

Diocese of Hereford . . . Sunday Prayers (March 28th - May 2nd 2021)

28TH MARCH - PALM SUNDAY

Anglican	The Province of Hong Kong (Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui).
Hereford	Pray for all that encourages and nurtures vocation, and for those who help people to think through their sense of being called to minister, and to access training and experience.
Porvoo	Ireland: Armagh; Denmark: Funen.
The Wider View	As Covid19 cases increase in Tanzania, pray for the links this diocese there, and the friendships made: may they remain safe despite the lack of precautions and the government's history of denial.
This Week	<p>As many churches reopen for public worship today, through Holy Week and at Easter celebration, pray we may do so safely; and pray for our keeping of Holy Week and our witness to the cross.</p> <p>Today has been declared as No Skip Sunday, to highlight the quantity of recyclable material that gets thrown out; pray we may all become more environmentally aware.</p> <p>In World Autism Awareness Week, pray for those living with autism and their families, for whom the pandemic and its restrictions will have been particularly difficult and stressful.</p> <p>Bowel Cancer Awareness Month begins on Thursday: pray we may be better as individuals and as a society at spotting and responding to the early signs of this disease.</p> <p>April is also Stress Awareness Month. Pray especially for those for whom the past year has been hugely stressful - for example, health service and school staff, and those maintaining essential services.</p> <p>Friday is International Children's Book Day - pray for all that helps children develop a love of reading and books.</p>

4TH APRIL - EASTER DAY

Anglican	Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and the peoples of the Holy Land.
Hereford	May our churches may shine brightly with the light of the risen Christ at Easter; and as we look to meeting and working more freely, may all we plan and do be grounded in joyful commitment to God who in the risen Christ offers new life to all.
Porvoo	Sweden: Uppsala; Wales: Llandaff.
The Wider View	Pray for the peace of Myanmar, following the military coup earlier this year. May the will of the people prevail, and the government they elected returned to power.
This Week	Pray for all who depend on travel and tourism for their livelihood, and that we are soon (and safely) able to reopen places of interest and entertainment within our communities. Pray for our cathedral and other major churches preparing to receive and welcome visitors and pilgrims.

“**Discover National Parks**” encourage us to value and use our National Parks, the first of which were designated 70 years ago this year. Give thanks for them and pray for their continued protection.

Dark Sky Week this week aims to encourage awareness of the night sky, and also to work to reduce light pollution.

In **Community Garden Week**, celebrate the community and school gardens of diocese, and pray for all that helps young people to develop an interest in gardens and growth.

Pray for our young people who normally would now be preparing to take **major exams**, and face decisions as to the next step in their education and life. Pray too for teachers making assessments.

This week would normally remember the German pastor **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**, executed shortly before the end of World War 2. Pray for all who, like him, are led by their faith to oppose the misuse of power in our world, placing themselves at risk as they do so.

Pray for our outreach to those who still feel **unable to join us** for worship in church.

11TH APRIL - EASTER 2

Anglican	The Province of the Indian Ocean (Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius).
Hereford	Ledbury Deanery: Rural Dean – Robert Ward.
Porvoo	England: Derby; Ireland: Clogher; Denmark: Aalborg.
The Wider View	Pray that the COVAX initiative of the World Health Organisation, working to provide global equitable access to Covid19 vaccines, may be accepted by countries presently refusing it, including Tanzania.
This Week	<p>In Parkinson’s Awareness Week, pray for all in our churches and communities living with this disease - for support, awareness and understanding, and the continuing work of research.</p> <p>Local choirs and music groups have mostly been unable to meet and make music for over a year. Pray for their conductors and members, as tentative plans are made to begin again.</p> <p>Pray for leaders and organisers of walking groups, outdoor play activities, sports teams etc in our local communities, as we seek to make the most of coming Summer.</p> <p>Give thanks for the various training opportunities offered - via Zoom etc and in other ways - to clergy and other ministers and to church folk generally, and pray that we may make good use of the expertise, advice and inspiration on offer. Pray for those taking part in the Modern Slavery Awareness training being carried out over this time.</p>

