Ross and Archenfield Deanery

Praying Together

Prayer Diary

Sunday 1st March 2026 to

Tuesday 31st March

Revd Mark writes;

Welcome to our Deanery Prayer Diary for March 2025

All of this month is contained within the Season of Lent, and as we notice that the days lengthen, from which we get the word Lent for the Old English *lencten* meaning spring or springtime, we recall that we are following in the footsteps of many generations of Christians who have used this time to remember and reflect on the time leading up to the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

As far as we can tell, when Christianity began to flourishing the 2nd and 3rd Centuries, Easter was the only time you could be baptised,. Thus Lent became he time of preparation for baptism, of learning about Jesus and, if you were a pagan, of the Hebrew Scriptures that set the scene for the revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One of God.

We, I am sure, will be doing something similar. We will be praying, reading our Bibles and even attending Lent courses to bring us into a deeper understanding of what Jesus went through in that last week of his life. That story is full of ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies that we understand more and more as we deepen our own spiritual life.

Revd Mark

Please do get in contact if you have specific places or projects to pray for. Please pray for the parishes of the Wye Reaches Benefice in their interregnum .

Please pray for David, appointed as our Rural Dean.

You can contact me at revmark100@yahoo.co.uk or 07882410759.

Sunday 1st March—St David

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23 verses 2– 4

[2]The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
[3]The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
[4]is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Collect: Almighty God, who called your servant David to be a faithful and wise steward of your mysteries for the people of Wales:
in your mercy, grant that, following his purity of life and zeal for the gospel of Christ, we may with him receive the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: Churches dedicated to St. David (Little Dewchurch and Much Dewchurch) along with the people of Wales and their Welsh culture and language.

Across our Deanery: For Emily Goy, Life-Link Chaplain, and her links with John Kyrle Academy and community organisations across the Ross.

Monday 2nd Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6 verses 14—15

14 I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he will bring about at the right time – he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Collect: Almighty God, from the first fruits of the English nation who turned to Christ, you called your servant Chad to be an evangelist and bishop of his own people:
give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature, humble spirit and prayerful life, that we may truly commend to others the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, the clergy, congregations and church of the Diocese of Lichfield. All who are called to by missioners through their life and example of humility and forgiveness.

Across our Deanery: St. Tysilio, Sellack and for all who live in the village and farm the local area.

Tuesday 3rd

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 83—84

83 For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.
84 How long must your servant endure?
When will you judge those who persecute me?

For our Prayers: All who feel themselves to be dried-out, with nothing left to give, no energy for those for whom they care. That God may refresh and renew them, so that they might be harbingers of the Kingdom.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael, Sollers Hope and for those who live and work in the area.

Wednesday 4th

Scripture: Psalm 199 verses 85—86

85 The arrogant have dug pitfalls for me;
they flout your law.
86 All your commandments are enduring;
I am persecuted without cause; help me!

For our Prayers: All who are avoiding responsibility for the problems they have caused or lows they have broken. May the course of justice run sweet for all who fight against the corrupt on the earth.

Across our Deanery: St. Weonards, St. Weonards church, the village hall, the new housing being built in the village, the local shop, and St. Weonards Primary School and the autism unit based there.

Thursday 5th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 87– 88

87 They have almost made an end of me on earth;
but I have not forsaken your precepts.
88 In your steadfast love spare my life,
so that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

For our Prayers: All who are exploited in the work that they do, that they may receive a fair wage for the effort they do.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, The Lea and all who live and work in the village, The Lea C of E Primary school and all who teach and study there.

Friday 6th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 89—90

89 The Lord exists for ever;
your word is firmly fixed in heaven.
90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

For our Prayers: Give thanks for the steadfast love of the God who made us and supports us through the power of the Spirit each day.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Upton Bishop, for those who live in the village, for the local pub and the village hall.

Saturday 7th Perpetua and Her Companions, Martyrs of Carthage, 203

Scripture: Revelation 12 verses 11—12

11 But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony,
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.
12 Rejoice then, you heavens
and those who dwell in them!'

Collect: Holy God, who gave great courage to Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:
grant that we may be worthy to climb the ladder of sacrifice and be

received into the garden of peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: All who fear that their faith makes them a target. Praying for our brothers and sisters in places of persecution, especially Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Walford and for all who live in the village, for the local shops and pubs and the local school. For the appointment of the House for Duty post.

Sunday 8th Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 4 verses 19—21

19The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' 21Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

Collect: Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: All who find God in unexpected places. For our conversations with those around us, that we may carry the word of God in what we day.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary the Virgin, Welsh Newton and St. John the Baptist, Llanrothal, the revitalised PCC, and for all who live and work in the villages.

Monday 9th

Scripture: Psalm 199 verses 91—92

91 By your appointment they stand today,
for all things are your servants.
92 If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my misery.

