



An invitation to take time to join in spirit with many others in
Personal Prayer.

In November we have a month of prayer for those who have died and those who have helped us live our baptismal vocation.



Norfolk sunset

The Year of Prayer and Vocation will close with a mass of celebration on 25th Dec at 11:30 in the cathedral.

Dame Julian of Norwich 1342-1416

Little is known about Julian, even her name may be the one she took from St Julian's Church where she lived as an anchoress. Her writings are thought to be the first by a woman in English. These works on the revelation of God's love for her and all creation were lost until the early 20th century and as a consequence Julian has never formally been canonised a saint.

Julian was probably a laywoman who witnessed the plague-ravaged streets of Norwich when half the population died. High taxes to pay for the war in France, a shortage of workers and no freedom of labour for serfs led to social unrest and rocketing prices of staple goods resulting in the Peasants Revolt. Hundreds of Norfolk men from all levels of society and the Church converged on Norwich in its Summer of Blood of 1381. Julian came close to death in about 1372 and as she lay dying she had visions of the tender love and mercy of God. For the next three decades she pondered on these "showings" and finally wrote about them. Although an anchoress living alone in a cell, Julian spent many hours giving counsel through an open window to those who passed in the busy town.

Thank you for participating in this YoPaV in our diocese. Next month's Personal Prayer sheet will be the last one.

The Showings by Julian of Norwich, Chapter 85, translated by Mirabai Starr

And so when the final judgement comes we shall clearly see in God all the secrets that are hidden from us now. Then none of us will be moved to say, *Lord, if only things had been different all would have been well*. Instead we shall proclaim with one voice, *Beloved One, may you be blessed, because it is so: all is well. We see now that everything happened in accordance with your divine will, ordained before the beginning of time: all is well.*



Steps Jesus trod at the house of Caiaphas.

It is suggested that we take time this month to sit quietly and ponder the great and small events of our lives that have helped shape us into the people we are today. We could remember our deceased relatives, friends and all who have guided us. Because we all, both living and dead, are a part of the mystical Body of Christ we can pray with and for those who have died. We can give thanks for the blessing that they were for us when alive and ask for God's tender love and mercy to forgive their failings and embrace them in everlasting compassion and love. We can ask for the grace to live more fully each day our baptismal vocations so that all we do is for the greater glory and service of God.