

26TH MARCH - LENT 5 - PASSION SUNDAY

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| Anglican | The Anglican Church of South America. |
| Hereford | Pray for all that encourages and nurtures vocation within our Diocese, and for those who advise, discern and mentor. |
| Porvoo | Ireland: Armagh; Denmark: Funen. |
| The Wider View | Pray for world peace, and for every divided community. As the war in Ukraine continues, pray for those caught up in a war they have not sought or provoked, that their courage and resilience may hold firm. |
| This Week | <p>World Theatre Day (27th March) raises awareness of theatre's importance in entertainment, but also as a means to foster peace and economic development, with the theme "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."</p> <p>World Bipolar Day happens this week, raising awareness and countering the stigma that attaches to mental illness. Bipolar affects around one in fifty people in the UK - pray for all who live with this condition.</p> <p>As we enter Passiontide, we honour Jesus as he accepts the way of the cross, and seek to travel with him on that road. May our lives mirror and convey his self-giving and self-offering love.</p> <p>As clocks go forward and British Summer Time begins, give thanks for the beauty of Spring and the richness of God's creation. This may also be a moment to commit ourselves afresh to value and conserve the environment - pray that as churches we may take a lead in reducing energy use and living more sustainably.</p> <p>Pray also for gardeners, as beds are dug, crops planted and seeds sown, also for our garden centres and nurseries and all who work in them.</p> |

2ND APRIL - PALM SUNDAY

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| Anglican | Episcopal Church of South Sudan. |
| Hereford | Ledbury Deanery. |
| Porvoo | Sweden: Uppsala; Wales: Llandaff. |
| The Wider View | Pray for girls and women in Afghanistan denied access to basic human rights, including access to education and opportunity, and to freedom of expression. Pray for the safety of those who bravely speak out and protest. |
| This Week | Pray for the various events of Holy Week , and for the cross to be the centre of our life and action. Pray for choirs and musicians preparing and performing music for this Holy Week and for our Easter celebration, also for ecumenical Acts of Witness, pilgrimage walks and other similar events this week, especially on Good Friday, and for events for children and families, such as Messy Easter. |

April is kept as **Stress Awareness Month**: pray for all who suffer from stress and related illnesses, for understanding, support and therapy - and, where needed, safe refuge.

This month also focuses on **Bowel Cancer**. Pray for greater awareness and that people may be more ready to seek diagnosis and help.

World Health Day on Friday takes the theme of “Health for all”, and challenges us to imagine a world in which clean air, water and food are available to all, and economies are focused on wellbeing and health. Pray for those places where present health provision falls well short of such aims.

Pray too for the holy places of the **Holy Land**, and for peace, and for all who visit as pilgrims.

9TH APRIL - EASTER DAY

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| Anglican | The Episcopal Church of Sudan. |
| Hereford | Pray for all that inspires, enables and resources our ministry with children, young people and families, and for our church schools. |
| Porvoo | England: Derby; Ireland: Clogher; Denmark: Aalborg. |
| The Wider View | Give thanks for the speeding up of Covid vaccination in Tanzania, with vaccination centres in HIV clinics. Pray for those who have been sceptical to accept the value of vaccination, and for long range vaccination plans being put into practice. |
| This Week | <p>May our Easter alleluias be part of who we are as God’s resurrection people, so that his light and love may dawn anew in our lives. Pray for outreach and welcome to those who come specially at Easter, and give thanks for all who prepare and decorate our churches for the Easter services.</p> <p>This is Parkinson’s Awareness Week: pray for those who live with this disease, for carers and families, treatment and therapy, and for research and development.</p> <p>Pray for all who take on voluntary tasks and responsibilities within our churches and communities, as a vital part of what links communities together and enables the common good.</p> <p>Pray for our outreach to the residential and nursing homes that serve our communities, and pray for staff, residents and those who visit as volunteers. Pray too home communicants.</p> <p>Pray for children and families making the most of the Easter break, and for the safety of those who are travelling. Pray too for those young people due to take important exams soon.</p> <p>Pray for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one at this time; may they find joy and hope in the Easter message of triumphant love.</p> |

16TH APRIL - EASTER 2

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| Anglican | The Anglican Church of Tanzania. |
| Hereford | Leominster Deanery. |

