

This coming week ...

“... this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.” (Luke 2.25)

Simeon, at the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is a reminder to us to pray bigger and to keep in mind not just individual or local concerns but the nation and indeed the world; this week let's pray with the Holy Spirit for all those nations who are looking for consolation in times of war, natural and environmental disaster and oppression.

1 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

**THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
or CANDLEMAS**

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Bangor (Wales)
Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough (Ireland)
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Faroe Islands
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Church of England
Primate: Archbishop Sarah Mullally
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Area Dean: Ian Flintoft
Lay Chair: Lynne Craggs

**2 PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE
TEMPLE or CANDLEMAS**

- **Anglican Communion:**
Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairawhiti
(Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)
Bp: Most Revd Don TamihereL
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Deanery Secretary: Pauline Seddon
Finance Officer: David Lea

3 Tuesday

Anskar, archbishop of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark and Sweden, 865

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Taita-Taveta (Kenya)
Bp Liverson Mng'onda
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Bedlington, Cambois and Sleekburn
Vicar: *vacant*
Readers: Joseph Lawrie and Susan Ramshaw
- Bedlington Whitley Memorial C of E First School

4 Wednesday

Gilbert of Sempringham, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Taiwan (ECUSA)
Bp Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Cuthbert's Church, Bedlington
Please pray for all those attending today's meeting of the Bishop's Council.

5 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tamale (West Africa)
Bp Dennis Debukari Tong
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Andrew's Church, Cambois
- **The Mothers' Union:**
For all MU members in the Newcastle Diocese and their service to support their churches.

6 Friday

The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tanga (Tanzania)
Bp: Most Revd Maimbo Mndolwa
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St John the Evangelist Church, Sleekburn

7 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Central Tanganyika (Tanzania)
Bp Dickson Chilongani
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Blyth St Cuthbert
Priest in Charge: Chris Webb
Reader (PTO): Lynne Craggs

This coming week ...

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness...” (Matthew 6.33)

On this Racial Justice Sunday, Jesus' injunction to strive for God's kingdom and righteousness is particularly apt; this week let's pray for justice for all people, regardless of race, colour or background and let's pray we each have courage and opportunity to build bridges rather than deepen division.

8 SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Racial Justice Sunday: Theme 'Coat of Many Colours'

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Worcester
Diocese of Hamar (Church of Norway)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
Primate: Most Revd Andrew Chan
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Blyth St Mary
Vicar: Catherine Macpherson

9 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of South West Tanganyika (Tanzania) Bp Matthew Mhagama
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Choppington St Paul the Apostle
Vicar: Terry Moat

The General Synod meets in London from today until Friday. Please pray for all those representing our diocese.

10 Tuesday

Scholastica, sister of Benedict, abbess of Plombariola, c.543

- **Anglican Communion:**

Diocese of Western Tanganyika

(Tanzania) Bp Emmanuel Bwatta

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of St Paul the Apostle, Choppington

11 Wednesday

Caedmon of Whitby, poet, 680 [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tarime (Tanzania)
Bp John Nyaitara
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Holy Family Church, Stakeford

12 Thursday

*Ethelwold of Lindisfarne, 740 [CNS] **

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tasmania (Australia)
Bp Richard Condie
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Cramlington
Team Rector: *vacant*
Reader: John Brierley
Reader (PTO): Elizabeth Allen
- **Praying for Unity:**
For all preparing ecumenical courses and events for Lent and Passiontide
- * Canon Sarah Hills, Vicar of Holy Island

13 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**

Diocese of Toungoo (Myanmar)

Bp Saw John Wilme

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Nicholas' Church, Cramlington
- Cragside C of E First School, Cramlington

14 Saturday

Cyril and Methodius, missionaries to the Slavs, 869 and 885

Valentine, martyr at Rome, c.269

- **Anglican Communion:**

Diocese of Temotu (Melanesia)

Bp Patteson Nibeo

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Peter's Church, Northburn School, Cramlington

This coming week ...

“But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’” (Matthew 17.7)

Scripture regularly repeats the reassurance ‘Do not be afraid’; this week let’s pray for God’s reassurance in the face of all that makes us fearful, and for a renewed vision of God’s overwhelming glory and majesty – though we should also note that recognising the glory of God is often why the disciples need Jesus’ reassurance in the first place!

15 SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

- **Porvoo Communion:** Diocese of Roskilde (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark*)
United Diocese of Tuam, Limerick and Killaloe (*Ireland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**
Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean
Primate: Most Revd Gilbert Rateloson Rakotondravelo
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Delaval
Priest in Charge: David Atkinson
Reader: Christina Malvern (PTO)

16 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tennessee (ECUSA)
Bp John Bauerschmidt
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of Our Lady, Delaval

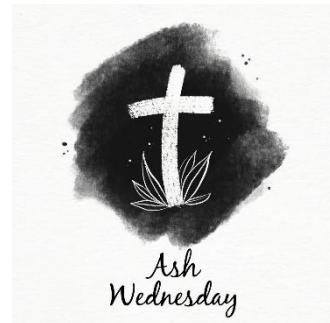
17 Tuesday

Janani Luwum, archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977

*Finan of Lindisfarne, bishop, 661 [CNS]**

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of East Tennessee (ECUSA)
Bp Brian L Cole
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Michael and All Angels’ Church, New Hartley
- * *vacant canonry*