For our Prayers: Giving thanks for the stars and the moon, which show the handiwork of creation and reveal a God who is bigger that we can ever imagine.

Across our Deanery: St. Lawrence, Weston-under-Penyard and all who live and work in the village.

Tuesday 10th

Scripture: Psalm 199 verses 93—94

93 I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.
94 I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.

For our Prayers: That our path be straight and true as we live out our Lenten pilgrimage, following the laws of God.

Across our Deanery: St. Dubricius, Whitchurch and for those who live and work in the village, for Whitchurch House Care Home and the local C of E Primary school.

Wednesday 11th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 95—96

95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your decrees.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

For our Prayers: All those who pray for us, unbidden and unknow, who hold our flourishing in their hearts.

Across our Deanery: St. James, Wyesham, for its outreach to the local school and for those who live in the village.

Thursday 12th

Scripture: Psalm 199 verses 97—98

97 Oh, how I love your law!
It is my meditation all day long.
98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.

For our Prayers: The foolish who do not recognise God and those who would ridicule all people of faith.

Across our Deanery: John Kyrle High School, Ross on Wye, for the Head, Julian Morgan, staff and pupils. For the LifeLink Chaplain Emily Goy, and a Christian presence in the school.

Friday 13th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 99—100

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.
100 I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.

For our Prayers: All who instruct us in the faith, may we always have an open mind that allows us to learn and to see our faith with more depth and clarity as we journey through Lent.

Across our Deanery: Ross Community Hospital, the staff and patients, and those who visit on behalf of the local churches.

Saturday 14th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 10 1—102

101 I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
102 I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.

For our Prayers: All who face a choice between good and evil, that they might choose right over wrong, even if the costs of such a choice are hard to bear.

Across our Deanery: The Deanery Leadership Team, the Rural Dean, Revd David Howells, a new Deanery Lay co-chair (TBA), Wendy Price (Deanery Secretary) and Paul Baker (Deanery Treasurer).

Sunday 15th Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scripture: John 9 verses 24—25

24So for the second time they called the man who had been blind,
and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a
sinner.' 25He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One
thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'

Collect: Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who work with those who are blind, especially the RNIB and it's college in Hereford City. All who are researching ways of restoring sight and of preventing people from losing it.

Across our Deanery: Ross Market and Shops, and all who work in retail in and around Ross town centre.

Monday 16th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 103—104

103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
104 Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

For our Prayers: That we may relish the words of the Bible and read, learn and inwardly digest them this day and every day of Lent.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Aston Ingham and for their Church Officers and congregation and all who live in the village.

Tuesday 17th Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron o Ireland, c. 460

Scripture: Luke 10 verses 17—20

17The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, in your name even the
demons submit to us!' 18He said to them, 'I watched Satan fall from
heaven like a flash of lightning. 19See, I have given you authority to
tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy;
and nothing will hurt you. 20Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that
the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in
heaven.'

Collect: Almighty God, who in your providence chose your servant Patrick to be the apostle of the Irish people:
keep alive in us the fire of the faith he kindled and strengthen us in our pilgrimage towards the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: The people of Ireland and the government that they may govern fairly and protect the weak and vulnerable. For all who are called to leave their home and seek a new life somewhere new.

Across our Deanery: All Saints, Bishopswood in the process of being made redundant, the community centre and the monthly parish breakfast event at Bishopswood Village Hall.

Wednesday 18th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 105—106

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.

For our Prayers: As we journey this day along our Lenten path, may the Holy Bible guide and illumine our journey.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Brampton Abbotts. For the people in the village of Brampton Abbotts, the C of E Primary School and that the church of St, Michael become a vital part of village life.

Thursday 19th Joseph of Nazareth

Scripture: Matthew 1 verses 18b—20

18b When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Collect: God our Father, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph the carpenter to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
give us grace to follow him in faithful obedience to your commands; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with

you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: All who work with their hands, especially those who are skilled in the crafts of wood and stone working. For those whoring our churches to restore them and keep them waterproof and wind-tight.

Across our Deanery: St. Bridget, Bridstow. For the village, Bridstow C of E Primary School and the village.

Friday 20th Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687

Scripture: Ezekiel 34 verses 11– 12

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will
seek them out. 12 As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are
among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will res-
cue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a
day of clouds and thick darkness.

Collect: Almighty God, who called your servant Cuthbert from following the flock to follow your Son and to be a shepherd of your people:
in your mercy, grant that we, following his example, may bring those who are lost home to your fold;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: All who are shepherds, of both sheep and human flocks. We pray for Archbishop Sarah and Archbishop Stephen as they lead the Church of England as good shepherds should.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Dewsall and St. Mary Callow (closed). For those in the village of Callow and for those getting married at Dewsall Court and Dewsall Church.

