

## Blackburn Prayers March 2021

Since March 2020 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. As the pandemic continues, prayer also 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**

### Monday 1 March

David, bishop, patron of Wales, c601

Pray for all hospital nurses, doctors, healthcare chaplains and allied health professionals working to care for those needing hospital care that they would have courage and strength as they work, and empathy and compassion in all they do.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**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:** [Fulwood Christ Church](#), Rev Christopher Boland, Rev Liz McLean; also in this Benefice Archbishop Temple School – a CofE Specialist 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:** The Diocese of Armidale – The Anglican Church of Australia (New South Wales Province)

## Tuesday 2 March

Chad, bishop, missionary, 672

Pray for all children and young adults who are feeling isolated and alone because they are unable to meet up at school, youth groups, sports teams and uniformed organisations; that they would have the support they need to enable them to flourish.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

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

**Diocese:** [Grimsargh St Michael](#), Rev Neil Salt; also in this Benefice St Michael'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:** The Diocese of Arochukwu / Ohafia – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

**Clergy Moves:** Licensing of Rev Adam Thomas, Centre Director of Whalley Abbey

## Wednesday 3 March

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 - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**Vision 2026:** For Vision Champions across the Diocese as they support their parishes in implementing Vision 2026.

**Diocese:** HMP Preston, Rev Gail Miller

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Aru – Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

**Clergy Moves:** Retirement of Rev Canon Chris Newlands, Vicar of Lancaster St Mary (The Priory)

## Thursday 4 March

Give thanks and pray for all laboratory and research staff as they continue their vital work. Give them resilience as they continue to strive to get ahead of the pandemic.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**Vision 2026:** Pray for the new Director of Whalley Abbey, Rev Adam Thomas and all involved in the reopening of the Abbey later this year as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer.

**Diocese:** [Ingol St Margaret](#), Rev Rie Walker

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

**Free State:** That all would know the importance of greater financial responsibility.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Missionary Diocese of Asaba – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)

## Friday 5 March

Pray for public health professionals that they would have wisdom and compassion, seeking the common good in all the complex decisions they need to make to ensure people remain safe and well.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**Vision 2026:** We pray for deepening prayer life across the whole Diocese.

**Diocese:** Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Rev David Anderson

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

**Free State:** For Mosamaria Aids Ministry

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Asante-Mampong – The Church of the Province of West Africa (Ghana Province)

## Saturday 6 March

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 to be able to work safely and diligently.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**Vision 2026:** That many will catch a fresh vision of how generous giving to their local church can impact their community for Christ.

**Diocese:** [Preston Emmanuel](#) and [Lea St Christopher](#), Rev Peter Hamborg; also in this Benefice Lea Neeld's Endowed 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 Diocese of Saint Asaph – The Church in Wales

**Meeting:** Bishop's Council and Directors

## Sunday 7 March Third Sunday of Lent

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: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

**Blackpool Ministry Experience:** Pray for the Blackpool Ministry Experience participants, Tom, Jon and Emily as they continue to serve their placements learning about ministry during a pandemic, and that the four Lent Services they have created would be used for the glory of God.

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

**Diocese:** [Longridge St Lawrence with St Paul](#), Rev Mike Barton; also in this Benefice Longridge 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, Cyril Ramaphosa.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

## Monday 8 March

Edward King, bishop, 1910;

Felix, bishop, 647;

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest,  
poet, 1929

Pray for all schools across the Diocese, their headteachers, teaching staff, support staff and those who work to keep children learning and in touch with other as they return to face to face teaching.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

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

**Diocese:** [Preston All Saints](#), Rev Nathan Buttery

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Athabasca – The Anglican Church of Canada (Rupert's Land Province)

**Meeting:** Bishop's Leadership Team

## Tuesday 9 March

Pray for relatives and friends of those sick 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 - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

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

**Diocese:** [Preston St Cuthbert Fulwood](#), Rev Mark Bradford, Rev Kamran Bhatti, Rev Michael Hutchinson, Rev Dr Mike Clayton

**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:** The Diocese of Athoos – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Jonglei Province)

## Wednesday 10 March

Pray for those grieving the death of a loved one, that they would find the support they need.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - Matthew 15.8**

These people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

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

**Diocese:** [Preston St John](#) and [St George the Martyr](#), Rev Sam Haigh, Rev David Craven, Rev Andy Dykes, Rev Jason Gardner, Rev Tim Roberts

**Braunschweig:** For growth in links between us in the area of social responsibility

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Atlanta – The Episcopal Church (4 Province)

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Paul McNally, inducted as Vicar of Accrington Christ Church

## Thursday 11 March

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 – Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Preston St Stephen's](#), Rev David Hanson; also in this Benefice Preston St Stephen's CofE primary school

**Braunschweig:** For growth in school partnerships between our two Dioceses

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Auckland – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia (Pakeha Tikanga)

## Friday 12 March

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

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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

**Diocese:** [Preston The Risen Lord](#), Rev Canon Alistair McHaffie, Rev Dan Freeman; also in this Benefice Preston St Matthew's CofE primary school

