Diocese of Hereford . . . Sunday Prayers (26th June to 7th August)

26TH JUNE - TRINITY 2 Proper 8

Anglican The Episcopal Church of Sudan.

Hereford The Abbeydore Deanery.

Porvoo England: Lincoln; Sweden: Härnösand; Finland: Lapua.

The Wider View Pray for a just and peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine, and the

many other conflicts that mar the face of our globe.

This Week Pray for those preparing this week for **ordination** as **deacon or as**

priest, and for the Ordination Retreat.

In **DeafBlind Awareness Week**, pray for greater awareness of what

life is like for those who are deafblind, and celebrate the

achievements of deafblind people.

Pray for those who use and care for **footpaths and other rights of way** in both town and country. May we use them with care and with thought for those whose land they cross, and the wild or cultivated environment around them.

Give thanks for those who raise money for charity through street

collections, sponsored events and other activities.

Next month may be kept as **Plastic Free July**. Pray we may find ways

of reducing our use of single use plastic.

Good Care Month also begins this week: may we provide high quality care to our ageing population, with increasingly complex needs, and to properly reward those who provide that care. Pray for our local residential and nursing homes within our communities, and for those who work in them and in the community as carers.

3RD JULY - THOMAS, APOSTLE or TRINITY 3 Proper 9

Anglican The Anglican Church of Tanzania.

Hereford Pray for all that encourages and enlivens our prayer life and

spiritual development in all we do as a Diocese and as local churches.

Porvoo England: St Albans; Sweden: Linköping.

The Wider View Pray for Bishop Elisabeth in Nuremberg, and Bishop Richard here, in

the issues that face our churches post Covid, that this time of struggle has exposed and enhanced: declining church attendance, fewer people willing to volunteer, and the need to cope with reduced

income from church tax in Germany and parish giving here.

This Week Pray for those to be **ordained** as deacons today, and those ordained

as priests yesterday. Deacons: Richard Lonsdale, Linde Melhuish and Jonathan Roberts; priests: David Andrews, Luke Aylen, Lauren Bell, Lois Beynon, Erin Butler, Stanley (Joe) Chipper, Wayne Davies, Natalie

Jennings, Angela Kateley, and Ruth Leigh.

Today is **National Bereaved Parents' Day**: Pray for all parents and families impacted by the loss of a child - the aim of the day is to bring bereaved families together and assure them they are not alone.

Give thanks for the variety of ways in which our **church buildings** may be used for community activities and music and arts events.

Pray for **fruit farmers**, where picking is a labour intensive activity hampered by the current difficulty in finding seasonal workers.

Pray for the Christian churches of **Kerala, India**, where the apostle Thomas has traditionally been supposed to have preached, and the

Mar Thoma Church, which explicitly claims him as founder.

Pray for those to be admitted as **church wardens** at the this year's visitations held over this period, for those new to the role and for parishes struggling to fill vacancies.

Give thanks for the gift of **poetry** as a means of interpreting our world and our selves, and expressing our faith.

10TH JULY - TRINITY 4 Proper 10 (also Sea Sunday)

Anglican The Province of Uganda. Hereford The Bridgnorth Deanery.

Porvoo England: Newcastle; Norway: Møre.

The Wider View Pray for all involved in the homes for Ukraine programme, for hosts

offering to share their homes.

This Week On **Sea Sunday**, pray for the Mission to Seafarers, and those they

reach out to, with the Gospel message and help in times of trouble. Give thanks for the life and ministry of **Benedict**, remembered on Monday; pray for all who follow his rule, including the community

at Belmont Abbey, Hereford.

Tuesday is Simplicity Day, honouring Henry David Thoreau, American philosopher and advocate of living simply. May we tread lightly on our planet, and value the simple things.

Tuesday is also **Orangemen's Day**, a potential flashpoint in Northern Ireland, where tensions remain high. Pray for those on both sides of the Loyalist / Republican divide, and for wise leadership and counsel within the Province and at Westminster.

Tomorrow is **World Population Day**. In a world of finite resources, pray for places where population growth is adding pressure, and for a spirit of international co-operation on this issue.

17TH JULY - TRINITY 5 Proper 11

Anglican The Episcopal Church (USA etc).

Hereford Pray for the Intergenerational Ministers working throughout our

Diocese, all who work with them and our outreach to families and

young people.

Porvoo Sweden: Skara; England: Leeds.

The Wider View Pray for Bishop Michael Westall, and for all involved with the Train a

Priest Fund, supporting the training of clergy in Tanzania, and for discussion on this planned for the time of the Lambeth Conference.