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*Colman of Lindisfarne, bishop, 679 [CNS] **

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of West Tennessee (ECUSA)
Bp Phoebe Roaf
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
St Paul’s Church, Seaton Sluice
- * Canon Nigel Taylor, Vicar of St Mary’s, Monkseaton and Area Dean of Tynemouth

19 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Terekeka (South Sudan)
Bp Paul Modi Farjala
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Newsham and Horton
St Bede’s Church, Newsham
Vicar: Ian Flintoft
Assistant Curate: James Bartle
- **Praying for Unity:**
For the Church leaders of all denominations in the North East

20 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**
The Territory of the People (Canada)
Bp Clara Plumondon
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Horton
- **Praying for Unity**
For all involved in the planning and implementation of this year’s ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ programme in May-June

21 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Missionary Diocese of Tete (Mozambique & Angola) Bp Sérgio Bambo
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of St Benedict, Cowpen
Vicar: *vacant*

This coming week ...

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil."
(Matthew 4.1)

It seems strange that the Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to trial and temptation, but we can also understand the sense of the Spirit as going on before him; let's pray this week for all of us as we journey through Lent, and especially for those we know who are facing trials and temptations, that they may know God is with them and goes before them.

22 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- **Porvoo Communion:**
Diocese of Peterborough
Diocese of Meath and Kildare (Ireland)
- **Anglican Communion:**
The Church of Ireland
Primate: Most Revd John McDowell
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Killingworth
Priest in charge: Sarah Moon
Assistant Curate: Yvonne Gardner
Readers: Hilary Elder and
Frances Pattison (PTO)

23 Monday

Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyr, c.155

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Texas (ECUSA)
Bp Andrew Doyle
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Seghill
Priest in Charge: David Atkinson
Reader Emeritus: Christine Bryars

24 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Northwest Texas (ECUSA)
Bp Scott Mayer

- **Bedlington Deanery:**

St Mary's Church, Holywell

25 Wednesday

Ember Day

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of West Texas (ECUSA)
Bp David G Read
- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Holy Trinity Church, Seghill

26 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Thika (Kenya)
Bp Julius Njuguna Wanyoike

- **Bedlington Deanery:**
Benefice of Weetslade

Vicar: *vacant*
Reader: Shirley Morgan

- **Praying for Unity**
For all churches in the United Reformed tradition in our region

27 Friday

Ember Day

George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Thoothukudi - Nazareth

(United Church of South India)
Bp Samuel Devasahayam Clement

- **Bedlington Deanery:**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Burradon

28 Saturday

Ember Day

Herefrith, abbot of Lindisfarne, 689 [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**
Diocese of Tirunelveli (United Church of South India) Bp ARGST Barnabas

- **Bedlington Deanery:**

St Paul's Church, Dudley

Please pray for all those attending today's meeting of the Diocesan Synod.

This Prayer Diary can be downloaded each month from the

Newcastle diocesan website:
www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary

About this Prayer Diary

We continue to include in the Prayer Diary all those commemorated in **Celebrating the Northern Saints**, [CNS] and to remember our lay, residentiary and honorary canons on the day of the saints and influential people who have given their canonry its designation and/or stall in the Cathedral.

Each week, there is a short stimulus to prayer, normally based on the Sunday Gospel, to guide our next steps in **Seeking, Sharing, Sending**. We are grateful to Bishop Mark for these reflections.

ON SUNDAYS, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/493/porvoo-prayer-diary-2026>). The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it to “share a common life” and “to pray for and with one another.”
- Secondly are intercessions from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available at www.anglicancommunion.org. Prayers on Sundays are for a Province of the Communion.
- Lastly we pray for our own Diocese of Newcastle, and the Bedlington Deanery, their churches, people and organisations, including Church Schools.

ON WEEKDAYS, the pattern is similar on weekdays, but without the Porvoo Communion:

- Firstly, dioceses from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer
- Secondly our own Diocese, and the people, parishes, churches and schools in Bedlington Deanery
- On the first Thursday, we pray for the work of the Mothers’ Union in the Diocese, on subsequent Thursdays for aspects of ecumenism, and in January we pray on each day of the Week of Prayer for Unity for a different tradition.

We pray for our **Link Dioceses** as follows:

Botswana during January, April and October.

Møre during March, June and September.

The **Deaneries** are incorporated in the Prayer Diary in such a way as to include the **Benefices** (with names of ordained and lay ministers) and also, for benefices with more than one church, the constituent **churches**, in order that every congregation – and the local community in which it is set - can be remembered at least once during the year.

January	Morpeth (cont.) and Norham	July	Newcastle East
February	Bedlington	August	Newcastle West
March	Bellingham	September	Tynemouth
April	Corbridge	October	Alnwick
May	Hexham	November	Bamburgh & Glendale
June	Newcastle Central	December	Morpeth

I try to mark important days in the life of the Diocese (e.g. Diocesan Synods, Institutions and Licensings, ecumenical occasions) with a special note, but can only do so if I have the information early in the previous month. **Please don't hesitate to send me information and prompts in good time.**

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