

Blackburn Prayers April 2021

In the last year 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 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. 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. We have prayers for National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston; and from this month we also now pray for the Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) in our parishes.

We are now asking for people in our parishes to actively report 'Answers to Prayer' to us as an encouragement to all. For current responses [click here](#) to go to the 'Answers to Prayer' page on the Diocesan website. If you have an answer to prayer for sharing, please email beingwitnesses@blackburn.anglican.org with your name, parish and short report of 50-75 words max. Prayer answered can also be submitted anonymously if you prefer - please advise of this when emailing.

If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, please direct them to 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
llm = Licensed Lay Minister

Thursday 1 April Maundy Thursday

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 with the ever-changing guidance around living with the pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples – 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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: [Read St John and Simonstone St Peter](#), Rev Robert Fielding; also in this Benefice Read St John's CofE Primary School, Simonstone St Peter's CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: The link between Blackburn Diocese and the Braunschweiger Landeskirche

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bath and Wells – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

**Friday 2 April
Good Friday**

Pray for those who feel their lives are on hold or feel overwhelmed by the pressures of the pandemic and its impact on them, their families or livelihood that they may retain a sense of hope.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Rishton St Peter and St Paul](#), Vacant, Mrs Diane Schaefer (cw), Mrs Diana McEntyre (cw); also in this Benefice St Peter and St Paul's CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray for Bishop Dintoe and his family as he leads the Diocese of the Free State at a time of great difficulty due to the pandemic and its impact, particularly on the poor, in South Africa.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bathurst – The Anglican Church of Australia (New South Wales Province)

**Saturday 3 April
Easter Eve**

As the world holds its breath and waits for the dawning of a new day, pray for all those grieving the death of a loved one, that they would find the support they need.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Salesbury St Peter](#), Vacant, Mrs Sue Grime (cw), Dr Diane Foote (cw), Mrs Janet Haworth (llm); also in this Benefice Salesbury CofE Primary School

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

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

**Sunday 4 April
Easter Day**

Pray for the nation that on this day of celebration we would have a real sense of hope and deepening sense of God as our refuge and stronghold.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Waddington](#), Rev Christopher Wood; also in this Benefice Waddington and West Bradford CofE VA Primary School

Free State: Pray for Fr Lazarus, Dean of Bloemfontein Cathedral and remember particularly the confirmation classes there as they prepare for the service later in the year.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

**Monday 5 April
Monday of Easter Week**

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

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: West Pendleside ([Pendleton All Saints](#), [Sabden St Nicholas](#), [Whalley St Mary](#)), Rev Jon Carmyllie, Rev Jane Lee, Ms Lynne Smith (llm); also in this Benefice Whalley CofE Primary School

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

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

Tuesday 6 April
Tuesday of Easter Week

Pray for all those individuals who are ill, in care homes or hospices that they would be kept safe and sense God's love surrounding them.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Whalley Abbey](#), Rev Adam Thomas

Free State: Pray for school chaplain Deon Lombard and for his work at St Andrews Boys School in Bloemfontein. Remember also the staff and students at the school as they work and worship together.

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

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev Andrew Parkinson, Vicar of Longton St Andrew

Wednesday 7 April
Wednesday of Easter Week

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 they would be able to work safely and diligently

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

Blackpool Ministry Experience (BME): Pray that our BME participants would continue to search out God's plan for their lives beyond the BME when they leave in July.

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

Diocese: [Whitewell St Michael](#), Vacant, Mr Nick Millward (cw)

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Benin – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)

Meeting: HR Committee

Thursday 8 April
Thursday of Easter Week

Pray for all laboratory and research staff as they continue to process essential tests and monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccination programme. Give them resilience as they strive to understand and manage the global pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Accrington Deanery Officers](#), Rev Stephen Brown, Mrs Denise Taylor, Mrs Wendy Papworth, Mrs Gwen Greenwood

Free State: Pray today for Rev John Hall, who has been Link officer in this Diocese for 25 years this September and continues to lead the Link Committee as they seek to grow the link between the two Dioceses.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bentiu – The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (Upper Nile Province)

