



## Prayer Diary January 2025

This diary is designed to help you to pray for the life of our congregation. We would encourage you to take it and use it on a daily basis, asking God for His hand in all that we are and do.

### Scripture Reflection

#### 1 Corinthians Ch 1 v 9

**God, who has called you into fellowship with his son Jesus Christ, our Lord, is faithful.**

Wednesday 1st- As another year begins ask God that our lives will be **focused on Him in 2025**. Pray that God will empower us to keep developing a personal relationship with Him and each other. As Stephen teaches on the "One Another" series, help us to apply these commands daily and to live out the greatest commandment as taught by Jesus in Matthew Ch 22 v 37.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>—Pray for this year's **Moderator's Appeal**, "Hunger pains, scarcity to abundance". The lead project is a Tearfund programme in Rwanda, helping churches in local communities to fight food insecurity. 90% of people there are involved in subsistence farming and 50% live in poverty. Pray that members of our denomination will look beyond themselves and give generously.

Friday 3rd – Pray for the congregation in **Naas/Newbridge** as they look forward to 2025. Pray that they become increasingly prayerful as a church, as families, and as individual believers. Also ask that the church family grow in their prayerfulness for unbelievers and that the LORD will call to faith many who don't yet know Him. Pray for their leaders (Elders, Committee, Sunday School teachers) that they will be encouraged in their service of God and His people.

Saturday 4th – As we are now in Winter and **days are much colder**, keeping warm is so important, especially for those who are elderly. Moving about can be a problem as they may have mobility problems and are rather frail. Cost of heating can also be a problem. It is very important that the elderly keep warm. Please pray for the elderly as the wintry weather increases and may even cause power cuts. Pray that family and friends will call with them and make sure that they are safe and warm.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>—During all of 2025 our church plans to hold an outreach ministry called **Mission 2025**. Many who live in the local area have no connection to any church and rarely attend worship. We would hope to encourage them to attend activities and services in our church. As plans for Mission 2025 are being made please pray and plan to attend the prayer time for this outreach every Sunday morning at 10am in January in the Lawther School.

Monday 6th – As pupils and staff **return to school** we pray they have received rest and refreshment over the Christmas period and have enjoyed time together in Worship and with their families. We pray that good plans and preparations are in place for the term ahead and that the pressures faced by teachers remain manageable. Pray that those students preparing for exams will be focused and work diligently, trying their best and using the help, techniques and resources which have been provided for them.

Tuesday 7th – We give thanks for our **Girls' Brigade** company which allows a safe space for Christian girls to meet life-long friends, grow in confidence and develop a variety of personal and social skills. Ask God to be with Sharon and all the Officers and leaders as they plan Bible teaching, games, crafts, drama, singing and for competitions. As they think ahead for preparations for the annual Display may plans go smoothly and the girls enjoy the various activities they will be involved in.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – **Jeremiah 29v11** – "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." May these words from Scripture encourage us and give us hope as we begin a new year grateful for the sovereignty of God.

Thursday 9th- **Coffee Morning** recommences today. Our numbers every week are very encouraging and everyone seems to enjoy coming together for a chat over tea, coffee, scones and biscuits. Give thanks for all who come along and pray for their safety travelling to and from Coffee Morning, especially in Winter weather conditions. Give thanks for new people who come along and help us to make them feel welcome and that all enjoy the friendship and chat.

Friday 10th - Please continue to pray for **Youth Club** as it recommences this week. Praise God for the young people who have been attending on a regular basis, some of whom do not have a church background and pray that they would encourage their friends to come along as well. Pray that they will be challenged during the epilogue each week and that they would commit their lives to Christ. Pray that the young people would get to know one another better and be able to encourage each other. Pray that the leaders would be a witness for Christ through their words and actions.

Saturday 11th - We pray for families who are looking forward to **weddings this year**. We ask for God's blessing on couples who will take their marriage vows before friends and family, and in the presence of God. Pray that, in the midst of all the excitement, they will remember to seek God's will as they think, plan and prepare for their special day and for their future together.

