Day

During the coronavirus we pray for the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the central governance structures of the church that they would have wisdom in their decision-making and strive in all they do to enable and empower all people of faith.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

Diocese: [Chorley St James](#), Rev David Phillips; also in this Benefice Chorley St James 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: Pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world

For the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Justin Welby, and all primates and bishops

For members of the Anglican Consultative Council

For the Secretary General, The Most Rev Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon,

For the staff at the Anglican Communion Office in London and the UN offices in Geneva and New York

Monday 25 May
The Venerable Bede, monk,
scholar, historian, 735;
Adhelm, bishop, 709

During the coronavirus we pray for our Cathedral in Blackburn; for The Dean, Chapter and Canons and its ministry to the Diocese as the mother church.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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: [Chorley St Laurence](#), Rev Neil Kelley, Rev Mo Baldwin; also in this Benefice Chorley St Michael's CofE High School, Chorley St Laurence CofE Primary School

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

Free State: For the Anglican Women's Fellowship

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Nasir (South Sudan) The Rt Rev Simon Lual Bang Jal

Agra (North India) The Rt Rev Prem Prakash Habil

Indianapolis (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Rev Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

Tuesday 26 May

Augustine, archbishop, 605;
John Calvin, reformer, 1564;
Philp Neri, founder of the
Oratorians, spiritual guide,
1595

During the coronavirus we pray for those without a permanent home at this time; those who are living on the streets, sofa surfing or relying on hostels for a bed each night.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

Diocese: [Chorley St Peter](#), Rev Peter Smith; also in this Benefice Chorley St Peter's CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: All involved in the Synod of the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

Free State: For all Archdeacons and their respective Archdeaconries

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Natal (Southern Africa) The Rt Rev Dino Gabriel Aguata (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Dr Samuel C. Ezeofor

Wednesday 27 May

During the coronavirus we pray for all prisoners, prison officers, prison chaplains, governors and support staff.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

Diocese: [Coppull](#) and [Coppull St John the Divine](#), Rev Matt Hronby; also in this Benefice Coppull Parish CofE Primary School, Coppull St John CofE 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: National Indigenous Archbishop (Canada) The Most Rev Mark Lawrence MacDonald
Ahoada (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Clement Ekpeye

Thursday 28 May

Lanfranc, monk, archbishop;
scholar, 1089

During the coronavirus we pray for all those who work in the hospitality or leisure industry.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Preston Resourcing Parish: Pray how can we resource the Church in Preston and the Diocese to make the most of every opportunity? How can we be a blessing as we begin our sixth month in Preston?

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

Diocese: [Croston, Bretherton and Mawdesley with Bispham](#), Rev Michael Woods, Rev Janet Taylor; also in this Benefice Bishop Rawstorne 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: Deputy Bishop Thomas Hofer

Free State: For all involved in Ordination training

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Navajoland Area Mission (The Episcopal Church)
The Rt Rev David Bailey

Aipo Rongo (Papua New Guinea) The Rt Rev Nathan Ingen
Ajayi Crowther (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Olugbenga Oduntan

Friday 29 May

During the coronavirus we pray for all parish clergy and those who hold office within each parish that they would have the strength, imagination and wisdom to enable each community to know it is prayed for, cared for and loved.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Ndokwa (Nigeria) The Rt Rev David Obiosa Akobo (South Sudan) The Rt Rev John Jock Chol

Saturday 30 May

Josephine Butler, social reformer, 1906;

Joan of Arc, visionary, 1431;

Apolo Kivebulaya, priest, evangelist, 1933

During the coronavirus we pray for all our hospital chaplains and all involved in any way with hospital chaplaincy.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

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

Diocese: [Euxton](#), Rev Jo Smith; also in this Benefice Euxton CofE VA 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: Nebbi (Uganda) The Rt Rev Alphonse Watho-kudi Akoko (Nigeria) The Most Rev Gabriel Akinbiyi Akoko Edo (Nigeria) The Rt Rev Jolly Oyekpen Iowa (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Rev Alan Scarfe

Sunday 31 May

Pentecost

Whit Sunday

During the coronavirus we pray for all those involved in ensuring our communication networks function.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – John 18.36

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Vision 2026: For the whole community in Clayton House who through their varied ministries support the work of all the churches in the Diocese of Blackburn.

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: For new parish links to be built or old ones renewed with our two companion Dioceses

Free State: For all at the Diocesan office in Bloemfontein and in the Retreat House at Modderport

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia The Most Rev Leonard Dawea - Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and Bishop of Temotu