Friday 9 April
Friday of Easter Week

Pray for all hospital nurses, doctors, healthcare chaplains and allied health professionals caring for the sickest people, for courage and strength as they work and empathy and compassion in all they do.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Accrington St John with Huncoat St Augustine](#), Rev Hugh Scriven, Mrs Christine Ritson (IIm); also in this Benefice Accrington St John with St Augustine CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bermuda – Extra Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev John Griffiths, Vicar of Garstang St Thomas

Saturday 10 April
Saturday of Easter Week

Pray for all community workers in health and social care as they care for and support vulnerable people in our communities. Pray particularly for those voluntary organisations supporting their work through food banks, good neighbour projects and telephone support.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Making Disciples - 2 Corinthians 8.7

Now as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you - so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

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

Diocese: [Accrington Christ Church](#), Rev Paul McNally, Mrs Gail Whittaker (IIm), Mr Mick Whittaker (IIm)

Free State: Hold all those working for and volunteering with Mosamaria Aids Ministry in the Free State in your prayers. Trudie Harrison is the Programme Coordinator there and has guided the charity for a number of years.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bethlehem – The Episcopal Church (3 Province)

Sunday 11 April
Second Sunday of Easter

Pray for Bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, Archdeacons Mark and David, and also Dean Peter as they lead the Diocese and support the parishes as we move to unlocking and resetting parish ministry.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses – 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Accrington St Andrew, St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and Church Kirk](#), Vacant, Mr Peter Blackburn (cw), Mr Jason Clemson (cw), Mr Peter Crook (cw), Mr Derrick Brockbank (cw), Mrs Pat Pickavance (cw), Miss Lorna Kenyon (cw); also in this Benefice Accrington St Christopher's CofE High School, Accrington St Mary Magdalen's CofE Primary School, Accrington St Peter's CofE Primary School, Church St Nicholas CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev Peter Smith, Vicar of Chorley St Peter

Monday 12 April

Pray for all schools, colleges and universities across the Diocese, for the principals, headteachers, lecturers, teaching staff, support staff and those who work to enable places of learning to continue to provide safe spaces for teaching and nurturing of young people.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Mission Partners: Pray for 'Graham and Fiona' returning to their work, in a hospital and a college, in a least-reached part of Africa. Much of their work involves removing obstacles (rocky soil) and walking alongside people who want to grow into a fuller understanding of the love of God in Jesus.

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

Diocese: [Accrington St James](#) and [St Paul](#), Vacant, Rev Kevin Logan, Mr Tony Hindle (Ilm), Mr Andrew Crowe (cw), Mr Terence Jones (cw), Mr Gordon Whewell (cw); also in this Benefice Accrington Benjamin Hargreaves VA CofE Primary School, Green Haworth CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray for Chaplain Grant Trewern and for all he does for the staff and students at St Michael's Girls School in Bloemfontein.

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

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team

Tuesday 13 April

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 - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Altham](#) with [Clayton-le-Moors](#), Rev Toby Webber; also in this Benefice Altham St James CofE Primary School, Clayton-le-Moors All Saints CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bida – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lokoja Province)

Wednesday 14 April

Pray for those who work in food production, food processing or distribution as they manage the complexities of Brexit as well as producing food in a Covid-secure way.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Blackpool Centre of Mission: Pray for all the local agencies we partner with on Grange Park: @thegrange, His Provision, Blackpool Coastal Housing, Grow Blackpool, Community Policing, Residents Group (Friends of Grange), Boundary School and Children's Centre

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

Diocese: [Baxenden St John](#), Vacant, Dr Patricia Wilkinson (Ilm), Mrs Diane Clough (cw); also in this Benefice St John's CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray today for all involved in treating and supporting those suffering with or because of Covid. Remember particularly in your prayers those living in townships who may struggle with reduced income and close living conditions.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Biharamulo – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Thursday 15 April

