

## Blackburn Prayers February 2026

**This is our centenary year ... we are celebrating!**

'All for Jesus' explains in three simple words why there is a Diocese of Blackburn and what our purpose is.

This year is an opportunity for people to come to know Jesus Christ either for the first time or more deeply than they do now, because personal relationship with him is what lies at the heart of every movement for renewal.

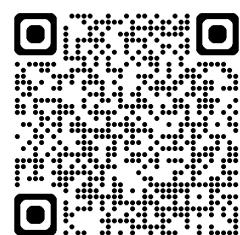
Please be praying for more and deeper disciples of Jesus.

### Blackburn Diocese Centenary Prayer

Heavenly Father,  
in our Centenary year  
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.  
Send the Holy Spirit to give us  
confidence in our witness,  
generosity in our service,  
and love for our neighbours,  
that your Church may be renewed  
and many come home to you,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

In our prayers we will continue to pray for our link dioceses and for peace in our world. Prayer resources for the Israel/Gaza and Ukraine conflicts can also be found [here](#) and [here](#) or by scanning the QR code on the right.

You can sign up for a daily email containing the Blackburn Prayers for each day. [Visit this page](#) to do so, where you can also see a pdf of the full month's prayers and even find out how to order a printed version.



If you have any comments, amendments or updates regarding Blackburn Prayers, send to [karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:karen.ashcroft@blackburn.anglican.org) in the first instance.

We would love to hear how God is answering your prayers during this Centenary year. Please get in touch with Joy Rushton: [joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:joy.rushton@blackburn.anglican.org)

Resources for adults and children to support discipleship, Bible reading and inspiration for prayer can also be found on our Fruitful Discipleship app.

Key: cw = Churchwarden of Vacant Parish  
llm = Licensed Lay Minister

**Sunday 1 February**  
**Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**  
**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the Making Disciples Team as they develop the Fruitful app. We give thanks for its creative resources and pray for wisdom for those offering technical and communications support, creating content and sharing it more widely.

**Diocese:** Blackpool Holy Cross South Shore, Rev Michael Fish

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for Bishop Joseph Aba leading in the most difficult circumstances. Pray that God's mighty hand would rest upon him, strengthening him, encouraging him and equipping him with everything he needs to shepherd his flock in Liwolo.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of England

**Event:** Pray for the continuing visit of Bishop Philip and our link Diocese Bishops to Kenya. More [here](#).

**Monday 2 February**  
**Presentation of Christ in the Temple**

Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 4  
Ordinary Time begins today

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the growth of joyful and generous stewards across the Diocese, that giving may be embraced as a vital part of faithful discipleship.

**Diocese:** Blackpool Holy Trinity South Shore (in plurality with) Blackpool St Peter South Shore, Rev Tracy Charnock, Mr Fred Bridges (llm)

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Te Pihopatanga o Te Tairawhiti – The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

**Meetings:** Diocesan Vision and Strategy Team meeting

**Event:** Pray for the continuing visit of Bishop Philip and our link Diocese Bishops to Kenya. More [here](#).

**Tuesday 3 February**

Anskar, archbishop, missionary, 865  
Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 4

**Making Disciples:** We give thanks for Whalley Abbey as a Centre for Christian Discipleship and Prayer. We pray for the whole team as they lead a community rooted in prayer, hospitality and service.

**Diocese:** Blackpool St Christopher and St Nicholas, Rev Martin Daniels, Rev Ian Rushton; also in this Benefice, Blackpool St Nicholas CofE Primary School

**Mission Partners:** [Life Association](#) ask for prayer for God's provision for their work amongst India's poorest people, and for His protection and blessing on their projects, partners and those they serve.

**Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for the church in the Diocese that individuals, families and communities may know Jesus more and better and be strong, visible and intentional witnesses to Christ even in the face of persecution.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Taita-Taveta – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Event:** As the Bishops' visit [to Kenya](#) concludes today, pray for safe travels for all back to their home Dioceses.

**Wednesday 4 February**

Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189

**Making Disciples:** We thank God for national church funding for Children's, Families and Youth Workers and Lay Pioneers. We pray for those sensing a call to these ministries, that God will guide and equip them.