Saturday 21st Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556

Scripture: Isaiah 43 verses 1– 2

[1]Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
[2]When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

Collect: Father of all mercies, who through the work of your servant Thomas Cranmer renewed the worship of your Church and through his death revealed your strength in human weakness:
by your grace strengthen us to worship you in spirit and in truth and so to come to the joys of your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Mediator and Advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who are working on liturgy, especially those who use liturgy to reach the unchurched to draw them closer to God and build up their spiritual life.

Across our Deanery: St. Peter, Dixton. For the PCC and all working to restore the church.

Sunday 22nd Fifth Sunday of Lent—Passion Sunday

Scripture: John 11 verses 9—11

9Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' 11After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.'

Collect: Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who have worked hard at their gardens and so delight passers by with flowers, showing spring has arrived. And out of that which was once thought dead, new life can arise.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Foy. For the hamlet of Foy and for those who raft and canoe down the Wye past the church.

Monday 23rd

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 107—108

107 I am severely afflicted;
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord,
and teach me your ordinances.

For our Prayers: May all that we do this day be an offering to the God who made us and the Son who redeemed us.

Across our Deanery: St. Swithin, Ganarew. For the people of the village, the work going on in the church and the care home next to the church.

Tuesday 24th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 109—110

109 I hold my life in my hand continually,
but I do not forget your law.
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I do not stray from your precepts.

For our Prayers: All who are in the ICU at Hereford Hospital and those who look after them, whose lives hang in the balance, that they may be restored to health.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Garway. For those who worship there, those who live in Garway and for its primary school, and those looking to the future of the church building.

Wednesday 25th Annunciation of Our Lord

Scripture: Luke 1 verse 26—37

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in
Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name
was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord
is with you.'

Collect: We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with

you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For our Prayers: All who are pregnant and those who are accompanying them on the journey to motherhood. We remember all who are struggling to conceive and those who are undergoing IVF.

Across our Deanery: St. Giles, Goodrich and St. Margaret, Welsh Bicknor. For the people of the villages, for Goodrich C of E School and for visitors to Goodrich Castle.

Thursday 26th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 111- -112

111 Your decrees are my heritage for ever;
they are the joy of my heart.
112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes
for ever, to the end.

For our Prayers: Giving thanks for the eternal nature of the Word of God, that resonated afresh with each generation and our duty to proclaim it again and again.

Across our Deanery: St. Dubricius, Hentland and St. Catharine, Hoarwithy. For the two villages and those who live there, for the project at St. Catharine's to improve access, the local pub and shop in Hoarwithy.

Friday 27th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 113—114

113 I hate the double-minded,
but I love your law.

114 You are my hiding-place and my shield;
I hope in your word.

For our Prayers: That we may turn away from those who present two faces to us and the world.

Across our Deanery: St. Michael and All Angels, Hope Mansell. For the people who live and work in the village.

Saturday 28th

Scripture: Psalm 119 verses 115—116

115 Go away from me, you evildoers,
that I may keep the commandments of my God.
116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live,
and let me not be put to shame in my hope.

For our Prayers: That we may know when we are turning from the one, true path that leads to salvation and that we may be steadfast and true to our God.

Across our Deanery: t. Andrew with St. Mary, How Caple. For those who live in the village and the surrounding farms. For How Caple Court and those who are getting married there this year.

Sunday 29th—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21 verses 8 –11

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking,
'Who is this?' 11 The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus
from Nazareth in Galilee.'

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

For our Prayers: As we bear our palm crosses, so prepare us for this coming Holy Week, that we may be drawn more deeply into the story of Jesus' passion.

Across our Deanery: St. John the Baptist, Kings Caple and for those who live in the village. For Kings Caple Primary School and the staff and pupils.

<u>Monday 30th - Monday of Holy Week</u>

Scripture: John 12 verses 2—3

2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was
one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly per-
fume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with
her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

For our Prayers: All who offer hospitality to friend or stranger, and show kindness and love to those who are their neighbours.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Linton, and those who live and work in the village

Tuesday 31st - Tuesday of Holy Week

Scripture: John 12 verses 23—25

23 Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be
glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the
earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears
much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate
their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'

For our Prayers: That we may be prepared to lose our lives in the following of Jesus, that we may live as true witnesses to the love of God in the places where God has put us.

Across our Deanery: St. Mary, Little Birch and for those who live in the village. For those walking the Herefordshire Trail as it passes the church, The Village Hall and all the activities that go on there.

Our Deanery Prayer:

Living God, who breathed into your disciples the power of the Holy Spirit, and so equipped them for the work of
mission through love and service;
Renew in our churches a vision of your kingdom where all things are made new, and justice and peace will reign;
and grant us grace and strength to proclaim this good news, won for us through the love of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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