**Braunschweig:** For all who are involved in planning for the 2021 Kirchentag; this year it will be online.

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of North West Australia – The Anglican Church of Australia (Western Australia Province)

**Meeting:** Diocesan Advisory Committee

## Saturday 13 March

Pray for all those who work in food production, food processing or distribution that they would find ways to ensure food is distributed with fairness and equity.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Ribbleton](#), Rev Keith Fenton, Capt Dave Thorp

**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:** The Diocese of Aweil – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Northern Bahr el Ghazal Province)

**Sunday 14 March**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Mothering Sunday**

Pray for the Cathedral as the Mother Church of the Diocese, the Dean and Canons. Give thanks and pray for the ongoing work of the vaccination centre in the crypt, that those working there would sense the prayer that surrounds them as they carry out their vital work.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**Blackpool Centre of Mission:** Pray for doors to open and relationships with the local schools; Boundary Primary School, Layton Primary School, Christ the King Primary Academy, Staining CofE Primary School, Highfurlong Community Special School, Blackpool Aspire Academy and Blackpool Sixth.

**Mission Partners:** Steve and Lisa Haskett ask for prayers for the Life Association Easter appeal (running through March up to Easter Sunday). The Association is raising money to develop Christian preschool daycare and evening tuition in the Andhra Pradesh area of India.

**Vision 2026:** For God to raise up intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven

**Diocese:** [Tunstall Deanery Officers](#), Rev Nancy Goodrich, Mrs Elizabeth Battersby-Hill

**Braunschweig:** All involved in the work for the Foundation of Ecumenical Learning.

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

**Monday 15 March**

Pray for all those whose businesses have been severely affected, that they may identify ways to keep the business operating; pray too for those who have lost or fear losing their livelihoods because of the pandemic.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Bolton-le-Sands Holy Trinity](#), Rev Nancy Goodrich; also in this Benefice Bolton-le-Sands CofE primary school

**Braunschweig:** Growth in links between University Chaplaincies in our two Dioceses.

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Awerial – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Eastern Bahr el Ghazal Province)

**Tuesday 16 March**

Pray for all those involved in the production, distribution and administration of the various vaccines. Pray particularly for fair access to the vaccine across the world.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Carnforth Christ Church](#), Rev Canon Stephen Jones; also in this Benefice Carnforth Christ Church CofE VA 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:** The Diocese of Awgu / Aninri – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province)

**Meeting:** Area Deans Meeting



### Wednesday 17 March

Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland, c460

Pray for all those involved in the hospitality and holiday industries as they live with the uncertainty of the pandemic and its impact on their businesses.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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

**Diocese:** [Caton with Littledale St Paul](#) (in plurality with) [Over Kellet St Cuthbert](#), Rev Paul Boulter; also in this Benefice Caton St Paul's CofE primary school, Over Kellet Wilson's Endowed CofE primary school

**Braunschweig:** All working in church kindergartens

**Free State:** For the work of our Chaplains across the State

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Awka – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Province)

### Thursday 18 March

Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386

Pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of the pandemic that they would sense God's love and His peace that passes all understanding.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

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

**Diocese:** [East Lonsdale](#), Vacant, Mrs Helen Wilkinson (cw), Mr John Wilson (cw), Mr Jac Beeson (cw), Mrs Susan Hunter (cw), Mrs Joan Withers (cw), Mr John Ryle (trs); also in this Benefice Leck St Peter's CofE primary school, Melling St Wilfrid's CofE primary school, Tatham Fells CofE primary school, Wray with Botton Endowed primary school

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Awori – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

**Meeting:** Financial Assistance Group 2

### Friday 19 March

Joseph of Nazareth

Pray for all care homes, their residents and staff that they may sense God's love and care for them in these uncertain and challenging times.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Hornby with Claughton and Whittington with Arkholme and Gressingham](#), Rev Michael Hampson; also in this Benefice Arkholme CofE primary school, Hornby St Margaret'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:** The Diocese of Ayod – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Jonglei Province)

### Saturday 20 March

Cuthbert, bishop, missionary, 687

Pray for foodbanks and all those groups and individuals who will be providing food for someone today.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - Romans 1.16**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

**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:** [Silverdale St John](#), Rev Mary Ashton; also in this Benefice St John's CofE VA primary school

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

**Free State:** For our linked parishes

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Badagry – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

**Meeting:** For Diocesan Synod and for discussions taking place at a special 'Living in Love and Faith Taster Event' immediately following the Synod meeting this morning

**Sunday 21 March**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**Passiontide begins**

Pray for Bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, Archdeacons Mark and David, and also Dean Peter as they lead the Diocese and support the parishes through this time.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**M:Power:** Pray for the M:Power work at Over Darwen and for the Urban Evangelist Rob McGibbon. Pray for Rob as he ploughs the ground ready to plant the seed of the gospel especially via the new congregation in the Reachout Centre located in the middle of the estate.

