

Sunday 1st-Hebrews 11v2 tells us that the saints of old were commended for their faith. On this **All Saints Day**, “since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12v1) through faith in Christ.

Monday 2nd -Many who **live on their own** or do not have relatives living close by are missing being able to meet up with their friends. We are very thankful for being able to communicate by phone or Zoom but this does not replace being able to visit our friends and as we head into long winter evenings things are even more difficult. Please pray for those who are vulnerable or live on their own and are afraid to go out and have been very isolated since March. Pray that all who are missing meeting up with friends will know God's presence.

Tuesday 3rd – Pray for the people of the **United States of America** as they go to the polls today to **elect a new President**. Ask God to draw close to the President –Elect as he prepares to take office and lead the world's superpower. Ask God to give him wisdom and guide him in the challenging days ahead.

Wednesday 4th- As we move into the winter months it is very important for us all to be as **healthy as possible** – physically, mentally and spiritually. Pray that we would all eat a healthy, balanced diet, exercise when we can and get restful night's sleep. Pray too that we stay in touch with friends and family in a safe way, and most importantly read the bible every day and pray. Also, if we are not feeling well, pray that people would not be scared to see a doctor and pray that those who don't feel well mentally would reach out for help, talk to someone and not keep their worries to themselves.

Thursday 5th- Take time to pray that **schools would be able to remain open** from now until Christmas. Pray too that all staff, pupils and parents would act responsibly and be as safe as possible in the school building and at the school gates etc. Pray for children who are trying to prepare for exams. Help them to be able to concentrate and cover all the necessary work despite the current situation.

Friday 6th Let us pray today **for ministers who have moved** to new congregations early in 2020. It has been particularly difficult for them to get to know the church family and to be able to offer the usual pastoral care in the various day to day situations. Pray for patience and understanding for everyone as congregational life continues to be a shadow of what it would normally be at this time of year.

Saturday 7th - Today we want to pray for **bus and taxi drivers** as they provide much needed transport for so many people. Many are concerned for their health as the only thing between them and their passengers is often just a face-mask. Pray that people of all ages will show great respect for them by being considerate towards them and reducing the risks as much as possible.

Sunday 8th –On **Remembrance Sunday** this year, people will still unite, in whatever way they can, to honour and remember those who serve, and have served, to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. As the sacrifice of so many in the Armed Forces is remembered in church services and by wearing poppies, may we also remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us, as we normally would have done today in the Lord's Supper.

Monday 9th- Give thanks for the **beauty of nature during the autumnal months** especially the vibrance of colour of trees, shrubs and hedgerows. Pray that as the days become shorter and colder we are reminded of the warmth of God's love for us. Even though the dark days of winter can be challenging in many ways, remember that in the midst of darkness God's light still shines.

Tuesday 10th - Remember **Brian, our Treasurer** and all those helpers involved in the financial aspects of the church. This has been a particularly difficult time when numbers have been curtailed, people are struggling financially and mission at home and abroad has been put on hold. We give thanks for time, commitment and diligence by Brian to manage our resources efficiently. Pray for those churches that may be under pressure financially and may have to operate within very constrained budgets.

Wednesday 11th - **Jordanstown School** specialises in meeting the needs of pupils of all abilities aged 4 to 19 who are deaf and/or visually impaired. Pray for the pupils for whom the current situation of social-distancing and other measures adds greater pressures and limitations on them and their families. Pray that staff will be able to provide additional help for them not only while they're in school but for other areas of daily life as well.

Thursday 12th - As the nights get darker so much earlier in the evening, it becomes more dangerous being out on the roads. Pray that all **road users would drive carefully and responsibly**. Pray too that they would not look at their mobile phone when driving and that they would concentrate and not get distracted. Pray that no one would drive carelessly and that no one would drive under the influence. Pray for God's protection over road users.

Friday 13th - Going to shop is a very different experience to what it was at the end of February. With Christmas approaching many usually look forward to the joy of Christmas **shopping** but it is a very different situation this year. Shopping for essentials like food can be a very stressful experience for many even with all the safety precautions which have been put in place. Please pray that everyone will adhere to the rules to keep everyone safe.

Saturday 14th- Remember **Tearfund** today as it works in Yemen to ease the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the civil war and many more have died from disease and starvation. As Tear Fund works where there is conflict, brokenness and need, pray that people will know resolution, healing and provision, but that above all they would understand the hope and new life that Jesus brings.

Sunday 15th - Ask God to give us time to **reflect on what is important to us** as we journey through these hard and stressful days. Reflect on the importance of family, friendships, work/hobbies, staying true to yourself and drawing closer to God each day. Give thanks to God who surrounds us with love and hope and strength for the days ahead.

Monday 16th - With schools now operating as normal as possible and many parents having to work outside the home, all those who **childmind** are now busy picking up and looking after these children. Even though they love doing this it may be putting them in situations where they could pick up infections. Please pray for the safety of all those involved in childminding. Please also pray for the children, that they will be safe in school and not carry this terrible virus home to those who care for them.

