

100 Days of Prayer

Travelling Well Together – Sustaining Ministry

The 100 Days of Prayer is a particular invitation to pray together across and within our diocese with shared intention and focus. Together, we can give thanks for what God has given. Together we name the reality of our present challenges honestly before God, as so many have done before us. Together, we give voice to our hope for a future held in God's care and purpose. Together, we open ourselves to listen to God and to God's wisdom through the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek God's calling for us as a diocese. After this 100 Days of Prayer we move, as a diocese, to 100 Days of Listening. Please do look out for resources for that as we would love to hear from you.

For each week of the 100 Days of Prayer there is a theme to frame our prayers and some prompts to focus our prayers.

Week 1

Theme for the week: our readiness for change

Change is normal. Living as a disciple of Jesus means experiencing change every day of our lives. Growing older means we change outwardly, yet following Jesus means we also change inwardly as we follow him and as the Holy Spirit transforms us to be more like Jesus. Recognising that change in who we are as we follow Jesus is an important encouragement in our journey of discipleship and our ability to embrace change. Change is a normal and an expected part of our shared life across our diocese. Together we face significant challenges. How can we be an enduring missional presence in Essex and East London in our times and within our context? What changes

will this require of us and how will we ready ourselves for these changes?

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

As we enter Lent and begin our 100 Days of Prayer, we **give thanks...**

- that in and through Christ we can be changed
- for the changes that God in Christ has brought into our lives and into the life of our churches and communities

We **pray** that...

- we would be open to change in our personal lives and in our corporate life as God's church in our parishes and diocese
- we would be open to who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do

*Creator God,
you love all that you have made.
Your gift of life is visible all around.
We ask that, by your Spirit,
you would comfort the afflicted,
and unsettle the comfortable.
Inspire us to be the change
we want to see in the world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
our friend and brother. Amen.*