**Diocese:** Blackpool St Mary South Shore, Rev Robert Legge; also in this Benefice, Blackpool St George's School, a CofE Business and Enterprise College

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Taiwan – The Episcopal Church

## Thursday 5 February

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the Diocesan Renewal Programme, that parishes taking part may grow in prayer, deepen discipleship and see more people come to faith.

**Diocese:** Blackpool St Paul North Shore (in plurality with) Greenlands St Anne, Vacant, Mrs Angela Kershaw (Ilm), Mrs Sandra Boldison (cw), Mrs Jane Thompson (cw), Mrs Hazel Nicholls (cw)

**Mothers' Union:** Heavenly Father, we place into your hands the Mothers' Union here in Blackburn Diocese. We pray for all involved in the organisation and running of about 100 branches throughout the Diocese. Surround them with your Holy Spirit as they seek to promote the importance of marriage, to support families and to nurture faith, through prayer, commitment, and service. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Link Diocese:** **Free State** - Litter is a huge environmental problem around the Diocese, and we thank God that the churches are in the forefront of teaching the people how to recycle and care for creation. We also praise God for the churches taking a lead in using recycled materials in their buildings.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tamale – The Church of the Province of West Africa

**Event:** [Hope Explored](#), led by Rev Sarah O'Donoghue

## Friday 6 February

Martyrs of Japan, 1597

**Making Disciples:** We pray for all who plan and lead worship, that people of all ages may encounter Jesus in word and sacrament and for lives to be transformed.

**Diocese:** Blackpool St Stephen on the Cliffs, Rev Andrew Teather

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tanga – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

## Saturday 7 February

**Making Disciples:** We pray for the growth of new and deeper disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Diocese:** Blackpool St Thomas, Rev David O'Brien, Rev LJ Tiffney, Mrs Yvonne Blazey (Ilm), Miss Vicky Bentley (Ilm)

**Lighting Up New Generations:** Pray for all those who have completed the Launchpad courses in 2025, that this has supported them to feel empowered to reach out and try new things in their outreach with children and young people.

**Link Diocese:** **Braunschweig** - God of compassion, bless the diaconal work and social projects in Braunschweig, especially those already in process and those being devised. May these initiatives continue to serve the community effectively, showing your love in practical ways. Guide the church in balancing state funding with volunteer engagement.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Central Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

## Sunday 8 February

Second Sunday before Lent

**Being Witnesses:** We pray for the team of Spiritual Directors, for wisdom as they seek to match each person seeking a spiritual companion or director with the right person to help them grow in their spiritual life.

**Diocese:** Blackpool The Trinity Benefice, Rev Canon Peter Lillicrap; also in this Benefice, Staining CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

## Monday 9 February

Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 5

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for more workers of all backgrounds for the plentiful harvest fields across Lancashire and for intercessors who are ambitious, insightful and who storm the gates of heaven.

**Diocese:** Blackpool Trinity, The Hospice in the Fylde, Rev Helen Houston

**Mission Partners:** "Pray for the connections L. is making both in the country and internationally to work together with others to improve special educational needs provision systematically within the country where we serve," write mission partners A. and L. in southeast Asia. L. works in education and A. is working to help people overcome addictions.

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - We pray for the current and future clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese of Liwolo. Pray that they would be filled with wisdom, courage and steadfast faith as they lead and minister in challenging times. Pray for strength for them to be pillars of integrity and compassion, embodying the love of Christ in all they do.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of South West Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Meetings:** General Synod

## Tuesday 10 February

Scholastica, abbess, c.543

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for a visitation of the Holy Spirit on Lancashire to light beacons in every community.

**Diocese:** Blackpool Victoria Hospital, Rev Michael Fish

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Western Tanganyika – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Meetings:** General Synod

## Wednesday 11 February

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for it to become normal for every parish to be planting congregations and churches to fulfil the Anglican ambition to be a 'Christian presence in every community' across Lancashire.

**Diocese:** Marton St Paul, Rev Lesley Atkins; also in this Benefice, Blackpool Baines Endowed CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for the women's ministry in the Diocese. Particularly for the women's fellowship in the parishes and literacy work especially amongst women working in brick kilns. Pray for women's health, education and spiritual growth.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tarime – The Anglican Church of Tanzania

**Meetings:** General Synod; Diocesan Advisory Committee meeting

## Thursday 12 February

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for the continuing growth of the church in Lancashire, building joyful Christian communities with an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest, enabling people to know God's love, peace and justice.

