

### 1 NAMING AND CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of the Seychelles** (*Indian Ocean*)  
Bp Danny Elizabeth
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Metlha Beleme, Diocesan Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Bishop Helen-Ann, Bishop of Newcastle  
and Bishop Mark, Bishop of Berwick
- **The Mothers' Union:**  
We give thanks for the work of Mothers' Union during 2025 and pray for another year of supporting family life in the diocese.

### 2 Friday

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 Sheffield**  
Bp Pete Wilcox
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Theo Naledi, retired Bishop
- **Diocese of Newcastle:** Chris Elder, Diocesan Secretary, and all who work at Church House, Percy Main

### 3 Saturday

Roger Thornton, benefactor, 1430 [CNS] \*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Shinyanga** (*Tanzania*)  
Bp Johnson Chinyong'ole
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Gaborone:  
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 member

#### This week ...

“... for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” (Matthew 2.6)

The Epiphany was a surprise to everyone: wisemen who assumed a palace not a stable, oppressed people who expected a military leader; this week let's pray for the Church in this New Year that our expectations will be turned upside down and we might rediscover our Good Shepherd in ways, places or people we don't expect.

### 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS or EPIPHANY

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of London  
Diocese of Nidaros and Trondheim (*Church of Norway*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Church of the Province of Central Africa**  
Primate: Most Revd Albert Chama
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Barnabas Church, Old Naledi (served by the Cathedral of the Holy Cross)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Rachel Wood, Archdeacon of Northumberland

### 5 Monday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Upper Shire** (*Central Africa*)  
Bp William Mchombo
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of Francistown:  
Ven Isaac Mupfumi (Archdeacon - North),  
Fr Samuel Moraloki, Fr Lekono Malabola,  
Fr Bakang (Banks) Lesetedi and  
Fr Reuben Bogatsu
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
Catherine Sourbut Groves, Archdeacon of Lindisfarne

## 6 EPIPHANY

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Shyira** (Rwanda)  
Bp Samuel M Mugisha
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of Francistown: St Patrick's Church  
and St Carantoc's Church
- **Morpeth Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Stannington**  
Vicar: Simon White

## 7 Wednesday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Shyogwe** (Rwanda)  
Bp Jered Kalimba
- **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**  
Vicar: Julia Lacey

## 8 Thursday

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sialkot** (Pakistan)  
Bp Alwin John Samuel
- **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**  
Vicar: Julia Lacey
- **Praying for Unity**  
Pray for all the leaders of the churches in our  
region and their meetings for prayer and  
cooperation
- \* John Marshall, Lay Canon

## 9 Friday

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Singapore** (South East Asia)  
Bp Titus Chung Khiam Boon
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Andrew, Selebi Phikwe:  
Ven Sefularo Mogopodi (Archdeacon -  
Central) and Fr Thabang Sikwane

- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
For all involved in the Deanery Planning  
Process in the Morpeth and Norham  
Deaneries

## 10 Saturday

*William Laud, archbishop of Canterbury, 1645*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sittwe** (Myanmar)  
Bp James Min Dein
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Peter's, Mmadinare and Church of the  
Good Shepherd, Bobonong (outstations of  
St Andrew's, Selebi Phikwe)
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
All the members of the Diocesan Synod

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

*"I need to be baptized by you, and do you  
come to me?" (Matthew 3.14)*

John the Baptist is unnerved by Jesus' approach to him for baptism yet responds in obedience as he plays his part in God's plan; this week let's pray for all those seeking baptism and confirmation this year, even those who may not know it yet, that they might grow in faith and be drawn deeper into God's love and his loving purposes in the world.