Pray for all those who are sofa surfing or living on the streets; that they would find the support and help they need to keep safe and find constructive ways out of their current circumstances.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Haslingden St James with Grane St Stephen and Stonefold St John](#) (in plurality with) [Musbury St Thomas](#), Rev David Stephenson, Rev Judith Balkwell, Rev Andrew Holmes; also in this Benefice St James; CofE Primary School; St John's Stonefold CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Warton and Timmerlah
Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Birmingham – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

Meeting: Diocesan Advisory Committee

Friday 16 April

Isabella Gilmore, deaconess,
1923

Pray for those who feel overwhelmed by the uncertainty of the pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Laneside St Peter](#), Rev Stephen Brown

Free State: Remember in your prayers those with responsibility for the difficult financial situation. Pray particularly for those directly impacted by the lack of regular income experienced by parish priests.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Blackburn – The Church of England (York Province)

Saturday 17 April

Pray for national government, the cabinet and civil servants and the complexity of the decisions they need to make as they balance the need to protect the most vulnerable with re-opening the economy.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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

Diocese: [Oswaldtwistle](#), Rev Martin Joss, Rev Carole Garner, Mrs Heather Aspbury (Ilm), Miss Judith Addison (Ilm); also in this Benefice St Andrew's CofE Primary School, St Paul's CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bo – The Church of the Province of West Africa (West Africa Province)

Sunday 18 April

Third Sunday of Easter

Pray for your community that it would be a place of trust and friendship.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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

Diocese: [Blackburn with Darwen Deanery Officer](#), Rev Canon Fleur Green, Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, Canon Sue Witts, Miss Anne Carus, Mrs Elaine Williams

Free State: Give thanks for Fr Joshua Skee, Link Officer in the Free State and for all members of the Link Committee in South Africa.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Ireland

Clergy Moves: Rev Dr Mike Clayton, the new Curate of Lea St Christopher and Preston Emmanuel

Monday 19 April

Alphege, archbishop, martyr,
1012

Pray for all care homes, residents and staff that they may sense God's love and care for them in the midst of the ongoing challenges and restricted family visiting.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Blackburn Christ Church with St Matthew](#), Rev Canon Andrew Raynes; also in this Benefice St Matthew's CofE Primary School

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

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

Tuesday 20 April

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

Bishop's Memory Verse: Being Witnesses - 2 Peter 3.9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

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: [Blackburn St Aidan](#) and [St Luke, St Mark and St Philip](#), Rev Cath Brooks, Rev Barbara Pack; also in this Benefice Blackburn Mill Hill St Aidan's Primary School, a CofE Academy, Blackburn St Luke's and St Philip's CofE Primary School, Blackburn St Wilfrid's CofE Academy, Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy

Free State: Pray for all the links between parishes here and in the Free State. Pray also for Helen Ballard who holds the brief for nurturing these links and for her plans to grow the links particularly between lay people.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bolivia – The Anglican Church of South America

Meeting: Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee; Property Committee; Finance Committee

Wednesday 21 April

Anselm, abbot, archbishop,
teacher of the faith, 1109

Pray for all the young people who are struggling with their mental health or high levels of anxiety, that they would find safe places to share their concerns and receive the support they need.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

M:Power: Pray for the M:Power team and Bishop Philip as the process of recruiting for the 21/22 intake of participants begins. Pray that we will call out the urban leaders to be beacons across this Diocese.

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: [Blackburn St Andrew Livesey \(in plurality with\) Blackburn St Barnabas](#), Vacant, Dr Geralde Bancroft (cw), Mrs Janet Smith (cw); also in this Benefice Blackburn St Barnabas and St Paul's CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: For growth in school partnerships between our two Dioceses

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bongo – The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday 22 April

Pray for all those who work in the hospitality or leisure industry as they manage the complexities of re-opening their businesses in a Covid-secure way.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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

Diocese: [Blackburn St Gabriel](#), Rev Stephen Corbett, Mr Paul Adnitt (IIm), Mrs Barbara Foster (IIm); also in this Benefice St Gabriel's CofE Primary School

Free State: The South African High Court and Judiciary are located in Bloemfontein. Pray that they might act with a sense of themselves being under God's judgement and mercy and that they might carry out their duties according to His law.