**Diocese:** Mereside St Wilfrid, Rev Rachel Sheehan

**M:Power:** Pray for M:Power participants who are currently planning mission events. May they have courage to share the good news of Jesus within their community, and have good support and encouragement from their parishes.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tasmania – The Anglican Church of Australia

**Meetings:** General Synod

**Event:** [Hope Explored](#), led by Rev Sarah O'Donoghue

## Friday 13 February

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for baptism and confirmation candidates to be fired up to be beacons of faith in their schools, workplaces and communities.

**Diocese:** Burnley Deanery Officers, Rev Andrew Holmes, Mrs Lynne Trudgill, Mrs Carol Waddington, Mr Bob Clayfield

**Link Diocese:** **Free State** - Some of the churches in Free State have strong links with parishes in Blackburn Diocese. As more lay people take on the responsibility of leading this initiative, we pray that the links will grow. We pray that churches in the Free State that would like a link can be successfully matched with parishes here.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Taungoo – The Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma)

**Meetings:** General Synod; Diocesan Investment Committee meeting

## Saturday 14 February

Cyril and Methodius, missionaries, 869 and 885; Valentine, martyr at Rome, c.269

**Being Witnesses:** Pray for the Creator God to inspire us with the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to His generosity in bringing all things to be; make us mindful of our responsibility to care for all our fellow creatures and sustain the life of the earth; open our hearts to meet human need from the gifts of His creation that all may share in its bounty.

**Diocese:** Briercliffe St James and Worsthorne St John the Evangelist, Rev Michael Read; also in this Benefice, Burnley St James' Lanehead CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Temotu – The Anglican Church of Melanesia

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Canon Andrew Horsfall, recently appointed as Canon Pastor and Vice Dean to the Blackburn Cathedral

## Sunday 15 February

Sunday next before Lent

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for all those in lay and ordained leadership, for authorised lay ministers, licensed lay ministers, ordinands, curates, priests and bishops. We also pray for our chaplains and retired clergy. Pray God will give them wisdom, discernment and resilience to lead His church.

**Diocese:** Brierfield St Luke (in plurality with) Burnley St Cuthbert, Rev Munawar Din, Rev Tracy Hallows

**Clergy with PTO:** Bless, O Lord, all clergy in our Diocese who are retired with Permission to Officiate. Grant them your continued wisdom and strength to serve. We are thankful for the many ways they provide invaluable support as we work together making disciples, growing leaders, being witnesses and inspiring children and young people for Jesus Christ.

**Link Diocese:** **Braunschweig** - Gracious God, we lift up the parishes of Braunschweig, particularly those experimenting with new patterns of rural ministry. Bless the innovative approaches, such as employing buildings and operations managers. May these efforts strengthen the church's presence in rural communities.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

**Clergy Moves:** Rev Paul Payton, appointed as Interim Vicar of Accrington St John with Huncoat St Augustine

## Monday 16 February

Daily Eucharistic Lectionary week 6

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for Christians who hold positions of authority in our community. Praying especially for those working in health care, policing, education, politics and the media. That they may understand the call God has placed on their life to be uniquely Christlike in a non-Christian environment.

**Diocese:** Burnley St Andrew with St Margaret and Burnley St James, Rev Timothy Kaye

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

**Event:** [Individually Guided Retreat](#) at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by the Spiritual Directors' Network of Blackburn Diocese

## Tuesday 17 February

Janani Luwum, archbishop, martyr, 1977

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for more vocations to lay leadership, priesthood and to the religious life, especially for vocations amongst young adults and people of global majority heritage.

**Diocese:** Burnley St Catherine with St Alban and St Paul, Rev Roger Parker, Rev Tristan Meares

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for revitalising hope at Jehovah Rapha Health Centre. Pray that God would breathe new life into this mission so that it may be a true beacon of hope, bringing life to those in need. Pray for the mothers and newborns who come to have a safe a secure space for life to flourish. Pray for outreach to vulnerable people who need God's healing touch and a reminder of His unfailing love.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of East Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

**Events:** [Individually Guided Retreat](#) at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by the Spiritual Directors' Network of Blackburn Diocese

[Held in God's Gaze](#) at Whalley Abbey

## Wednesday 18 February

Ash Wednesday

**Growing Leaders:** Pray that all Christians will identify their God given gifts and have the courage to use them in His service and for His glory. Pray especially for those who have the gift of leadership, for God to make it clear how He would like them to use that blessing.