## 11 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

### **First Sunday of Epiphany**

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Oulu (Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of Finland)  
Diocese of Sør-Hålogaland (Church of Norway)  
Diocese of Coventry
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de  
America**  
Primate: Most Revd Juan David Alvarado  
Melgar
- **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

## 12 Monday

Aelred of Hexham, abbot of Rievaulx, 1167  
*Benedict Biscop, abbot of Wearmouth, scholar, 689 [CNS] \**

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sodor and Man**  
Bp Tricia Hillas
- **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
- \* Zoe Heming, Residentiary Canon for  
Mission

## 13 Tuesday

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 Sokoto (Nigeria)**  
Bp Idris Ado Zubairu
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St James the Great, Mahalapye,  
including St Ignatius of Loyola, Machaneng:  
Fr Boikhutso Gabaraane
- **Diocese of Newcastle:**  
The work of the Children's and Young  
People's Work Support Team

## 14 Wednesday

*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 Central Solomons (Melanesia)**  
Bp Stephen Koete
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Joseph, Shoshong:

Fr Olebile James Galebotswe

- **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 Thursday

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Soroti (Uganda)**  
Bp Kosea Odongo
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Mark, Lobatse:  
Fr Octavius Bolelang and  
Fr Godfrey Tsetsengwe
- **Norham Deanery:**  
Deanery Secretary: Phil Rowett  
Finance Officer: Jonathan Gibbs
- For all local ecumenical services and events  
planned for the coming Week of Prayer

## 16 Friday

*Henry of Coquet Island, 1127 [CNS]*

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Southwark**  
Bp Christopher Chessun
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Mary Magdalene, Palapye and  
St Cyprian, Seleke: Fr George Moshapa
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Berwick Holy Trinity and  
St Mary**  
Vicar: Lee Taylor  
Reader (PTO): Anne Horne
- Berwick Holy Trinity C of E First School and  
Berwick St Mary's C of E First School

## 17 Saturday

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham**  
Bp Paul Williams
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Michael and All Angels,  
Broadhurst: Fr Moemedi Rabolo

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- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Cornhill with Carham**  
Priest in charge: Rob Kelsey

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

*“He brought Simon to Jesus ...” (John 1.42)*

Right from the start Andrew shares his new found faith in Jesus, starting with his brother Simon; this week, let's pray for opportunities to bring people to Jesus as we share our faith as individuals and as churches, and as we share with our sisters and brothers across the different Christian denominations in this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

## **18 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins**

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Manchester  
Diocese of Tampere (*Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Province de l'Eglise Anglicane du Congo**  
Primate: Most Revd Georges Titre Ande
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Matthew's, Mochudi: Fr Joseph Supang
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Helen's Church, Cornhill

## **19 Monday**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester, 1095

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain** (*Extra Provincial*) Bp Carlos López-Lozano
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Paul, Molepolole:  
Fr Lucky Lorekang, Fr Joseph Khombane, and Fr Motshereganyi Sefanyetsto
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Cuthbert's Church, Carham
- For the Roman Catholic Church worldwide

## **20 Tuesday**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Richard Rolle of Hampole, spiritual writer, 1349

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Spokane** (*ECUSA*)  
Bp Gretchen Rehberg
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
St Thomas', Letlhakeng  
(served by the Parish of St Paul, Molepolole)
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Branxton**  
Priest in Charge: Rob Kelsey
- For all churches in the Orthodox tradition

## **21 Wednesday**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Agnes, child martyr at Rome, 304

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Springfield** (*ECUSA*)  
Bp Brian K Burgess
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Andrew, Mmopane:  
Fr Moreri Leteemane and  
Fr Onkemetse Sam Mathabathe;  
and St James, Kopong and St Luke,  
Lentsweletau: Fr Kealeboga Lekoba
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Lowick and Kyloe with Ancroft**  
Vicar: Charlotte Osborn  
Assistant Curate: Alex Firman
- For the worldwide Methodist Church
- \* Julie Robson, Lay Canon

## **22 Thursday**

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Port Sudan** (*Sudan*)  
Bp Abdu Elnur Kodi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of Holy Trinity, Mmankgodi:  
Fr Munyaradzi Mubata,  
St Matthew, Thamaga: Fr Solomon Diphoko,  
and St Mark, Moshupa: Fr Patrick Rampha
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Anne's Church, Ancroft
- For all Lutheran and Reformed Churches

