

Blackburn Prayers December 2021

In the last 18 months we have seen unprecedented events taking place in our country and around the world in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Updates continue to be sent from Bishop Philip and the Coronavirus Task Group as often as required; 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. 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 inspiring Youth/Children and Schools. We have prayers for National Church Funded Projects in Blackpool, Blackburn and Preston; and we also 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

Wednesday 1 December

Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916

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

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

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

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ife East – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Meeting: HR Committee

Thursday 2 December

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

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

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

Diocese: [Chorley Deanery Officers](#), Rev Neil Kelley, Rev Joanne Smith, Rev Canon Andrew Holliday, Mr Andrew Stokes

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 Ifo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Friday 3 December

Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552

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

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

Mission Partners: Stephen and Lisa Haskett ask for our prayers as the demands of the Covid pandemic subside, please pray for blessing and wisdom for the new opportunities opening up to extend their work with churches in India.

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

Diocese: [Adlington St Paul](#), Vacant, Mrs Julia Henry (cw), Mr William Young (cw); also in this Benefice, Adlington St Paul's CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Igbomina – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kwara Province)

Saturday 4 December

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

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

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

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

Vision 2026: Pray for the Director of Whalley Abbey, Rev Adam Thomas and the Whalley Abbey Community as they provide our Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer.

Diocese: [Appley Bridge](#) and [Parbold](#), Rev Susan Timmins, Rev Prof Michelle Plant, Mrs Diane Green (Ilm), Dr Sara Ashley (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Appley Bridge All Saints CofE Primary School, Parbold Douglas CofE Academy

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Igbomina - West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kwara Province)

Sunday 5 December
Second Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

Diocese: [Brindle St James](#), Rev David Ward; also in this Benefice, St James' CofE VA Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi

Monday 6 December
Nicholas, bishop, c.326

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

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

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

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

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 Ihiala – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Leadership Team followed by the Bishop's Budget Team

Tuesday 7 December
Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meeting: Finance Committee

Wednesday 8 December
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ember Day

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

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

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

Diocese: [Chorley St James](#), Rev David Philips, Mr Phil Parker (Ilm); also in this Benefice, St James' CofE Primary School

Free State: Pray today for Rev John Hall, who was Chair of our Free State Link Committee for 25 years and for the new Chair, Rev. Sam Cheesman, as he begins a new season leading the Link Committee growing the link between the two Dioceses. Bishop Julian's thanks to Father John and more about Sam's appointment [here](#).

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ijebu North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Thursday 9 December

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

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

Vision 2026: For plentiful workers of all backgrounds, for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

Diocese: [Chorley St Laurence](#), Rev Neil Kelley, Rev Mo Baldwin, Mrs Joan Hayward (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Chorley St Michael's CofE High School, Chorley the Parish of St Laurence CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ijebu South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Lagos Province)

Friday 10 December

Ember Day

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

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

Mission Partners: Our Church Mission Society partners, Alan and Lex, would welcome your prayer for their ongoing work in local schools and communities in Cambodia. Recovery from the effects of Covid is a long process in these areas that were already poverty-stricken.

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

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

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 Ijesa North East – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Meeting: Diocesan Advisory Committee

Clergy Moves: Rev Kevin Huggett, re-licensed as Chaplain of Lancaster University

Saturday 11 December
Ember Day

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

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

Vision 2026: For 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: [Coppull and Coppull St John the Divine](#), Rev Matthew Hornby; also in this Benefice, Coppull St John CofE Primary School, Coppull Parish CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Missionary Diocese of Ijesha North – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Sunday 12 December
Third Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

Diocese: [Croston, Bretherton and Mawdesley with Bispham](#), Rev Michael Woods, Rev Janet Taylor, Mr Stan Hazlewood (IIm); 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

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 Anglican Church of Canada

Clergy Moves: Rev Susan Ball, new Vicar of Read St John and Simonstone St Peter

Monday 13 December

Lucy, martyr, 304;
Samuel Johnson, moralist, 17884

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday 14 December

John of the Cross, poet, teacher of the faith, 1591

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

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

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

Vision 2026: For us to be mindful of the gifts of God's Creation – earth, water, air, our fellow creatures and that we come together with all that God has made into a common home, a place of thankfulness and peace.

Diocese: [Euxton](#), Rev Joanne Smith, Rev Amy Bland; also in this Benefice, Euxton CofE VA 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 Ikara – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Kaduna Province)

Meeting: Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Wednesday 15 December

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

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

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

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ikeduru – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Owerri Province)

Thursday 16 December

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

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

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

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

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 Ikka – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Bendel Province)

Friday 17 December

O Sapientia

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

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

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

Clergy with PTO: Bless, O Lord, all clergy in our Diocese who are retired with Permission to Officiate. Grant them your continued wisdom and strength to serve. We are thankful for the many ways they provide invaluable support as we work together making disciples, growing leaders, being witnesses and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ.