Tuesday 17th - Pray for those in our congregation who are sick and **waiting for routine operations and scheduled treatment**. Pray that these will go ahead despite the pressure the NHS is under due to COVID-19. Pray for peace and relief from pain as they wait. Many will have a fear of having to go into hospital at the present time. Please pray for all those whose treatments have been postponed and that hospitals will be able to treat as many patients as possible.

Wednesday 18th – **John 15v5-8** is the first reading in the Bible 2020 reading plan. “I am the vine; you are the branches ... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” Pray that “much fruit” will have been produced as tens of thousands of people across the world have been reading God's Word aloud in 2020.

Thursday 19th – Pray for all who work to **help lift people out of poverty**. Endless work goes on in Northern Ireland, UK and other countries to give hope to families who cannot support themselves. Pray for people who work with local authorities and charities such as food banks to support people in need. Ask God to open our eyes to those around us who are suffering because their difficult financial situation. As we think of the beautiful song “God of the Poor ”reflect on the lyrics, “ Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair ,Lord in your suffering world, This is our prayer... come change our love from a spark to a flame.”

Friday 20th –Please pray for Isabel Harper and her staff team in **Aaron House, Dundonald** – a residential home and day care unit managed by PCI’s Council for Social Witness. Give thanks for the attitude shown by the staff as described by Isabel in a recent interview: “It is not just a place of work; all of us feel that it is an extended part of our families. We care about our residents, as this is their lifelong home and we feel truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful place”.

Saturday 21st – In these difficult days we rely on the media to give us information on the effect the pandemic is having on people throughout the world and on our daily living. Pray that as we listen, read, and view items on the **media and social media that we are able to discern the truth from falsehood** and seek to find the good of others. Pray that each day we grow to be more like Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth and the life.

Sunday 22nd – Pray for people in our congregation who **carry burdens** and are able to make them known to others. There are also many people who cannot, for various reasons, make known their burdens to fellow members of the congregation. Pray for those with health, relationship, financial, employment problems or concerns. Pray that all with burdens come before God and seek his wisdom and guidance.

Monday 23rd – Thank God for all the **children in our church** and that they will wisely use their gifts and talents in the service of the Lord as they grow and develop. Pray for parents also that they will continue to involve their children in church/worship each week and will teach them about the Lord and be witnesses to them in their family lives. Mark 10 v 16 And he took the children in His arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

Tuesday 24th- Pray that ministry staff and organization leaders are able to find safe, practical ways to **reach out to the congregational members as well as the local community** during this difficult time. Many people still do not feel comfortable with going back to church and therefore may feel disconnected from their church family, despite there being online services. May we all reach out to others, helping them to feel that they are loved, valued and not forgotten during this pandemic.

Wednesday 25th –**Travel** has also become a very different experience. Some people may have to travel by public transport for work purposes.

Taking a bus trip or train journey to town can be a worrying experience. Even with the restrictions in place one can feel very anxious. Being able to visit loved ones you haven't seen for a long time is now looking even more impossible. Please pray that the present situation will improve and that people will soon be able to travel to visit their loved ones without fear and stress.

Thursday 26th- Spend time today, in a quiet, peaceful place, reflecting on this verse. '**I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'**
Matthew 28v20

Friday 27th- In these days when much is being said about child poverty, give thanks for the work of **the Presbyterian Children’s Society** as it supports Presbyterian children and families to alleviate poverty and financial hardship. Pray for Jason Nicholson and his small team as they administer grants to some 800 children in 415 families in over 200 Congregations throughout Ireland. Pray that Ministers will look out for families who could benefit from this support, especially in the current challenging financial climate.

Saturday 28th – Although we have all been through a really difficult year there is **hope for the future in our Lord –Isaiah 40 v 31**. If you take time out from this crazy world you may just start seeing our God truly at work. Quiet times are so important- time perhaps to read a daily devotional, memorise scripture, study a book in the Bible, focus on a particular issue and see real spiritual change in your life.

Sunday 29th - Today is the beginning of **the season of Advent**, when Christians all over the world prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. Pray that we will know God’s peace and presence in a special way this year, as so many of our traditional celebrations may be very different. Pray that with God’s help and grace, we will be able to focus clearly on what the celebration of Advent is all about: - God breaking into space and time and entering our world!

Monday 30th- Pray for the staff employed in the various **departments in Church House**. With less support needed for many areas of the church’s life and witness at present, and reduced income from congregations towards United Appeal, hard decisions are now being made about staffing levels. Pray for those whose jobs may be at risk and those who may have their working hours reduced. Ask for wisdom, guidance and compassion for those making the decisions about these very personal matters that not affect the individual but also their families.



Prayer Diary November 2020

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 Colossians Ch 2 v 6&7

So therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.