

The Second Sunday before Lent **

Almighty God,
 give us reverence for all creation
 and respect for every person,
 that we may mirror your likeness
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Sunday next before Lent

Holy God,
 you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
 set straight our crooked hearts,
 and bend our wills
 to love your goodness and your glory
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ash Wednesday

Holy God,
 our lives are laid open before you:
 rescue us from the chaos of sin
 and through the death of your Son
 bring us healing and make us whole
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
 your Son battled
 with the powers of darkness,
 and grew closer to you in the desert:
 help us to use these days to grow in
 wisdom and prayer
 that we may witness to your saving love
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Second Sunday of Lent **

Almighty God,
 by the prayer and discipline of Lent
 may we enter into the mystery
 of Christ's sufferings,
 and by following in his Way
 come to share in his glory;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Third Sunday of Lent

Eternal God, give us insight
 to discern your will for us,
 to give up what harms us,
 and to seek the perfection
 we are promised
 in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,
 you know our struggle to serve you:
 when sin spoils our lives
 and overshadows our hearts,
 come to our aid
 and turn us back to you again;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(or)

Mothering Sunday

God of love,
 passionate and strong,
 tender and careful:
 watch over us and hold us
 all the days of our life;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gracious Father,
 you gave up your Son
 out of love for the world:
 lead us to ponder the mysteries
 of his passion,
 that we may know eternal peace
 through the shedding
 of our Saviour's blood,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.

Palm Sunday

True and humble king,
 hailed by the crowd as Messiah:
 grant us the faith
 to know you and love you,
 that we may be found beside you
 on the way of the cross,
 which is the path of glory.



Diocese of Bristol | Cycle of Prayer

Creating communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre

January – March 2012

Bishop's Preface

There are some ministries that are hidden from our gaze. Michael and Jo Selman provide such a ministry in the thought and effort they put in to providing us all with, what for me is an invaluable and important resource. On behalf of all users of the Diocesan Prayer Cycle, I want to express my profound thanks for their effort.

I regard the regular habit of praying for our Diocese and our colleagues as integral to the outcomes that we seek to achieve. Prayer is a wonderful gift and in the context of busy lives is sometimes a gift I am not sure I fully appreciate at times. It was said to me of one of Bristol's church leaders, that he prays for five hours most days. All I can say is that such a foundation in his life and ministry is evident for all to see. In these days of pressure and relentless busyness, maybe there is something that we all need to remember. That in ministry, we are not just called to focus on tasks, but also to pursue holiness of living. Prayer is without doubt one of those spiritual disciplines that will help us and others along the way.'

+Mike

Introduction

We are grateful to the Bishop for his comments. We hope that this Cycle continues to be useful .

As always, we are grateful to all who have sent in prayer requests - and dependent upon these to ensure the accuracy of the entries. So we once more plead your tolerance over errors and omissions

Colin Lunt has again done his creative work in editing the material into booklet format for those who prefer it like that. May we encourage parishes to print some copies for their church members.

Michael and Jo Selman
revmichael.selman@gmail.com

Wednesday 28 March

AC: Brisbane (Queensland, Australia): The Most Revd Phillip John Aspinall Archbishop & Primate of Australia; Assistant Bishop - Bp Anthony John Parkes; Brisbane - Northern Region - Bp Dr Jonathan Holland; Southern Region - Bp Geoffrey Martyn Smith; Western Region - Bp Robert Nolan.

DB: **Holy Trinity, Doynton; St Peter, Dyrham**
Diocesan Finance Committee and Audit Committee meeting.

Thursday 29 March

AC: Bristol - (Canterbury) Bp Michael Hill; Swindon - Bp Lee Rayfield.
DB: **St James the Less, Iron Acton, David Harrex** (PiC), supported by the leadership team of Yate.

Friday 30 March

AC: British Columbia - (Yukon, Canada) Bp James Arnold Jackson Cowan
DB: **The Parish of Yate New Town (St Mary's, Yate)**
Please pray for Team Rector, David Harrex and Team Vicar Iain Macfarlane, together with LLMs Ros Bailey, Clive Dolton, Joanne Hodge and Wully Perks as we deal with illness and staff shortages. Pray for the success of our joint parish services.

