

## 1 NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Kwoi** (*Nigeria*)  
Bp Paul Samuel Zamani
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Metlha Beleme, Diocesan Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Bishop Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle and Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick

## 2 Thursday

Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, bishops, teachers of the faith, 379 and 389  
*Seraphim, monk of Sarov, spiritual guide, 1833*  
*Vedaneyegam Samuel Azariah, bishop in South India, evangelist, 1945*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Kyoto** (*Nippon Sei Ko Kai*)  
Bp Stephen Takashi Kochi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Theo Naledi, retired Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:** Chris Elder, Interim Diocesan Secretary, and all who work at Church House, Percy Main
- **The Mothers' Union:**  
We give thanks for the work of Mothers' Union during 2024 and pray for another year of supporting family life in the diocese.

## 3 Friday

Roger Thornton, benefactor, 1430 [CNS] \*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Kyushu** (*Nippon Sei Ko Kai*)  
Most Revd Luke Kenichi Muto
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Gaborone:  
Revd Dr Celestino Chishimba, Dean and Archdeacon (Cathedral), Revd Dr Mooketsi Mokgatlhe, Fr Jooste Motshwane and Fr Khalala Mokefane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
For all who work at Bishop's House

- \* Isabella McDonald Booth, Lay Canon, Chair of the House of Laity in the Diocesan Synod and General Synod

## 4 Saturday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lafia** (*Nigeria*)  
Bp Godwin Adeyi Robinson
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Barnabas Church, Old Naledi (served by the Cathedral of the Holy Cross)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Rachel Wood, Archdeacon of Northumberland

### This week ...

*'What are you looking for?' (John 1.38)*

The questions Jesus asks in the gospels are always worth pondering, as are the answers people give in return; a new year is a natural time to look for somethings new, so let's pray for all who are searching that they might find and be found.

## 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS or EPIPHANY

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of London  
Diocese of Nidaros and Trondheim (*Church of Norway*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**The Church in Wales**  
Primate: Abp Andrew John
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of Francistown:  
Ven Isaac Mupfumi (Archdeacon - North),  
Fr Samuel Moraloki, Fr Lekono Malabola,  
Fr Tshiamo Takongwa and  
Fr Bakang (Banks) Lesetedi
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Catherine Sourbut Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

## 6 EPIPHANY

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lagos (Nigeria)**  
Bp Humphrey Bamisebi Olumakaiye
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of Francistown: St Patrick's Church and St Carantoc's Church
- **Morpeth Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Stannington**  
Priest-in-Charge: Simon White

## 7 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lagos Mainland (Nigeria)**  
Bp B C Akinpelu Johnson
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Stephen's, Tonota, St Alban's, Moroka, All Saints' Matsiloje and St Paul's Tati Siding (all served by the Parish of Francistown)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Ulgham**  
Priest-in-Charge: Julia Lacey  
Reader: Jonathan Cummins

## 8 Wednesday

*John Dobson, architect, 1865 [CNS] \**

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lagos West (Nigeria)**  
Bp James Olusola Odedeji
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Christ the King, Orapa, St John's, Makaleng and Sowa Town (served by the Parish of Francistown)
- **Morpeth Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Widdrington**  
Priest in Charge: Julia Lacey
- \* John Marshall, Lay Canon

## 9 Thursday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lahore (Pakistan)**  
Bp Irfan Jamil
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Andrew, Selebi Phikwe: Ven Sefularo Mogopodi (Archdeacon-Central)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
For all involved in the Deanery Planning Process in the Morpeth and Norham Deaneries

## 10 Friday

*William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lainya (South Sudan)**  
Most Revd Paul Yugusuk
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Peter's, Mmadinare and Church of the Good Shepherd (outstations of St Andrew's, Selebi Phikwe)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
All the members of the Diocesan Synod

## 11 Saturday

*Benedict Biscop, abbot of Wearmouth, scholar, 689 [CNS] \**

*Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa, 1915*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese on the Lake (Nigeria)**  
Bp Chijioke Oti
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Augustine's Theological School: Canon Professor James Amanze
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Honorary Assistant Bishops: Mark Bryant, Christopher Lowson, John Packer and Stephen Platten
- \* Zoe Heming, Residentiary Canon

### ***This coming week ...***

*'... and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven opened ...'*  
(Luke 3.21))

The gospels describe the different ways that heaven is opened up on earth through the coming of Jesus, and his baptism is one of those moments when the life of heaven is poured out in the gift of the Holy Spirit; let's pray for all those preparing to be baptized and confirmed that they may be opened up to the gift of the Holy Spirit in them.