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

Diocese: [Standish St Wilfrid](#), Rev Canon Andrew Holliday, Rev Catherine Gabriel, Dr Sheila Fisher (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Standish St Wilfrid's CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: The Local Ecumenical Partnership between Warton and Timmerlah.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ikwerre – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Niger Delta Province)

Saturday 18 December

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

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

Sisters of the Order of the Companions of Mary and Martha: Pray for Sister Judith and Sister Sue at St Joseph's House, Tunstall, living a vowed life of prayerful presence and hospitality. Give thanks for their faithful witness to the gospel and bless all who visit there seeking peace and refreshment.

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

Diocese: [Whittle-le-Woods St John Evangelist](#), Rev Philip Venables, Rev Paul Davies, Dr Gillian Lancaster (Ilm), Mrs Kathy Bigio (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Clayton-le-Woods CofE Primary School, Whittle-le-Woods CofE Primary School

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 Diocese of Ikwo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Enugu Province)

Sunday 19 December
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

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

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

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Monday 20 December

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

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

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

Diocese: Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust, Rev Jane Reynolds, Rev Michele Ryan, Rev Caroline Tracey

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 Ikwuano – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Aba Province)

Meeting: Bishop's Appointments Team

Tuesday 21 December

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Vision 2026: Pray for all charged with the responsibility of discerning vocation in others in the local church and across the Diocese. Pray for the entire Growing Leaders Team based at the Diocesan offices.

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ilaje – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)

Wednesday 22 December

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Diocese: [Copp St Anne](#) and [Inskip St Peter](#), Rev Paul Hunter, Mrs Angela Ashcroft (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Great Eccleston Copp CofE Primary School, Inskip St Peter's CofE VA 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 Ile - Oluji – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)

Thursday 23 December

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

Vision 2026: Pray for 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: [Fellside Team Ministry](#), Rev Stephen Cooper, Rev Garry Whittaker, Rev Dr Susan Salt; also in this Benefice, Barton St Lawrence CofE Primary School, Bilsborrow John Cross CofE Primary School, Goosnargh Oliverson's CofE Primary School

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ilesa – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Friday 24 December
Christmas Eve

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

Mission Partners: Pray for 'Graham and Fiona' working 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: Pray for young people's faith, rooted in Jesus Christ, to be nurtured, disciplined and shared within their communities.

Diocese: [Garstang St Helen \(Churchtown\) and St Michael's-on-Wyre](#), Rev Andrew Wilkinson, Mrs Karen Ball (IIm); also in this Benefice, Kirkland and Catterall St Helen's CofE VA Primary School, St Michael's-on-Wyre 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 Ilesa South West – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ibadan Province)

Saturday 25 December
Christmas Night
Christmas Day

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

Vision 2026: Pray for the Inspiring Youth Learning Community, that churches across the Diocese will grow in confidence to enable and grow new youth ministries.

Diocese: [Garstang St Thomas](#), Vacant, Mr Trevor Sperring (cw), Mr David Brewin (cw); also in this Benefice, Garstang St Thomas' CofE Primary School

Braunschweig: Following a successful 2021 Kirchentag held online, please pray for all aspects of planning for the next Kirchentag in 2023; and particularly that delegates are able to joyfully gather together in person again.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of North East India – The (United) Church of North India

Sunday 26 December
First Sunday of Christmas
Stephen, deacon, first martyr

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Diocese: Over Wyre ([Pilling](#), [Preesall](#), [Stalmine](#)), Rev Andy Shaw, Rev Naomi Barraclough, Mrs Jo Smallwood (IIm), Mrs Nicola Smith (IIm); also in this Benefice, Pilling St John's CofE VA Primary School, Preesall Fleetwoods Charity CofE Primary School, Preesall St Aidan's CofE High 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: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Monday 27 December
John, Apostle and Evangelist

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Diocese: [Scorton and Barnacre and Calder Vale](#), Rev Anton Muller; also in this Benefice, Calder Vale St John's CofE Primary School, Scorton 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 Diocese of Northern Indiana – The Episcopal Church (V Province)

Tuesday 28 December
The Holy Innocents

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

Preston Resourcing Parish: We thank God for this season of invitation – please pray for those who only attend church once or twice per year – or are just 'checking out' church to be drawn by the welcome of Christ and His people.

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: [Woodplumpton St Anne](#), Vacant, Mr Ken Hartley (cw), Mrs Victoria Millsop (cw); also in this Benefice, Woodplumpton St Anne'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 Indianapolis – The Episcopal Church (V Province)

Wednesday 29 December
Thomas Becket, archbishop,
martyr, 1170

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Diocese: [Kirkham Deanery Officers](#), Rev Anne Beverley, Rev Chris Scargill, Rev Dr Tony Hodgson, Dr Peter Roberts

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Iowa – The Episcopal Church (VI Province)

Thursday 30 December

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

Diocese: [Ansdell and Fairhaven St Paul](#), Rev Paul Bye, Rev Kyle Mulholland, Miss Janet Kimber (Ilm)

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 Iran – The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and The Middle East

Friday 31 December
John Wyclif, reformer, 1384

Bishop's Memory Verse: Growing Leaders – Mark 1.17

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

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

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

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

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Irele - Eseodo – The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) (Ondo Province)