This Week As **school holidays** begin, pray for all travelling both from and to our

communities, and all involved in the tourist and hospitality industries. Pray also for **families struggling** with high prices of essentials, and that food banks and other sources of help may find the support they need to meet the growing demand for their services.

Today is the **World Day for International Justice**: pray for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and that those who perpetrate these crimes may be brought to justice.

The **Festival of British Archaeology** prompts prayer for those who survey, investigate and interpret archaeological sites and artefacts, and help tell the story of our past.

Mary of Magdala, whose day is this week, is called "Apostle to the Apostles", having been sent by Jesus on Easter morning to take the resurrection news to the disciples. Pray for all who, perhaps like her, feel lost, cut off and unworthy, and in need of the rebirth in spirit that only Jesus can provide.

24TH JULY - TRINITY 6 Proper 12

Anglican The Church in Wales. Hereford The Bromyard Deanery.

Porvoo Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lithuania; Ireland: Derry and Raphoe. The Wider View Pray for all attending the Lambeth Conference, due to starts this

week under the title "God's Church for God's World".

This Week Pray for the **Three Choirs Festival** at Hereford this week, and give

thanks for the gift of music and song.

The Big Listen today promotes the work of the Samaritans. Give thanks for their vital work at times of desperation and desolation. The apostle **James** and the friends of Jesus **Mary, Martha and Lazarus**, are commemorated this week. May the way of service and sacrifice, and a spirit of welcome, friendship and mutual service be marks of our Church in mission.

Pray too for the **Society of Mary and Martha** at Sheldon, Exeter, offering a ministry of refreshment, healing and restoration.

Pray for the annual conference of **USPG** this week, and all who will

attend.

Give thanks for **parks** and other public open spaces, and for those who maintain them and keep them tidy. Pray also for conservation of shorelines and coastal waters in **National Marine Week**.

In the week that commemorates William Wilberforce et al, pray for all who are trapped in forms of modern slavery.

31ST JULY - TRINITY 7 Proper 13

Anglican The Province of West Africa.

Hereford Pray for all that encourages and resources the local church in mission,

and for our planning for mission at every level.

Porvoo England: Bristol; Finland: Helsinki.

The Wider View Give thanks for the continued take-up of Covid 19 vaccinations in

Tanzania, where some eight million doses have now been given, and that a positive lead is being given by senior government figures, from

the president herself down.

This Week Lammas Day tomorrow marks the offering of the first fruits, and

prompts prayer for the harvest and for farmers and all who work the land, and also for those most impacted by food shortages and high

prices as a result of the war in Ukraine and other factors.

August is **National Road Victim Month**. Pray for safety on our roads, for the families and friends of those who have been victims of fatal

accidents, and for those who offer counselling and support.

Playday this Wednesday promotes the value of play within a healthy childhood and speaks of play as the right of every child and young person. Pray for children denied easy access to play opportunities. The Feast of the **Transfiguration**, on Saturday, prompts prayer that our mission may be founded in the cross as the place of glory, and in

the greatness of service and sacrifice.

7TH AUGUST - TRINITY 8 Proper 14

Anglican The Province of the West Indies.

Hereford The Clun Forest Deanery.

Porvoo England: Portsmouth; Sweden: Stockholm.

The Wider View Pray for the post-Lambeth visit to our Diocese of Bishop James Almasi

(Bishop of Masasi) and his wife Veronica, between 8th and 11th August, for the programme of visits, meetings etc due to take place,

and for those offering hospitality.

This Week National Allotments Week from Monday acknowledges the

importance of gardening with nature in mind. Pray for allotment holders and associations, and gardening clubs and their members. This week commemorates **Mary Sumner**, give thanks for the work and witness of the Mothers' Union around the world, and pray for

the MU in our own Diocese and for our MU link dioceses worldwide.

Friday is **International Youth Day**. Give thanks for the drive and initiative of young people, in areas like peace issues, the environment and gender and race equality.

Pray for those who live with **addictions** of various kinds, and for their families. Pray for treatment, therapy and rehabilitation, and for clinics, advice lines and sources of help and support.

In this week which commemorates **Florence Nightingale**, pray for nurses and those training to join the nursing profession.

Pray for those impacted by **rural crime**; isolated homes can be very

vulnerable to burglary, which increases in the holiday.

Pray for local writers' circles, art groups and other places where creative skills are nurtured, and for their organisers and leaders.