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

Friday 23 April

George, martyr, patron of England, c.304

Pray for our nation that it would continue to be a place where all can live together in peace and mutual respect.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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: [Blackburn St Mary the Virgin with St Paul \(Cathedral and Parish Church\)](#), The Very Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Rev Canon Dr Rowena Pailing, Rev Canon Gary O'Neill

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Botswana – The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Saturday 24 April

Mellitus, bishop, 624;
Seven Martyrs of the Melanesian Brotherhood, 2003

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 – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Mission Partners: Steve and Lisa Haskett ask for prayers for God's blessing and protection over our partner projects in India, as they seek to share the good news in word and deed in an increasingly hostile and dangerous environment of persecution.

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

Diocese: [Blackburn St Silas](#), Rev Sheelagh Aston; also in this Benefice St Silas CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray today for the Mosamaria Ministries Project which encourages the consistent and timely taking of Antiretrovirals in the community. This project saves lives but is often short of funding and workers often go without full pay.

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

Sunday 25 April

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pray for the Cathedral, the Dean and Canons and its ministry to the Diocese as the mother church and for the on-going work of the vaccination centre currently based there.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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: [Blackburn St Stephen](#) and [St James](#), Rev Sarah Gill, Rev Joanne Macholc; also in this Benefice St James CofE Primary School, St Stephen's CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Monday 26 April
Mark the Evangelist

Pray for all prisoners, prison officers, prison chaplains, governors and support staff.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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

Diocese: [Blackburn The Redeemer](#), Rev Chris Anderton, Mr John Ashcroft (IIm), Mr Geoff Hutchinson (IIm); also in this Benefice The Redeemer CofE Primary School

Free State: Give thanks for the Girls Friendly Society, Girls Brigade, Sunday Schools and all clubs and societies which nurture girls and young women in the faith.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Brasilia – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (3 Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Appointments Team

Tuesday 27 April
Christina Rossetti, poet, 1894

Pray for all shop keepers, retail workers and those who work in the supply chain; and give thanks for all they have done to enable us to access what we need during the pandemic.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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: [Darwen St Barnabas](#), Rev David Bacon, Mrs Lillian Duffy (IIm), Mr Kenneth Lee (IIm); also in this Benefice Darwen St Barnabas CofE Primary Academy

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

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

Wednesday 28 April
Peter Chanel, missionary, martyr, 1841

Pray for hospital and community pharmacists and pharmacies as they provide vital services and information to local communities.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Preston Resourcing Parish: Thank God for the five Leadership Development Year students. Please pray that this will continue to be a year of personal growth, leadership development and blessing.

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: [Darwen St Cuthbert with Tockholes St Stephen](#), Rev Nicholas Davis; also in this Benefice Darwen St Cuthbert's CofE Primary School, Tockholes St Stephen's CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray for Canon Joan Marsden, for her work at Sunflower House in Bloemfontein and also in her work around the world relating to hospice care.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Brechin – The Scottish Episcopal Church

Thursday 29 April
Catherine of Siena, teacher of the faith, 1380

Give thanks for all those people in each community who play a vital role in their local areas by supporting their neighbours.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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: [Darwen St Peter](#), Rev Canon Fleur Green, Mrs Janet Upton (IIm); also in this Benefice Darwen Holy Trinity VC School, Darwen St Peter's CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Brisbane – The Anglican Church of Australia (Queensland Province)

Meeting: Investment Committee

Friday 30 April

Pandita Mary Ramabai, translator,
1922

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 be able to work safely and diligently.

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Daniel 12.3

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

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

Diocese: [Feniscliffe St Francis](#) and [Feniscowles Immanuel](#). Rev David Roscoe; also in this Benefice Feniscliffe St Francis CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray for the Area Deans and Archdeacons who facilitate the smooth working of so many aspects of the Diocese and support the churches and clergy.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Bristol – The Church of England (Canterbury Province)

Clergy Moves: Retirement of Rev David Lyon, Vicar of St Annes-on-Sea St Annes (Heyhouses)