Saturday 31 March

John Donne, priest, poet, 1631

AC: Bujumbura - (Burundi) Bp Pie Ntukamazina
DB: **St Nicholas Family Centre, Abbotswood, Yate**

St Nicholas continues to grow in number and commitment and, for a small church, has many strong partnerships in the community. We are seeking more effective structures to manage the centre, and to manage the youth work with the threat of cuts in grants from the local authority. Pray for the strength and expertise to meet these structural and financial challenges. Pray that the spirit of hospitality and growth in the church would continue.

Some questions to help with self-examination this Lent

- Does my manner of life truly reflect what I say I believe?
- Am I allowing time for God and also for myself not only during Lent but also throughout the year?
- Am I loving the people I am supposed to be loving? Am I showing them this love on a regular basis?
- Am I walking gently on the earth? Am I making efforts to live simply and less wastefully?
- Where is my life out of balance? What do I need to do to get it back in balance again?
- Is my life consistent? Are what I believe, what I do, even how I vote and how I give my money, consistent with the Gospel teachings of Jesus?
- Will this Lent make any difference? Will my life after this Lent be any different from how it is now? How? Am I listening to God?

AC: The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia . Abp William Brown, Primate of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

PC: Oulo, Coventry.

DB: May this New Year of Grace bring blessings to all our churches in the Name of Jesus.

Monday 2 January

Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianus, bishops, teachers of the faith , 379 and 389
Seraphim, monk, 1833

Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah, bishop, evangelist, 1945

AC: Aba -(Niger Delta, Nigeria) The Most Revd Ugochukwu Ezuoke

DB: **Bishop Mike.**

Give thanks for his ministry and leadership in this Diocese. He asks for prayer – “...for myself that I might make the most of my extended study leave which begins on 9 January and continues until early May. I would like to give thanks for Anthea’s recovery from cancer and I would like prayer for anointing on my preaching and teaching ministry in the days ahead.”

Tuesday 3 January

AC: Aba Ngwa North - (Niger Delta, Nigeria) Bp Nathan Kanu

DB: **Bishop Lee.**

“With Bishop Mike on Extended Study Leave I will be carrying extra responsibilities from January through to the end of April. I would value prayers in determining priorities, dealing with unexpected situations and sustaining healthy patterns of work and recreation. Please pray for wisdom and clarity in the appointments we shall be making over these months and for all those involved in the processes in our offices, deaneries and parishes. Let's give thanks for the effective teams we are seeing develop across the Diocese and pray that our working well together may honour God and promote growth.”

Bishop's Staff meeting

Wednesday 4 January

AC: Abakaliki - (Enugu, Nigeria) Bp Benson Onyeibor

DB: **Deanery of Chippenham.** Leadership Team: Simon Tyndall (Area Dean); Aurea Hart (Lay Chair); Vivienne Fuller (Secretary); Andy Gubbins (Deanery Missioner); Janet Anderson-Mackenzie.

Diocesan Pastoral Team meeting

Thursday 5 January

AC: Aberdeen & Orkney - (Scotland) Bp Robert Gillies

DB: **Chippenham:** Please pray for our plans & preparation for our deanery mission FLAME OF HOPE being held from 12-27 May 2012. This major outreach in our rural parishes is in partnership with John Hibberd & TFM (Through Faith Missions). Pray for the events being planned as people grow into the vision for this time of

continue this growth, while both deepening the faith of our newest members, and renewing the faith of our oldest ones. Please pray that our growing team of leaders and ministers works prayerfully and effectively together to achieve all these things. Please pray also that our church growth translates into growing influence and partnerships across our community.

Saturday 17 March

Patrick, bishop, missionary, patron of Ireland, c 460

AC: Bo (Sierra Leone) - (West Africa): Bp Emmanuel Tucker

DB: **St Thomas a Becket, Pucklechurch & St James the Great, Abson.** Stuart Young (V).

