4th November 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

**Prayer for the Nation**

Zoom Meeting each evening at 6pm from 5th November to 2nd December

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236834693?pwd=ZU1hOTlPblJ1Y2pBekE4U3IzbWJ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 872 3683 4693 Passcode: 919624

I am mindful that you are receiving a lot of communiques at present. Please bear with me as I add another to your inbox. The key purpose of my writing is to draw your attention to and flesh out some of the information you will be receiving from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York about their call to Prayer for the Nation.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, together with the Bishops of the Church of England and several senior church leaders are calling Christians and people of goodwill to pray throughout the day during the 28 days of this second Lockdown.  In particular, they are asking us to join in a short time of prayer at 6pm every evening. You can join their national prayer stream via the Church of England website (link below).

In Liverpool, we are establishing our own Zoom and inviting churches to join us at 6pm for 15 minutes.  On Fridays, this will be a child and family friendly version of prayers. It will run from Thursday 5th November up until and including Wednesday 2nd December. This will lead nicely into our Clergy Retreat Day on 3rd December, which is focussed upon prayer. If you are able to, please do join Bishop Paul and myself for this.  It may be that parishes, church groups and individuals may want to establish their own prayer groups, which we would want to encourage. The Cathedral will be using the prayers produced for this occasion at the end of evening prayer so time will vary between 5.50 and 6pm. All the cathedral services during the lockdown will be live streamed and can be accessed via their website. <https://www.liverpoolcathedral.org.uk/home/worship-here/regular-services.aspx>

The archbishops have also asked that cathedrals and churches ring a bell at 6pm as a call to prayer.  Sadly, our cathedral is presently undergoing remedial work of the bell tower and so is not able to participate in this.  If your church has a bell and you are able to, please would you toll them at 6pm every evening.

We recognise that 6pm will not work for everyone, in which case, we ask that you find your time throughout the day to pray. You will find a suite of prayers and resources on our website <https://liverpool.anglican.org/> and the Church of England website <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>

Friends, this is all about the whole church praying together. As you know, in the Diocese of Liverpool, prayer is an essential part of our ‘Rule of Life’ (Pray, Read, Learn, Tell, Serve and Give) and our Diocesan vision is about ‘Asking God for bigger church making a bigger difference with more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.’ Please find your way of participating in this wave of prayer and pray for family and friends, our churches, those in national and local government, the scientists and researchers seeking a vaccine, the NHS, all key workers and carers, nursing homes, businesses and workplaces, the furloughed, unemployed and the vulnerable and the health and wellbeing of all.

With our thanks for being light-bearers in these dark times and for your ever faithfulness.

Yours ever