Sunday 12th - Praise God for another Sunday when we can gather together to worship Him. We pray for Stephen on this **Communion** Sunday as he leads us in worship. Pray that, as once again we celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we will come humbly, earnestly, reverently and yet joyfully as we remember the sacrifice that Jesus made through His death for us.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>- In November, MPs voted in favour of proposals to **legalise assisted dying** in England and Wales. Pray that God will give wisdom to "Care not Killing", a Christian-led UK-based alliance of over 40 organisations, as they work with MPs and peers, who could choose to amend the Bill before it becomes law. Pray for political and public opinions to change; pray for vulnerable people to feel safe and cared for; pray for medical professionals to have courage to follow their convictions. Pray that the Lord of life will intervene.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>-16.2 million sub-Saharan African Christians are displaced by violence and conflict. **The Arise Africa campaign** (Open Doors) aims to stop the violence and start healing through active prayer and speaking out against persecution. Pray for overwhelming support by the church with many brothers and sisters backing the Arise Africa campaign. Pray that persecuted believers in IDP camps will be able to return to their homes. Also pray for decision makers and those in power around the world to recognise the displacement crisis and work to tackle the problem.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>- Today we pray for our **adult children**. Pray for their physical health and their emotional well-being. Pray for them as they meet many demands and responsibilities in their work and in their family lives. Pray for love, respect and unity in their friendships, marriages and in their extended families. Pray that as they pursue their careers they will "work at it with all their heart" Colossians 3:23-24.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Remember Jacqui McNeilly, Captain of the **Boys Brigade** and all the Officers and helpers who serve faithfully each week. Pray for God's guidance as they seek to demonstrate the love of Christ and disciple boys and young men. May they invest in boys through a fun, engaging and inspirational programme so that in God's time this will raise many Christian men equipped to work for the kingdom.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Pray for the **PCI West Belfast project**, led by Rev. David Moore and supported by the Council for Mission in Ireland and by the United Appeal for Mission. Pray for the team as they build good relationships and present the gospel in a culturally appropriate way to the local community through word and action. (There used to be many PCI congregations in this part of the city but these have long since closed. However, there remains a strong sense that the Presbyterian Church was a part of the community.) Pray for the weekly Bible Study and monthly services in the Culturlann Community Arts Centre.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> – Give thanks for the blessing of **grandchildren**. Thank God for the privilege of being involved in their young lives. Pray that as grandparents we would be good role models of Christian faith. Pray that our grandchildren would know, understand and respond to God's love early in life. Pray that we would be an encouragement to them in their walk with God.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> – Pray for Rev Stephen McNie as he continues with the **One Another series**. Pray that God would speak through him as he shares God's Word. Pray that we as a congregation would be challenged to consider our relationships with God, fellow believers, and neighbours and that we would be able to apply what we hear to our everyday lives.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> -The third Monday in January is often referred to as "**Blue Monday**". Pray for all those struggling with their mental health, particularly those who are anxious about what 2025 holds. Pray that they will know God's presence and peace, the love and support of friends and family, and the constant encouragement and witness of their church family.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Pray for the **Kirk Session** as they meet tonight. We pray that God would continue to guide Stephen and the members as they discuss the various spiritual aspects of church life. We pray especially for the mission being planned for early 2025, that God would guide the elders in their thoughts and plans, and that everything would be done to His glory and for the good of our congregation and wider community.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>- **Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking** have become major problems here in NI. Pray for the Women's Aid charity, which is at the forefront of offering support and help to women victims. Pray that the recently launched 3-year strategy by the Department of Justice will succeed in identifying and eradicating these brutal and appalling crimes. Pray for the liberation of all people who are being trafficked, remembering Psalm 103v6, "The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed."

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> -We pray for all **PCI ministry students**, at whatever stage of training. Pray for them as they settle back into the second semester this month, and as they start to prepare for their May exams. Pray for final year students, who are combining their studies with an assistantship placement in a congregation. Pray for anyone who is thinking about going into the ministry, asking that God would guide them as they consider this prayerfully.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup>- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 24<sup>th</sup> January as **International Day of Education**, in celebration of the role of education as a means of peace and development. We pray for our own P7 children who will be receiving their **SEAG results tomorrow** and give thanks that they have access to such opportunities. Education is a human right, a public good and a public responsibility. Pray for the many children worldwide not able to access the benefits of education, thus limiting the potential to improve their lives and prospects.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> – Pray for "**Love for Life**", a Christian charity working in partnership with PCI, delivering holistic Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in all school types and in many different community settings across NI. Pray for this valuable work, as they present Biblical teaching to young people who are often confused about what the Bible teaches and what society promotes.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> – **World Leprosy Day** always takes place on the last Sunday of January. Its aim is to raise awareness about Leprosy and the importance of early detection and treatment. It is a day to challenge the stigma and discrimination often associated with the disease. Please pray for continued progress in combating the disease. Pray also that one day Leprosy will be completely eradicated and also for those working towards this aim. Give thanks for Joanne Gilmore who organises the collection of Leprosy Mission Boxes.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup>- This **Holocaust Memorial Day** marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz - Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia. It is hoped that HMD 2025 can be an opportunity for people to come together, learn both from and about the past and take actions to make a better future for all. Please pray for people to live together, treating everyone equally and with respect. Pray also for peace everywhere and that such horrific events will not be repeated.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – There is evidence of a significant increase in mental health related struggles amongst servicemen and women. Pray for wisdom as **SASRA Scripture Readers** connect with individuals who are navigating their mental health and opportunities to share our hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for the Lord's protection of men and women deployed in operations.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>- As we commence a new year, pray that our church family would have a desire to meet together for prayer as we uphold one another, encourage one another, and bring our petitions to the feet of our Lord at our **weekly prayer meeting**. Let us reflect on Acts 1v14 "All those with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer".

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>- Many of the people who live in our community have **no church connection**. They rarely attend any form of worship. Please pray that as a result of Mission 2025 many will plan to attend various church activities during the week that the church has to offer. Pray also that they find us welcoming and we can build up new friendships.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – Please pray for **Denise** as this is such a busy and challenging time of year closing off accounts. Give thanks for the diligent, thorough and practical approach she demonstrates as she deals with all the financial aspects of church life. Pray that the process and final publication of year end accounts will run smoothly. Give thanks for all Denise does in the management and stewardship of various funds as they are used for the extension of God's kingdom through our church.