**Diocese:** Burnley St Matthew the Apostle (Habergham Eaves) with Holy Trinity, Rev Alex Frost, Rev Kat Gregory-Witham; also in this Benefice, Burnley Holy Trinity CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of West Tennessee – The Episcopal Church

**Event:** [Individually Guided Retreat](#) at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by the Spiritual Directors' Network of Blackburn Diocese

## Thursday 19 February

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for all those in training for leadership, especially our trainee authorised lay ministers, licensed lay ministers, ordinands and curates that they may be formed for the ministries to which they have been called.

**Diocese:** Burnley St Peter and St Stephen, Rev Andrew Holmes; also in this Benefice, Burnley St Peter's CofE Primary School, Burnley St Stephen's CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for mission and outreach in the Diocese, particularly in the desert areas of the Diocese. Pray that those who are leading this mission in remote areas may be strengthened and protected to continue to make disciples of Jesus.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Terekeka – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

**Events:** [Hope Explored](#), led by Rev Sarah O'Donoghue; [Individually Guided Retreat](#) at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by the Spiritual Directors' Network of Blackburn Diocese

## Friday 20 February

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for our lay and ordained leaders who are finding ministry difficult, asking that God will protect their ministry and encourage them to re-find joy in serving the Lord. Pray also that God will provide them with other people to support and uphold them.

**Diocese:** Burnley West All Saints with St John Baptist, Rev Charlie Hill; also in this Benefice, Burnley Wellfield Methodist and Anglican Church School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Territory of the People – The Anglican Church of Canada

**Event:** [Individually Guided Retreat](#) at Whalley Abbey, facilitated by the Spiritual Directors' Network of Blackburn Diocese

## Saturday 21 February

**Growing Leaders:** Pray for the Growing Leaders team, and Bishop Jill who oversees this work. Ask for God to guide them in their work and to direct their steps as they work to support Christian leadership in Blackburn Diocese.

**Diocese:** Holme in Cliviger St John, Vacant, Mrs Julie Cambridge; also in this Benefice, Holme in Cliviger St John the Divine CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Free State** - Many churches in the Free State have strong links with the community and are seeking to be more involved with local schools. We pray that these links will be forged so that more children will learn of the love of God in their lives. As schools in the Blackburn Diocese link with schools in the Free State we pray that the children will learn and understand from each other.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Missionary Diocese of Tete – Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola

## Sunday 22 February First Sunday of Lent

**For Parents of Children with SEND:** Lord Jesus, we pray for parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities. Strengthen them with Your grace, fill them with wisdom, and provide the resources they need. May they abide in You and find deep comfort in Your unfailing love and guidance every day.

**Diocese:** Padiham with Hapton and Padiham Green (*Padiham St Leonard, Hapton St Margaret*), Vacant, Mrs Lynne Trudgill (llm), Mr Richard Birch (cw), Mr Grahame Trudgill (cw), Mr Ron Smyth (cw); also in this Benefice, Hapton CofE/Methodist School, Padiham Green CofE Primary School, Padiham St Leonard's CofE Primary School

**ALM Prayer:** We pray for our authorised lay ministers and Anna Chaplains, giving thanks for the work they do in Christ's name to further the gospel message and enable mission in the local parishes. We ask that God will uphold them in their ministry and pour out His blessings upon them.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Church of Ireland

## Monday 23 February

Polycarp, bishop, martyr, c.155

**For Children and Youth Seeking Faith:** Heavenly Father, we lift up children and young people who have not yet come to know You. Open their hearts to Your truth and love. Through caring mentors and life-giving experiences, may they encounter Jesus and learn to walk closely with Him.

