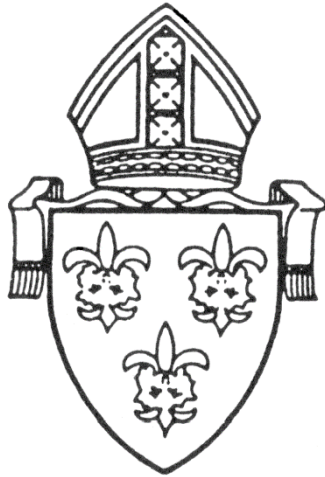


# Diocese of Hereford



## The Bishop's Prayer Pilgrimage 2020

*beating the bounds  
of the diocese*

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### Greeting

*Bishop* Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*All* Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.  
*Bishop* Peace be with you:  
*All* and also with you.

### Welcome

*The incumbent/reader/churchwarden says*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, we are God's pilgrim people.  
We share in the story of God's love for the world,  
God's love in Christ, calling us to himself, and  
God's love in the Spirit, giving strength for our journey of faith.  
We celebrate this divine love in prayer and praise,  
we feed on Jesus in bread and wine,  
and we make him known through our life together.

Bishop Richard, we welcome you to this church  
where generations of Christians have gathered for worship,  
and we thank you for coming to pray with us today.

*The Bishop responds informally: then he says*

*Bishop* Let us begin the service by opening our hearts to God  
and offering thanks for the witness of the Church here in times past:  
let us seek God's blessing on all the parishes in this deanery,  
their clergy, readers, and people;  
and let us pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
to give us new vision and direction for the future.

### Collect

*Bishop* Almighty God, we praise you for the many blessings you have given to  
those who worship you here: and we pray that all who seek you in this  
place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may become a  
living temple acceptable to you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord. *Amen.*

## I: THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND WITNESS

### Bible reading 1 Corinthians 1: 26–31

**C**ONSIDER your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

*Reader* For the word of the Lord:  
*All* Thanks be to God.

### Affirmation of Commitment

*Bishop* As the people of God in this place, you all share the responsibility of encouraging one another in your worship and of supporting one another in your discipleship, by your example and through your prayers. I invite you now to affirm your commitment to Christ, your service to the community, and your openness to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

*All* I answer the call of God my creator.  
I trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour.  
I seek new life from the Holy Spirit.

*Bishop* God, who has called us, is faithful. Let us rejoice that Christ is our guiding Light, that we may walk confidently together in the life of the Spirit.

### Collect

*Bishop* Let us pray. God of mercy and love,  
by one Spirit we have all been baptized into one body  
and made to drink of the one Spirit;  
we thank you for the gifts you have given to us  
for the building up of the body of Christ.  
Grant that we may continue in the life of the Spirit  
and walk joyfully in the light and obedience of Christ.

By the same Spirit, fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;  
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,  
and steadfastness in your service,  
until we all come to the unity of the faith,  
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,  
through whom we make our prayer. *Amen.*

## II: SEEKING RENEWAL

Bible reading  
2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 2

**C**ONTINUE in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every scripture inspired by God is also useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent, whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

*Reader* For the word of the Lord:  
*All* Thanks be to God.

### Litany of renewal

*Bishop* Let us pray for a renewal of the Church in this deanery and in our diocese, that as we join in worship and reflect upon the Scriptures, our spiritual lives may be refreshed, and our desire to serve the Lord may be deepened, as we open our hearts in love to the needs of other people.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share in worship.

*Leader 2* Jesus said, where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share in prayer.

*Leader 2* Jesus said, remain in me, and I will remain in you.

*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share the Scriptures.  
*Leader 2* Jesus met his disciples on the road and opened the Scriptures to them.  
*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share in communion.  
*Leader 2* Jesus said, do this in remembrance of me.  
*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share our wealth.  
*Leader 2* Jesus said, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you.  
*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share in service.  
*Leader 2* Jesus said, as you do it for the least of these, you do it for me.  
*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Leader 1* God calls us to share the good news.  
*Leader 2* Jesus said, go and make disciples of all nations.  
*All* Jesus, you are the Way: guide us on our journey.

*Bishop* God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service: stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Homily  
*The Bishop*

III: NEW DIRECTIONS

Bible reading  
 Matthew 9: 35–38

**J**ESUS went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

*Reader* For the word of the Lord:  
*All* Thanks be to God.

## Litany of hope

*Bishop* The COVID-19 pandemic has presented the Church in every nation with challenges and opportunities. As we emerge into a changed society, we need the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to help us to imagine fresh ways of reaching out with the Good News and of building new communities of faith, in order to strengthen the body of Christ. So let us pray for the gifts of attentiveness, sensitivity, vision, and courage, as we set out as labourers into the Lord's harvest.

*Leader* May God the Father reveal his Son Jesus Christ to us more and more with every passing day... Lord, in your mercy:

*All* hear our prayer.

*Leader* May our hearts become more responsive to the needs of other people... Lord, in your mercy:

*All* hear our prayer.

*Leader* May we undertake with generous hearts and souls whatever the Lord may ask of us... Lord, in your mercy:

*All* hear our prayer.

*Leader* May we offer our constant and unfailing support to one another every step of the way... Lord, in your mercy:

*All* hear our prayer.

### Extemporaneous prayer *offered freely, as led by the Holy Spirit*

*Bishop* Let us unite these and all our prayers as we say together the words our Saviour himself taught us.

### The Lord's Prayer

*All* Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Declaration of intent

*Bishop* As God's pilgrim people, let us continue to walk in the footsteps of Christ,  
*All* and grow in friendship with God,  
in love for his people,  
and in the service of our neighbour;  
that, inspired by the Holy Spirit,  
we may bring to a troubled world peace from Christ,  
to a searching world love from Christ,  
and to a waiting world hope from Christ.

## Blessing

*Bishop* Our help is in the name of the Lord:  
*All* who has made heaven and earth.

*Bishop* Blessed be the name of the Lord:  
*All* now and for ever. Amen.

*Bishop* May the God of love,  
whose Holy Spirit brings renewal to all who trust in Christ,  
sustain you in your faith and in your witness to the kingdom.  
May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,  
the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,  
and the gifts of the Spirit equip you;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## Dismissal

*Bishop* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
*All* in the name of Christ. Amen.