SUNDAY 18 March LENT 4 (Mothering Sunday)

Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem, teacher of the faith, 386

WCC: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

AC: Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean: The Most Revd Ian Gerald James Ernest, Archbishop & Bishop of Mauritius

PC: Lincoln, Armagh (Church of Ireland)

DB: **Families and young people** in our churches

Monday 19 March Joseph of Nazareth

AC: Boga - (Congo) Bp Mugenyi William Bahemuka

DB: **St Michael, Stoke Gifford**

Simon Jones (TR), Karen Jones, Julie Bradley, Wiz Slater (Assoc Mins), Martin Gordon, Jimmy Rocks (Cs); Murray Hepburn, Richard Willerton (LLM)

Pray for the development of the St Michael's Church & Community Centre over next two years; perseverance in the Vision to be "A Christian heart at the centre of the community" through: a) Discipleship; b) Outreach; c) Serving the community.

Thanksgiving for growth in Messy Church, Kainos Youth Celebration and Monthly worship in residential care home

Tuesday 20 March

AC: Bolivia - (Southern Cone) Bp Frank Raymond Lyons

DB: **Christ the King, Bradley Stoke:** Tom Webber (TV), Simon Dunn (C); Sharon Newton, Wally Watkins (LLMs)
Bishop's Staff meeting (all day).

Wednesday 21 March

Thomas Cranmer, archbishop, martyr, 1556

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination

AC: Bondo - (Kenya) Bp Johannes Angela.

Clergy: Jonathan Philpott (PiC), Victor Howlett; LLMs: Len Scott, Alison Flint, Mike King, Margaret Greening; Gillian Parkin, Diane Ross-Smith (in training, but part of ministry team)

We give thanks for increase in attendance of younger families in some churches in the benefice.

Pray for the benefice as we grow and develop a new team of ministers; and for all those who will pass through our churches for weddings, baptisms, and funerals in the coming 12 months.

Diocesan Strategy Delivery Team meeting.

Thursday 12 January

Aelred of Hexham, abbot, 1167

Benedict Biscop, scholar, 689

AC: Ahoada - (Niger Delta, Nigeria) Bp Clement Ekpeye

DB: **St Margaret, Yatton Keynell, St Nicholas, Biddestone.**

Friday 13 January

Hilary of Poitiers, bishop, teacher of the faith, 367

Kentigern (Mungo), missionary bishop, 603.

George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), 1691

AC: Aipo Rongo - (Papua New Guinea) Bp Nathan Ingen; Suffragan Bishop - Denys Ririka

DB: **St Nicholas, Slaughterford, St Andrew, Castle Combe.**

Saturday 14 January

AC: Ajayi Crowther - (Ibadan, Nigeria) Bp Olugbenga Oduntan

DB: **St Mary the Virgin, Grittleton, St Mary the Virgin, West Kingston.**

SUNDAY 15 January EPIPHANY 2

WCC: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

PC: Birmingham, Cork, Cloyne and Ross

AC: Bangladesh: Abp Paul Sarker, Moderator of Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka

DB: **The Chippenham Deanery:** Simon Tyndall (Area Dean); Aurea Hart (Lay Chair).

Monday 16 January

AC: Akoko - (Ondo, Nigeria) Bp Gabriel Akinbiyi

DB: **St Mary, Nettleton, All Saints, Littleton Drew.**

Tuesday 17 January

Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356.

Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932

AC: Akoko Edo - (Bendel, Nigeria) Bp Jolly Oyekpen

DB: **St Andrew, Chippenham with Tytherton Lucas:** Simon Tatton-Brown (V); Eryl Spencer, Margaret Gubbins, Malcolm Hodges (LLMs).

DB: **Holy Trinity, Stapleto**

SUNDAY 4 March LENT 2

WCC: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino

AC: The Church of England: Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

PC: Church of Latvia, Lichfield, St David's (Church in Wales)

DB: **Ordinands in training** and those exploring ordained and other forms of ministry

Monday 5 March

AC: Bath & Wells - (Canterbury) Bp Peter Price; Taunton, Bp Peter David Maurice.