**Diocese:** Chorley Deanery Officers, Rev Jo Smith, Rev Canon Andrew Holliday, Mr Andrew Stokes, Mrs Tasha Leach, Ms Lorraine Smith

**Link Diocese: Braunschweig** - Creator of harmony, we thank you for the central role of music in Braunschweig's church life. Bless the musical endeavours in the Dom and larger parishes. May this ministry continue to be an effective means of outreach, drawing people closer to You through the beauty of sacred music.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Texas – The Episcopal Church  
**Meeting:** Bishop's Appointments Team meeting

## **Tuesday 24 February**

**For Children's and Youth Ministry:** God of hope, we thank You for all children's and youth work in our churches and for the faithful volunteers serving week by week. We bring the IGNITE project and Youth Hub before You. Bless these initiatives with creativity, energy, and lasting impact. May they be places where young people abide in Christ and grow in faith and joy.

**Diocese:** Adlington St Paul, Rev Graeme Butterly, Rev Jean Kouacou; also in this Benefice, Adlington St Paul's CofE Primary School

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Northwest Texas – The Episcopal Church

**Meetings:** Diocesan Finance Committee meeting; Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Committee meeting

## **Wednesday 25 February**

Ember Day

**For Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Compassionate Lord, we pray for children and young people struggling with mental health and wellbeing. Surround them with Your peace and healing presence. Guide families and professionals with wisdom and care. May they find rest and renewal as they remain in You.

**Diocese:** Appley Bridge (*All Saints*) and Parbold (*Christ Church*), Rev Susan Timmins, Rev Prof Michelle Plant, Dr Sara Ashley (Ilm); also in this Benefice, Appley Bridge All Saints CofE Primary School, Parbold Douglas CofE Academy

**Link Diocese: Liwolo** - Pray for Liwolo Primary and Nursery school and all schools in Liwolo as people strive to rebuild and establish places of learning and transformation. Pray that these schools will become havens of hope, growth and spiritual enrichment. Pray that God would provide all that is needed: resources; teachers and infrastructure.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of West Texas – The Episcopal Church

**Meetings:** Diocesan Bishops and Archdeacons' meeting

## **Thursday 26 February**

**For Educators and Leaders:** Lord of wisdom, we pray for school and university staff, leaders, chaplains, and governors. Grant them discernment, patience, and joy in their calling. May they create environments where every child can flourish and learn to abide in Your truth and grace.

**Diocese:** Brindle St James, Rev Jon Price, Rev Sam Nicol; also in this Benefice, Brindle St James' CofE Primary School

**Blackburn Cathedral:** Prayers today for the Vice Dean and Chapter and all who work for the Cathedral, including administrative staff and all volunteers.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Thika – The Anglican Church of Kenya

**Meetings:** Diocesan Strategic Programme Board meeting

## **Friday 27 February**

George Herbert, priest, poet, 1633  
Ember Day

**For all Children and Young People:** Father, we lift up all children and young people in our communities. Protect them from harm, inspire their dreams, and help them discover the gifts You have placed within them. May they grow in confidence and character as they remain rooted in Christ. Help us as Your church to welcome them as You commanded, so they find a safe and loving home among us.

**Diocese:** Chorley St George and All Saints, Vacant, Rev Jordan Bentliff, Mrs Shirley Starkey (cw), Mrs Joyce Jolly (cw), Mr John Bradley (cw), Ms Lorraine Smith (cw); also in this Benefice, Chorley All Saints CofE Primary School, Chorley St George's CofE Primary School

**Link Diocese: Multan** - Pray for the Bible School in the Diocese. Pray for the leaders to teach and serve diligently and for those who attend courses to be better equipped to share the love of Christ in Pakistan and beyond.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Thoothukudi – Nazareth – The Church of South India (United)

**Saturday 28 February**  
Ember Day

**For Schools and Learning:** Gracious God, we pray for our schools and educational institutions. May they be places of growth and transformation. Guide teachers and students to seek wisdom and understanding in You. May learning lead them closer to Christ, the source of all truth.

**Diocese:** Chorley St James, Rev Dan Freeman, Mr Phil Parker (llm); also in this Benefice, Chorley St James' CofE Primary School

**Choir Church:** Pray for the Choir Churches that have been planted; for parishes as they plant new congregations and choral directors as they work with schools on growing faith and bringing new families to Jesus.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** The Diocese of Tirunelveli – The Church of South India (United)

**Event:** [Children's Ministry Conference](#): Generation to Generation - held at Fulwood Free Methodist Church, Preston PR2 3LT.