## 12 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Oulu (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)  
Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (*Church of Norway*)  
Diocese of Coventry
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Church of the Province of West Africa**  
Primate: Most Revd Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Augustine, Serowe:  
Fr Kealeboga Lekoba and  
Fr Ford Godiraone Gaogane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Director of Education: David Akers and all who work with him in supporting the 49 Church schools in our Diocese

## 13 Monday

Hilary, bishop of Poitiers, teacher of the faith, 367  
*Kentigern (Mungo) missionary bishop in Strathclyde and Cumbria, 603*  
*George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lango (Uganda)** Bp Alfred Olwa
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St James the Great, Mahalapye:  
Fr Boikhutso Gabaraane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
The work of the Children's and Young People's Work Support Team

## 14 Tuesday

*John the Chanter, monk and musician, c.681 [CNS] \**

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Tampere (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)  
Diocese of Manchester
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of West Lango (Uganda)**  
Bp Alfred Acur Okodi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Joseph, Shoshong:  
Fr Olebile James Galebotswe and  
St Ignatius of Loyola, Machaneng  
(served by St James the Great, Mahalapye)
- **Norham Deanery:**  
Area Dean: Sarah Hills

Lay Chair: Mandy Hildred

- \* Andrew Shipton, Vicar of All Saints and Priest-in-Charge of St Hugh's, Gosforth

## 15 Wednesday

*John Cosin, theologian and liturgist, 1672 [CNS]*  
*Ceowulf, king of Northumbria, 737 [CNS]*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Langtang (Nigeria)**  
Bp Stanley D Fube
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Mark, Lobatse:  
Fr Octavious Bolelang and  
Fr Godfrey Tsetsengwe
- **Norham Deanery:**  
Deanery Secretary: Phil Rowett  
Finance Officer: Jonathan Gibbs

## 16 Thursday

*Henry of Coquet Island, 1127 [CNS]*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lebombo (Mozambique & Angola)**  
Bp Dean Augusto
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Mary Magdalene, Palapye and  
St Cyprian, Seleka: Fr Abraham Kajane and  
Fr George Moshapa
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Berwick Holy Trinity and St Mary**  
Vicar: *vacant*  
Reader (PTO): Anne Horne
- Berwick Holy Trinity C of E First School and  
Berwick St Mary's C of E First School

## 17 Friday

Antony of Egypt, hermit, abbot, 356  
*Charles Gore, bishop, founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Leeds** Bp Nick Baines
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Michael and All Angels,  
Broadhurst: Fr Bonny Bashe and  
Fr Patrick Rampha
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Cornhill with Carham**  
Priest-in-charge: Rob Kelsey

## 18 Saturday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

*Amy Carmichael, founder of the Dohnavur Fellowship, spiritual writer, 1951*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Leicester**  
Bp Martyn Snow
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Matthew's, Mochudi (served by the Parish of St Michael and All Angels)
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Helen's Church, Cornhill
- For all local ecumenical services and events taking place during this Week of Prayer

### *This coming week ...*

*'On the third day ...' (John 2.1)*

We know there's a miracle coming just from those opening four words heralding the breaking into this world of resurrection life; in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity let's pray for the abundance of God's life to be witnessed in the whole of his Church and for the miracle of Christian Unity.

## 19 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Manchester  
Diocese of Tampere (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Church in the Province of the West Indies**  
Primate: Most Revd Howard Gregory
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Paul, Molepolole:  
Fr Botshabelo Beleme, Fr Joseph Khombane, and Fr Motshereganyi Sefanyetsto
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Cuthbert's Church, Carham
- For the Roman Catholic Church worldwide

## 20 Monday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*Richard Rolle of Hampole, spiritual writer, 1349*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lesotho (Southern Africa)**

Bp Vincentia Kgabe

- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Thomas', Letlhakeng  
(served by the Parish of St Paul, Molepolole)
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Branxton**  
Priest-in-Charge: Rob Kelsey  
Assistant Curate: Alun Hurd
- For all churches in the Orthodox tradition

## 21 Tuesday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*Dame Eleanor Allen, educationalist, 1708 [CNS]\**

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lexington (ECUSA)**  
Bp Mark Van Koevering
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Andrew, Mmopane:  
Fr Isaac Mupfumi, Fr Onkemetse Sam Mathabathe, and St James, Kopong and St Luke, Lentsweletau: Fr Paul Beleme
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefices of Ford and Etal and Lowick and Kyloe with Ancroft**  
Priest-in-Charge: Charlotte Osborn  
Assistant Curate: Alex Firman
- For the worldwide Methodist Church
- \* Julie Robson, Lay Canon