## 23 Friday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sul-Ocidental (Brazil)**  
Bp Francisco De Assis Da Silva
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St Peter, Mogoditshane and St Martin, Metsimotlhabe: Fr Ezekiel Nthokwa and Revd Joseph Supang
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St John's Church Lowick
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School
- For the Salvation Army and the Society of Friends (the Quakers)

## 24 Saturday

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sunyani (West Africa)**  
Bp Festus Yeboah-Asuamah
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parishes of St John the Baptist, Gabane: Fr Martin Mosima, and St Patrick, Kumakwane: Fr Bonny Bashe
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Ford and Etal**  
Vicar: Charlotte Osborn  
Assistant Curate: Alex Firman  
Church of St Mary the Virgin, Etal
- For all churches in the Pentecostal and Charismatic traditions

### *This coming week ...*

*“But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.” (Matthew 19.30)*

After meeting a rich young man, Jesus proclaims his upside down kingdom, partly in response to Peter's lament about giving up everything to follow him; this week let's pray that we might all know the riches of God's grace as we work, with all that God has given us, for a kingdom where the lost are found, the weak made strong, and the last will be first.

## 25 CONVERSION OF PAUL

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends

- **Porvoo Communion:**  
Diocese of Birmingham  
Diocese of Elsinore (*Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark*)  
Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (*Church of Ireland*)
- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Iglesia Anglicana de Chile**  
Primate: Most Revd Enrique Lago Zugadi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St Simon of Cyrene, Tiokweng: Fr Botshabelo Beleme, Revd Dr Nelson Mwaniki and Fr Chris Mensah
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Michael and All Angels' Church, Ford
- Hugh Joicey C of E First School, Ford
- All Black, African and Ethnic Minority churches in Britain

## 26 Monday

Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sur (Chile)**  
Most Revd Enrique Lago Zugadi
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Parish of St John the Baptist, Tsabong: Fr Andrew Seitshiro
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Holy Island**  
Vicar: Sarah Hills
- Lowick and Holy Island C of E First School

## 27 Tuesday

### Holocaust Memorial Day

#### Theme: Bridging Generations

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Del Sureste (Mexico)**  
Bp vacant
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
**Villages with churches in the Tsabong area:**  
Khuis, Middlepits, Bogogobo and Kolonkwaneng
- **Norham Deanery:**  
**Benefice of Norham and Duddo**  
Vicar: Rob Kelsey
- Norham St Ceowulf C of E First School



## 28 Wednesday

Thomas Aquinas, priest, philosopher, teacher of the faith, 1274

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Swansea and Brecon (Wales)**  
Bp John Lomas
- **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: Rich Cornfield  
Reader: Phil Rowett  
Reader (PTO): Gordon Chapman  
*Pray today for Ryan McKeon, and all the people of Hexham, as Bishop Mark licenses him as Associate Priest at Hexham Abbey this evening.*

## 29 Thursday

Gildas, priest and historian, 570 [CNS]

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Sydney (Australia)**  
Abp Kanishka Raffel
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Villages with churches in the Tsabong area:  
Draaiheok, Makapong and Werda
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Peter's Church, Scremerston
- **Praying for Unity**  
For any new ecumenical initiatives taking place this year in our region

## 30 Friday

Charles, king and martyr, 1649

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Diocese of Tabora (Tanzania)**  
Bp Elias Chakupewa
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
Church of the Epiphany, Maun:  
Fr Sefularo Mogopodi
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St John's Church, Spittal

## 31 Saturday

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

- **Anglican Communion:**  
**Te Pihopatanga o Te Tai Tokerau (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia)**  
Bp Te Kitohi Wiremu Pikaahu
- **Diocese of Botswana:**  
The strengthening of links between our dioceses
- **Norham Deanery:**  
St Bartholomew's Church, Tweedmouth

This Prayer Diary can be downloaded each month from the Newcastle diocesan website:  
[www.newcastle.anglican.org/prayerdiary](http://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.”
- Second are intercessions for our partner diocese of Botswana in Southern Africa.
- Third 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.
- Lastly we pray for 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 partner 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, 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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