DB: **St John the Baptist, Frenchay**

Tuesday 6 March

AC: Bathurst - (New South Wales, Australia) Bp Richard Hurford; Asst Bishop, John Stead.

DB: **Christ Church, Hanham & St George, Hanham Abbots** (vacancy); Rebecca Waring, Geoffrey Iles (LLMs). Pray for all taking additional responsibility during the vacancy.

Bishop's Staff meeting

Wednesday 7 March

Perpetua, Felicity & companions, martyrs, 203

AC: Bauchi - (Jos, Nigeria) Bp Musa Tula

DB: **Holy Trinity, Kingswood, & the Church of the Ascension.** Peter Huzzey (TR), Andy Mason (TV), Teresa Taylor (Ass.M) and Leighton Carr (C). LLMs: John Godfrey, Jill Ewans, Joan Reeves, Kirsty Hulbert and Nikki Middell (Jane Huzzey and Janet Donerly in training).

Strategy Delivery Team meeting.

Board of Education meeting.

Thursday 8 March

Edward King, bishop, 1910

Felix, bishop, 647

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, 1929

International Women's Day and United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace

AC: Belize - (West Indies) Bp Philip Wright

DB: Pray for the work of the **Mothers' Union**; and for all women's groups in our parishes

Friday 9 March

AC: Bendigo - (Victoria, Australia) Bp Andrew William Curnow

Wednesday 25 January **The Conversion of St Paul**

AC: All Saints Cathedral - (Kenya): Abp Eliud Wabukala, Primate of All Kenya & Bishop; Garissa Missionary Area - Bp David Mutisya; Bp of the Armed Forces – Peter Simiyu; Suffragan Bp of All Saints Cathedral Diocese, Robert Martin.

DB: Pray for **New Churches** and all non-denominational churches in the Diocese.

Thursday 26 January

Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul.

AC: Amazon - (Brazil) Bp Saulo Mauricio de Barros

DB: **Chippenham, St Andrew:**

Give thanks for our new All Age services and the younger families being drawn in and pray that they will grow in faith and commitment; pray as we install kitchen and toilet in north aisle and the opportunities it will give; and for courage as congregation faces up to challenges following retirements from the choir and the need to develop new ways of leading our worship in music.

Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting.

Friday 27 January

International Day of Commemoration of the victims of the Holocaust

AC: Amichi - (Niger, Nigeria) Bp Ephraim Ikeakor

DB: Tytherton Lucas (St Nicholas)

Give thanks for the small congregation keeping worship alive and for the ministry of those who help them do so.

Saturday 28 January

Thomas Aquinas, priest, teacher of the faith, 1274

AC: Amichi - (Niger, Nigeria) Bp Ephraim Ikeakor

DB: **St Peter, Chippenham:** Andrew Gubbins (V), Alison Love (C); Richmond Cursiter (LLM).

SUNDAY 29 January EPIPHANY 4 (or PRESENTATION of CHRIST)

WCC: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

AC: The Anglican Church of Burundi: Abp Bernard Ntahoturi, Archbishop of Burundi & Bishop of Matana.

PC: Worcester (Church of England), Hamar (Church of Norway).

DB: **Parishes experiencing a vacancy** at this time; for all those involved in appointments.

Monday 30 January

AC: Andaman & Car Nicobar Islands - (North India) Bp Christopher Paul

DB: **North Chippenham Group of Churches:** Simon Tyndall (TR); Simon Dunn (TV); Dave Kilmister & Sam Rushton (Ass Mins); LLMs: Alice Hall; Anjali Kanagaratnam; Veronica Kilmister; Karin Needham, Ron Pool, Karen Rudge, Peter Rushton, Pam Tayler, Ann Tyndall; Barbara Wood, Tim Woodward; also John Moncrieff (to be licensed 18 Feb 2012)

Tuesday 21 February

AC: Awgu / Aninri - (Niger, Nigeria) Bp Emmaunuel Ugwu

DB: **Kingswood and South Gloucestershire Deanery; Leadership Team:** Si Jones, Derek Chedzey, Paul Peterson, Richard Willerton, Bill Brookshaw, Ian Wills, Gill Conian, Andy Mason. The DLT and Deanery Synod are focussing on the Diocesan Strategy of growth, resourcing, partnerships and influence across the area, as well as numerical growth and commitment.