## 22 Wednesday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

*Vincent of Saragossa, deacon, first martyr of Spain, 304*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Liberia (West Africa)**  
Bp James Bombo Sallee
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of Holy Trinity, Mmankgodi:  
Fr Munyaradzi Mubata and St Matthew, Thamaga and St Mark, Moshupa:  
Fr Solomon Diphoko
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Anne's Church, Ancroft
- For all Lutheran and Reformed Churches

## 23 Thursday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lichfield** Bp Michael Ipgrave



- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Peter, Mogoditshane and St Martin, Metsimotlhabe: Fr Ezekiel Nthokwa and Revd Joseph Supang
- **Norham Deanery:**  
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Etal
- For the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends (the Quakers)

## 24 Friday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Francis de Sales, bishop of Geneva, teacher of the faith, 1622

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lincoln**  
Bp Stephen Conway
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St John the Baptist, Gabane: Fr Martin Mosima and Fr Moemedi Rabolo, and St Patrick, Kumakwane
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Michael and All Angels' Church, Ford
- Hugh Joicey C of E First School, Ford
- For all churches in the Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions

## 25 CONVERSION OF PAUL

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Litoral Ecuador (ECUSA)**  
Bp Cristobal Leon Lozano
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Simon of Cyrene, Tiokweng: Canon Joe Tsuaneng (Archdeacon – South), Revd Dr Nelson Mwaniki and Fr Chris Mensah
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St John's Church, Lowick
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School
- All Black, African and Ethnic Minority churches in Britain

This Prayer Diary can be downloaded each month from the Newcastle diocesan website:  
[www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary](http://www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary)

### This coming week ...

*'The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.'* (Luke 4.20)

The atmosphere Luke describes is electric as Jesus fulfils the scripture written on the page; as we seek to follow Jesus in a confused and confusing world let's pray that our eyes would be fixed on him, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

## 26 THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Birmingham  
Diocese of Elsinore (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark*)  
Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (*Church of Ireland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria**  
Primate: Most Revd Samy Fawzy
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St John the Baptist, Tsabong: Fr Peter Moshapa and Fr Lucky Lorekang
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Holy Island**  
Vicar: Sarah Hills
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School

## 27 Monday

### Holocaust Memorial Day

**Theme: For a Better Future**

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Liverpool**  
Bp John Perumbalath
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area: Khuis, Middlepits, Bogogobo and Kolonkweng
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Norham and Duddo**  
Vicar: Rob Kelsey
- Norham St Ceowulf C of E First School

## 28 Tuesday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Liwolo** (*South Sudan*)  
Bp Joseph Aba Nicanor
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area:  
Maralaleng, Omaweneneno, Malashe and Khisa
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Scremerston and Spittal and Tweedmouth**  
Vicar: *vacant*  
Reader: Phil Rowett  
Reader (PTO): Gordon Chapman

## 29 Wednesday

*Gildas, priest and historian, 570 [CNS]*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Llandaff** (*Wales*)  
Bp Mary Stallard
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area:  
Draaiheok, Makapong and Werda
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Peter's Church, Scremerston

## 30 Thursday

Charles, king and martyr, 1649

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Missionary Area of Lodwar** (*Kenya*)  
Bp Cleti Ogeto
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
New Church groups: Maun and Kasane  
(served by the Parish of Francistown)
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St John's Church, Spittal

## 31 Friday

*John Bosco, priest, founder of the Silesian Teaching Order, 1888*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Lokoja** (*Nigeria*)  
Bp Emmanuel A Sokowamju Egbunu
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
The strengthening of links between our dioceses
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Bartholomew's Church, Tweedmouth

## 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. Once again, we are grateful to Bishop Mark for this month's reflections.

**ON SUNDAYS**, we follow a well-established pattern:

- First are intercessions for the Porvoo Communion (<https://porvoocommunion.org/prayer-diary-2025>). The Porvoo Declaration commits the churches which have signed it to “share a common life” and “to pray for and with one another.”
- Second are intercessions from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, available at [www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org). Prayers on Sundays are for a Province of the Communion.
- Thirdly we pray for our link Diocese of Botswana.
- Fourthly we remember our own Diocese of Newcastle, and the Morpeth and Norham Deaneries, 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 link Diocese of Botswana
- Thirdly, our own Diocese, and the people, parishes, churches and schools in Morpeth and Norham Deaneries.
- On the first Thursday, we pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese
- In January, we remember every day during the Week of Prayer for Unity our fellow Christians in many denominations of the worldwide Church.

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

Botswana during January, April and October.

Møre during March, June and September.

Winchester during May, August and November.

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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