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| Porvoo | England: Blackburn; Scotland: Brechin; Lutheran Church in GB. |
| The Wider View | Pray for our friends in Nuremberg as they continue to prepare to host the Kirchentag in June, and for the 21 people who will attend from our Diocese, led by Bishop Richard. |
| This Week | <p>Monday is Haemophilia Awareness Day worldwide, raising awareness of those who live with this disease - pray for all who have the disease; give thanks also for all who give blood and for voluntary organisations such as Blood Bikes, helping deliver blood for transfusions safely.</p> <p>Saturday is Mother Earth Day, a reminder that we share a single fragile planet, and that ecosystems require our urgent action.</p> <p>Give thanks for the many footpaths and bridleways that enable access to the countryside, and for all who lead organised walks, for walking groups and clubs, and for footpath wardens etc, looking after paths and stiles, and make sure they are clear and safe. Pray to that at this time of the year with young lambs in the fields, we may respect those who farm and use footpaths with care.</p> <p>Pray for the agricultural markets that serve our communities, for auctioneers and all who work in them. Pray too for local farmer's markets and farm shops.</p> <p>Pray for those who enjoy knitting, sewing and other crafts of this sort, and for "knit and natter" groups in our churches and communities.</p> <p>As the summer term gets under way, pray for our schools at a time of change and stress: for administrators, senior teachers and governing bodies, often faced with deficit budgets and funding gaps.</p> |

23RD APRIL - EASTER 3

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| Anglican | The Church of the Province of Uganda. |
| Hereford | Pray for the development of shared ministry in our churches, for the Local Ministry Scheme, study opportunities and shared resources and good practice. |
| Porvoo | Sweden: Gothenburg; Scotland: Glasgow and Galloway. |
| The Wider View | Pray that those who as refugees are fleeing from intolerable situations in their own lands may find safety and refuge, and not be turned away. |
| This Week | <p>At the time of St George's Day pray that we have a pride in our country that embraces its traditions of tolerance, faith, the love of peace, mutual support and neighbourly concern.</p> <p>In the week of St Mark's Day, give thanks for all who tell the story of Jesus, and that we might find effective ways of sharing today the story of saving love that Mark and the other Evangelists give us.</p> <p>Christina Rossetti, remembered on Thursday, wrote compelling poems rooted in deep and trusting faith. Give thanks for all who in verse and song share with us the story of their faith.</p> |

MS Awareness Week begins on Monday. This year's theme explores the impact multiple sclerosis has on mental health. Pray for all who are living with this disease, and for their care and support.

In **World Immunisation Week**, pray for a better take-up in parts of the world where there is resistance to "western medicine", and for more children to be immunised against major diseases.

Tuesday is **World Malaria Day** - pray for those places where this disease continues to be a major killer, especially of the young, and for the resources needed to combat it.

World Penguin Day on Tuesday celebrates penguins and aims to encourage people to learn more about them and their environment, and the threats they face. Damage to the ecosystems they inhabit in fact damages us all, and the Antarctic especially should be a place of peaceful research rather than (for example) mineral exploitation: pray this may remain the case.

30TH APRIL - EASTER 4

Anglican The Episcopal Church.

Hereford Ludlow Deanery.

Porvoo England: Southwark; Norway: Björgvin.

The Wider View Pray for the "Train a Priest" scheme in Tanzania supported by our diocese, for more to come forward to help support this important work, and for those presently in training for priestly ministry.

This Week On **Good Shepherd Sunday** (so called), give thanks for this image as an expression of God's saving and guiding love. Pray too for the many sheep farmers and shepherds of our Diocese, in their dedication to the task.

Today is International **Jazz Day**: give thanks for composers and players, and for the impact of music on mind and soul.

Monday honours the apostles **Philip and James**. Give thanks for the first apostles, who with courageous faith took the Good News out into the world of their day, and pray for the same commitment of faith and courage as we in our turn continue their mission.

Pray for peace and unity among Christians of different doctrines and denominations, as on Thursday we honour the **saints and martyrs of the Reformation era**, when the Church was so deeply divided.

In **National Gardening Week**, pray especially for those who teach gardening to children and young people, and for school gardens.

World Asthma Day on Tuesday prompts prayer for all who suffer from asthma, and for the improvement of air quality.

Dawn Chorus Day this week prompts prayer for the valuing and protection of songbirds and their habitats.

Pray for the preparations this week for the **coronation** of Charles our King, on Saturday, and for the safety of all who will attend.