Specific prayer request: Making the right appointments for church vacancies.

Bishop's Staff meeting

Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday

AC: Awka - (Niger, Nigeria) Bp Alexander Ibezim

DB: **For a fruitful observance of Lent**

'Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'

Diocesan Finance Committee meeting

Thursday 23 February

Polycarp, bishop, martyr, c.155.

AC: Awori - (Lagos, Nigeria) Bp J Akin Atere

DB: **The Fromeside Partnership of Churches** (Winterbourne, Winterbourne Down, Frampton Cotterell, Coalpit Heath): Martin Clacker & Colin Lunt (Assoc Vs), Malcolm Strange (Assoc P), Howard Smith (C); Mike Swain, Jackie Sherlock, Frank Smith (LLMs); Partnership Administrator – Gail Thomas.

DAC meeting.

Friday 24 February

AC: Badagary - (Lagos, Nigeria) Bp Joseph Adeyemi

DB: **The Fromeside Partnership**

Thanksgiving: For a good year of Mission at All Saints, for the success of St Peter's Praise at Frampton Cotterell, for good links with the three church schools in the Partnership area, for the ordination of Howard Smith as OLM, for our Authorized Lay Worship Leaders, for the development of Messy Church.

Prayers: For success in making disciples through our many contacts, for the further development of lay ministry, particularly new LLM's, for further development in the structure of our Partnership, for effective mission into the large population contained in our four villages.

Saturday 25 February

AC: Bukuru - (Jos, Nigeria) Bp Jwan Zhumbes

DB: **St Saviour, Coalpit Heath.**

SUNDAY 26 February LENT 1

WCC: Germany, France

linking into the local housing estate and for the pastoral work of the church community (both to its members and wider).

Friday 3 February

Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865.

AC: Ankole - (Uganda) Bp Sheldon Mwesigwa

DB: **St Peter, Langley Burrell**

Following last year's Prayer Request we have had a '(surprising) time of spiritual growth despite the challenges we face' and also have answered the question posed... 'who is going to take responsibility for this church community?' The Lord has brought people forward to take on leadership roles and St Peter's church feels fairly buoyant at this time...please pray for continued growth and depth of faith.

Saturday 4 February

Gilbert of Sempringham, Founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

AC: Antsiranana - (Indian Ocean) vacant

DB: **Kington St Michael and All Angels**

Please pray for the involvement in FLAME OF HOPE and the impact on the church and community that this deanery mission can have. Pray for the links with the local church primary school and the ways in which the church can witness and serve those who live and work in the village. Pray that the church members will keep strong in the Lord and remain a faithful witness locally.

SUNDAY 5 February 3rd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Education Sunday

WCC: Ireland, United Kingdom

AC: Anglican Church of Canada; Abp Frederick Hiltz, Primate.

PC: Bradford, Limerick and Killaloe (Church of Ireland)

DB: **Church schools.** Many schools are struggling with the big decisions that they are having to make about the long term future- ie federating, the academy question, partnerships, amalgamations. Pray for wisdom for the needs of the pupils both now and into the future for the schools and wisdom and capacity for the DBE in supporting schools both with the decision making and the outcomes.

Monday 6 February

Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952

AC: Argentina - (Southern Cone) Bp Gregory James Venables

DB: **General Synod** meets this week, from today: pray for our Diocesan representatives – Chris Dobson, Emma Ineson, Mark Pilgrim, David Froude, Glynn Harrison, Jacky Humphreys.

Tuesday 7 February

AC: Argyll & The Isles - (Scotland) Bp Kevin Pearson

DB: **Greater Corsham and Lacock Team.** TR: Andrew Johnson, TV: Sally Wheeler; Steve Wilkinson (C); Lin Culling, David Harvey (LLMs).