

A Week of Prayer for Unity, Healing and Reconciliation...

3 - 10 April 2017

“ Following +Philip’s decision to withdraw from the appointment as the next Bishop of Sheffield, the Archbishop of York and myself called the church to a period of penitence, repentance and reflection. Many of us have made this a part of our Lenten prayers and study; I now call on the Diocese to use the period between 3 - 10 April for focused prayer and reflection for unity, healing and reconciliation culminating in the Diocese gathering together at the Cathedral on Monday 10 April at 19.00 for the Chrism Eucharist and blessing of oils.

I have set out below a daily bible reading and a topic for prayer each day for us to use during this period. It is my sincere hope and prayer that this period will move us forward in reconciliation across the Diocese as we rebuild relationships of trust and confidence and refocus on God’s mission and our vision for growth and the transformation of the communities we are called to serve. ”

Rt Revd Peter Burrows, Bishop of Doncaster

Monday 3 April - Matt 5.v44

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

PRAY - We recognise that +Philip’s appointment raised many different views which were held with integrity. Take time to pray for people who may have held opposing views to your own.

Tuesday 4 April - Colossians 3. V12-14

Therefore as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity.

PRAY - Pray to receive the qualities listed in these verses which will help you to forgive others and live in love and peace and work for the unity of God’s church.

Wednesday 5 April - 2 Corinthians 5. V17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come. All this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

PRAY - Pray you will become an agent and ambassador of Christ’s ministry of reconciliation in the church and the world.

Thursday 6 April - John 17.v20-23

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

PRAY - Pray that the way we forgive and unite with one another will be a good witness to the people of the Diocese of Sheffield and bring glory to God.

Friday 7 April - Acts 15.v37-40

Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord.

PRAY - God used this dispute between Paul and Barnabas to spread the gospel further and faster across the world. Pray that God will bring good out of our current situation.

Saturday 8 April - 1 Peter 2.v24

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

PRAY - For God’s healing for all who have been hurt.

Sunday 9 April - Isaiah 55.v8

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord.

PRAY - Prayer for God’s guidance as we discern who should be appointed as the next Bishop of Sheffield.

Monday 10 April - 2 Chronicles 7.v14

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

PRAY - Pray for the people in the Diocese of Sheffield. Pray that God might bless his church as we seek to grow a sustainable network of Christ like, lively and diverse Christian communities in every place which are effective in making disciples and in seeking to transform our society and God’s world.



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