

Dear Friends,

A short Saturday briefing which has:

- Liturgical resources for funerals in the current crisis
- Discipleship resources – a Note from Ruth Hassall
- This Sunday

Any question or queries, please email: coronavirus@blackburn.anglican.org. **Please also email if you are unwell or self-isolating.**

Let us start by pointing to our YouTube channel where we have the latest video message from our senior clergy. Today's is from [Archdeacon Mark](#) and was recorded before movement was restricted.

Liturgical Resources for Funerals in the Current Crisis

The Liturgical Commission has produced additional resources which can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/funerals/clergy-funeral-and-bereavement-resources>

This includes:

- a short advice document for clergy
- outline orders of service for funerals at crematoria and at the graveside, observing the current public health guidance
- a simple reflection and prayers which can be shared by ministers with those who are unable to attend funerals
- printable graphics and stationery to share prayers and to point to online light-a-candle page

Discipleship Resources – A Note from Ruth Hassall

“Let the Word of God dwell in you richly; ... and with gratitude in your heart sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.” Colossians 3:16

During these challenging days, with gathered worship in its different forms having been put on hold, you may be wondering how you can stay firm in your faith and maintain or establish a regular pattern of Bible reading and prayer.

If you search the internet you will find a plethora of resources to do this but here are just a few suggestions that you might find useful:

Daily Prayer: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Daily Prayer is available free as an app or on the Church of England Website and gives complete services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer in both contemporary (Common Worship) and traditional (Book of Common Prayer) forms.

Lectio 365: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/dailydevotional>

Lectio 365 is a devotional resource that helps you pray the Bible every day and is inspired by Lectio Divina, a way of meditating on the Bible that's been used by Christians for centuries. Written by leaders from the 24-7 Prayer movement, and produced in partnership with CWR, this resource helps you engage with Scripture to inspire prayer.

BIOY: <https://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>

With Bible In One Year each day you will receive a Psalm or Proverbs reading, a New Testament reading and an Old Testament reading. It also provides daily audio and written commentary to walk you through each day's reading, to provide fresh understanding of the texts.

Sacred Space: www.sacredspace.ie

Sacred Space is inspired by the spirituality of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, and gives a thought for the day, a daily Bible passage and some guided reflections.

Bible Podlets: <https://www.bdeducation.org.uk/podcasts/bible-podlets/>

Bible Podlets is a Bible study and discussion podcast for primary aged children to do with adults. Each episode has fun games/activities, an engaging Bible reading in the form of a news story and deep discussion with places to pause and talk together about the topic. Discussion notes are available to download from the Resource Area of the website.

Off the Shelf: Blackburn Diocese Board of Education Facebook page

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Board of Education have come together to produce a new series of collective worship that can be used at home or school called #OffTheShelf. Through this you can join a member of the team in their study, where they will lead you in a short act of collective worship using resources off their shelf!

Engage at Home: <https://engageworship.org/engage-at-home-daily-family-prayer-and-worship-activities>

Engage at Home has been created by Engage Worship to resource families to strengthen family worship and prayer. Each day includes a simple prayer or worship activity using movement, interaction, craft, play and more.

For further suggestions or discipleship enquiries please contact Ruth Hassall, Director of Discipleship at ruth.hassall@blackburn.anglican.org.

This Sunday

Tomorrow for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Bishop Philip has recorded a short service for viewing this Sunday on our [Diocesan YouTube channel](#). You can watch it from 9am and it will remain on the site thereafter for later viewing. There will also be a Thought for the Day broadcast from the Cathedral. Please go to <https://blackburncathedral.com/church-is-changing/> And follow the links to Facebook or Youtube.

For livestream activity from many of our parishes, bookmark the 'A Church Near You' [livestream interactive map](#) page.

And finally...

Many of us will be listening to the John Chapter 11 tomorrow and the story of the Raising of Lazarus. It seemed impossible to the crowds that God might be present in that scene of grief and pain. But in Jesus he was there, working his resurrection power and revealing his glory. As a task group over this past week, in the midst of anxiety, grief and fear we have seen countless signs of the presence of Jesus working amongst his people. We have seen that above all in you – in your faithfulness, tenacity and courage in continuing to serve your people and proclaim the Gospel in such strange and threatening times. We pray that this Lenten weekend you might find Christ in your midst afresh, and when you find him, kneel in awe at his power to liberate and transform.

Keep us, good Lord,

under the shadow of your mercy

in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,

and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Yours,

Bishop Philip and the Coronavirus Task Group