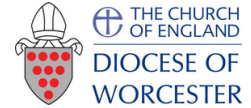


# Worcester Diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group

## Prayer Guide - December 2024



The Diocese of Worcester hosts a group whose focus is criminal justice and offers a faith perspective on criminal justice matters & raises awareness of the issues.

**CJAG offers this bi-monthly prayer guide which we hope will be useful for personal & intercessory prayer in local parishes. Do pass it on to those who would be interested and encourage its usage. Welcome to the CJAG Prayer Guide for December.**

Prison overcrowding overwhelms staff and resources and means prisoners are not being prepared for life outside. Measures taken to reduce prison overcrowding including early release, resulted in an initial 1% drop in the prison population. However, it is anticipated that the number of recalls, already high, will rise further due to insufficient support when people are released (recalls rose by 44% compared with the same period last year). The number of people released homeless from prison jumped by 31% last year (13% of the total released).

The number of women released from prison with no fixed abode increased by 48%. The number of men and women who were sleeping rough three months after being released was 45% higher than last year. It is recognised that a settled home and job are key to ensuring that people do not reoffend after leaving prison, and that without a fixed address, work is hard to come by. People are 50% more likely to reoffend if they are homeless.

**Join us this month in praying for those directly affected by homelessness & insecure accommodation, in the community generally & for those released from prison**

*Heavenly Father, we pray for all who do not have homes, for those sleeping in doorways & parks, in hostels & night shelters, for those with no relatives or friends who can take them in, & those who are afraid and without hope. Bless all who support those released from prison, bringing guidance, wisdom & care in such uncertain times. May there be opportunities & support systems for the successful reintegration of prisoners back into society. May our collective compassion contribute to their transformation and rehabilitation and help us to create a society that embraces the potential for change. Help us to recognize their potential, celebrate their victories, and support their aspirations for a better future.*

*Amen*

### **Especially we pray for:**

- The homeless and the record numbers of families now trapped in unsuitable accommodation
- Those released from prison without secure accommodation, and those living rough
- All those released that they may have the support they need not to fail in the community
- The demand on practitioners to find 'move on' accommodation for those initially released to Approved Premises
- A compassionate society that recognises the need to provide settled accommodation for those released to stop the reoffending cycle
- Victims of crime living in fear of being targeted by further offending