18TH APRIL - EASTER 3

Anglican	The Church of Ireland.
Hereford	Leominster Deanery: RD – Jane Davies; Lay Co-Chair – Lydia Davies.
Porvoo	England: Blackburn; Scotland: Brechin; Lutheran Church in Britain.
The Wider View	Brexit and vaccine supplies are raising tensions between the UK and the EU. Pray that the friendships built up over the years between Hereford and Nuremberg may help maintain trust, contact and conversation, reminding us that we belong together under God.
This Week	<p>In English Tourism Week, after a difficult year, and as restrictions remain in place, pray for those who have lost jobs or closed businesses, and that as restrictions are lifted the vibrancy of the tourism sector may be restored.</p> <p>Waiting lists at our hospitals have reached record levels, and this is especially true for orthopaedic operations. Pray for those who remain in pain and disability as they continue to wait.</p> <p>World Immunisation Week encourages prayer for the Covid vaccine to be widely available, but also for other important immunisation campaigns, some of which have suffered because of the pandemic.</p> <p>In MS Awareness Week, pray for all in our communities who live with this progressive and disabling disease: for work to improve mobility and participation, and to develop effective treatments.</p> <p>Allergy Awareness Week prompts prayer for those who suffer from childhood food allergies, and for their families.</p> <p>Pray for the small shops which serve our village communities, that have been a lifeline for many with travel restricted. May they still find support as things open up. Pray also for the revival of our town centres, where many small shops have not survived lockdown.</p> <p>In the week of St George's Day, pray for the people of England, that we may celebrate and affirm our identity as a diverse, welcoming and tolerant society.</p>

25TH APRIL - EASTER 4

Anglican	Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan).
Hereford	Pray for all that helps develop and resource local ministry - for resources, and the sharing of vision and good practice.
Porvoo	Sweden: Gothenberg; Scotland: Glasgow & Galloway.
The Wider View	Pray for northern Nigeria, where young students are abducted from schools by Islamic militants hostile to “western” education or gangs seeking ransom money. Pray for the safety and safe return of those kidnapped in this way.
Today	Collation of Fiona Gibson as the new Archdeacon of Ludlow.
This Week	Pray for the new Archdeacon of Ludlow as she begins her work and meets with colleagues this week.

On **World Malaria Day** pray for all that is being done to defeat malaria, especially where Covid and other issues has placed this work at risk.

In **National Gardening Week**, give thanks for gardens as places of beauty, fruitfulness and peace, and pray for the gardeners of our communities, and for gardening and allotment societies.

Wednesday is the **World Day of Safety at Work**: pray for all that encourages and enforces safety procedures in the workplace, especially where low cost garments and other products are produced cheaply for western markets.

This week includes **Stop Food Waste Day**: pray we may reduce the immense problem of food wastage, and live more simply.

In the week that celebrates **Mark**, evangelist, give thanks for the simplicity and directness of his Gospel, and pray for our preaching of God's word.

Thursday is **International Dance Day**: pray for all who teach dance to children, and those who, by performing traditional dance, share and preserve an expression of our history, identity and place.

2ND MAY - EASTER 5

Anglican	The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.
Hereford	Ludlow Deanery: Rd – Ashley Buck; Lay Co-Chair – Sadie Chalkley.
Porvoo	England: Southwark; Norway: Björgvin.
The Wider View	Pray for the “Train a Priest” project, supporting eleven ordinands in St Marks College Dar es Salaam, and one in Uganda.
This Week	<p>In “Action on Strokes” month, pray for all survivors of strokes, and for their support and rehabilitation, and for research, treatment, therapy and awareness.</p> <p>In National Walking Month, give thanks for walking groups, all that encourages outdoor activity, and the maintenance of paths.</p> <p>Today is World Asthma Day. The increase prevalence of asthma is very concerning, especially the increase in childhood asthma. Pray for research and understanding, and for work towards ensuring cleaner air and eliminating pollutants.</p> <p>Today is also Dawn Chorus Day: give thanks for the beauty of bird song, and the way in which it has inspired human poetry and music, and pray for the protection of migrant birds declining in numbers. Pray for the work of the Red Cross and allied groups, as this is Red Cross Week (from Tuesday).</p> <p>This is also an awareness week for viral meningitis - pray for research and treatment.</p> <p>This week commemorates Julian of Norwich; give thanks for her distinctive vision, which continues to inspire Christians today.</p>