**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:** [Slyne with Hest St Luke](#) and [Halton St Wilfrid with Aughton St Saviour](#), Rev Susan Seed; also in this Benefice Halton St Wilfrid's CofE primary school, Slyne with Hest St Luke'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:** The Church of England

**Monday 22 March**

Pray for those who are struggling with their mental health that they would find a sense of peace and affirmation.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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

**Diocese:** [Warton St Oswald with Yealand Conyers St John](#), Rev Robin Figg; also in this Benefice Warton Archbishop Hutton's VC primary school, Yealand CofE primary school

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of the Bahamas and The Turks and Caicos Islands – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

**Meeting:** Bishop's Appointments Team

**Tuesday 23 March**

On this national day of reflection as we mark the first anniversary of the first UK lockdown in response to COVID-19, let us lament with all those who are grieving the loss of loved ones as a result of the global pandemic and commit ourselves to build up our communities through prayer and practical action.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**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:** [Whalley Deanery Officers](#), Rev Jonathan Carmyllie, Rev Andrew Froud, Rev Jane Lee, Mr David Holt

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Bakuru – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Jos Province)

### Wednesday 24 March

Walter Hilton, mystic, 1396;  
Paul Couturier, priest, ecumenist,  
1953;  
Oscar Romero, archbishop, martyr,  
1980

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 – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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

**Diocese:** [Balderstone](#), [Mellor](#) and [Sablesbury](#), Vacant, Mr Peter Singleton (cw), Mr Eric Mather (cw), Mr David Holroyd (cw), Ms Betty Green (cw), Mr Len Redmayne (cw), Mr John Eastham (cw), Mr Paul Daunton (cw); also in this Benefice Balderstone St Leonard's CofE VA primary school, Mellor St Mary CofE primary school, Sablesbury CofE school

**Braunschweig:** All who are involved in the link committees for our two Dioceses

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Ballarat – The Anglican Church of Australia (Victoria Province)

### Thursday 25 March Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Pray for those who feel their lives are on hold that they may retain a sense of hope and find ways 'to be', that enable them to hear the hope we have in Jesus.

#### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**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:** Bowland Benefice ([Gisburn](#), [Bolton-by-Bowland](#), [Grindleton](#)), Rev Mark Williams

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Bangor – The Church in Wales

### Friday 26 March

Harriet Monsell, founder of the  
Community of St John the Baptist,  
1883

Pray for those struggling with the effects of long COVID and those professionals supporting them to find ways to manage its impact.

#### **Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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

**Diocese:** [Chipping St Bartholomew](#), Rev Fiona Jenkins; also in this Benefice Chipping Brabins Endowed school

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Banks and Torres – The Anglican Church of Melanesia



## Saturday 27 March

Pray for all those involved in ensuring communication networks function and those who work in administration to keep essential services running smoothly. That they would feel valued in the vital work they do and to be able to work safely and diligently.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**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:** [Clitheroe](#), [Chatburn](#) and [Downham](#), Rev Andrew Froud, Rev Catherine Hale-Heighway

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

**Free State:** For all school Chaplains

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Barbados – The Church in the Province of the West Indies

## Sunday 28 March Palm Sunday Holy Week

Pray for every community and parish across the Diocese that they would be places of trust and friendship and where there is an openness to hear the Gospel.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**Preston Resourcing Parish:** "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Pray for the divine energy of Jesus Christ to pour through us.

**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:** [Clitheroe St James'](#), Rev Mark Pickett, Rev Ian Sarginson; also in this Benefice St James' CofE primary school

**Braunschweig:** Deputy Bishop Thomas Hofer

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

## Monday 29 March Monday of Holy Week

Pray for all prisoners, prison officers, prison chaplains, governors and support staff as they strive to keep prisons safe as well as secure.

**Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14**

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**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:** [Great Harwood St Bartholomew and St John](#), Rev Graham Birch; also in this Benefice St Bartholomew's parish CofE VA primary school, St John's CofE primary school

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

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

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Bari – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kaduna Province)

**Tuesday 30 March**  
**Tuesday of Holy Week**

Pray for all those involved in funerals, from the funeral directors to those who work in the crematoria, from the grave diggers to monumental stone masons that they would be strengthened to carry out their roles with compassion and empathy, recognising the pain and distress caused by the current restrictions on families and mourners and themselves.

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14***

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

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

***Diocese:*** [Hurst Green](#) and [Milton](#) (in plurality with) [Ribchester St Wilfrid](#), Rev Canon Brian McConkey, Rev Karen Herschell; also in this Benefice Ribchester St Wilfrid's 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:*** The Diocese of Baringo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Wednesday 31 March**  
**Wednesday of Holy Week**

Pray for all those who are involved in monitoring and protecting our natural world, particularly remembering those who analyse data that enable us to have weather forecasts that support the work of farmers, those at sea and other weather dependent occupations. We also pray specifically for the work of our farming communities and those who rely on the sea for their livelihoods across the Diocese at this time.

***Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – 2 Chronicles 7.14***

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

***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:*** [Langho St Leonard](#), Rev Tracy Swindells; also in this Benefice Langho and Billington St Leonard's CofE primary school

***Braunschweig:*** For opportunities for people in our two Dioceses to meet virtually with each other when travel is not possible.

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

***Anglican Cycle of Prayer:*** The Diocese of Barrackpore – The (united) Church of North India