

Thursday 1st -Give thanks for **Maundy Thursday** as we remember Jesus and his disciples partaking of the Last Supper. Pray that as Christians we never forget that Jesus told us we should love one another .Pray that Christians remain as humble as Jesus when he washed the feet of his disciples before he was betrayed.

Friday 2nd – Paul writes in Colossians 1v22, "But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation". Give thanks that it was Jesus' death for us on **Good Friday** that allows our broken, sinful lives to be made holy and good through faith in Him.

Saturday 3rd –Saturday was a very sad day for the friends of Jesus. They must have puzzled over why such a good person had been **put to death**. It was also their special Holy day when no one was allowed to visit the tomb. Give thanks that, unlike the disciples then, we know what Jesus meant when He said He would rise again on the third day. Give thanks that we can look forward to tomorrow and celebrate the risen Christ no matter where we are.

Sunday 4th- Give thanks that we are able to meet again in-person for worship this morning as we celebrate **Easter**. Pray that all who come along will enjoy renewed fellowship and be thankful for the health and strength that enables them to come along. Pray that all who will join us on Facebook will have the same sense of God's presence with them as those in the church and that the joy of having a living Saviour will refresh all of us and fill us with increased hope.

Monday 5th- Pray that people all over the country would take a break from work on **Easter Monday** and enjoy time with their loved ones in a safe way, adhering to the government guidelines. Pray that the weather would be good so that people can get outside, meet up with friends/family who they may not have seen in a long time and help everyone to enjoy each other's company.

Tuesday 6th – **Lynn** has been working very hard trying to keep in touch with all those who were so glad to see her and enjoy her visits. We know how much she loves to meet up with people face to face and spend time with them. This has become even more difficult over the winter months and with strict lockdown, when she hasn't been able to meet people, even in their gardens. Please pray for Lynn as she continues to keep in touch with those who desperately need and appreciate that contact and prayer support by phone.

Wednesday 7th-Today is **World Health Day. Remember Tearfund** today, as it works not only help practically but also to educate communities in the developing world. Through the magazine

"Footsteps", communities are taught how to reduce the spread and impact of communicable diseases such as Covid-19, HIV, Malaria and Ebola. Pray that, in Jesus' name, the church and Christian organisations, like Tearfund, will be a beacon of hope throughout the world.

Thursday 8th- Many have now received their **first vaccine** and some have already received their second, while others hope to have their first/second one soon. Pray that enough vaccine can be produced for everyone. Unfortunately there may be some who are still unsure about the vaccine or feel they don't need it. Please pray that they will think of others and how our actions affect everyone. Pray for continued adherence to covid rules.

Friday 9th- The countryside is coming alive with the **signs of Spring**. Flowers are coming into bloom and the trees are full of green buds. Days are brighter now the time has changed and we have more daylight. After such a difficult winter it is lovely to look forward, hopefully to things improving. Springtime is a time of new life. Give thanks for all the signs of Spring and that Jesus' death and resurrection and His coming back to life, means that forgiveness and a new life in Christ is possible for everyone.

Saturday 10th – Pray for NI MLAs, who are working hard to have the **Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion Bill (March 2020)** amended to stop abortion up to birth for disabilities including Down's Syndrome, cleft lip and club foot. Ask God to make their voices heard so that the lives of babies will be valued and protected.

Sunday 11th- Although we have been able to tune in to Sunday **Worship** by means of modern technology we are very much looking forward to when we can all meet as a full congregation together. We miss this fellowship. Pray for the government that they will make the right decisions for places of Worship. Please also pray that we will have no further lockdowns and that other Church activities will be able to resume soon.

Monday 12th – Today **many pupils will return to school** after the Easter break and for many it will be their first time back in the classroom since Christmas. Pray that they will settle quickly, feel safe, accept easily new routines and practises and find energy and grace to get our school communities fully up and running again.

Tuesday 13th - We are all hoping that very soon we will be able to meet up with friends and relatives who we haven't seen for so long. With dates for certain **relaxing of conditions** being very vague we are hoping that slowly things will be able to return to some kind of normal. It is hoped a "careful, cautious and helpful" plan to exit lockdown will continue. Please pray that

people will obey all covid rules, be patient and very cautious and that our exit out of lockdown will be able to go ahead.

Wednesday 14th- Give thanks today for **Exodus** and the opportunities this organisation provides for young people to grow in their faith through weekly meetings and summer teams. This year, teams that would normally have travelled to overseas locations will be relocated to local areas across Ireland. Give thanks that because of this, even under the shadow of Covid-19, opportunities for service and spiritual growth may be more readily available to many more young people.

Thursday 15th - Mental health is one of the major problems arising out of this pandemic. Take time to pray specifically for the **mental health of NHS staff**. It is evident how much they have had to cope with over this past year, above and beyond normal pressures. There are many who will need help and support due to the effects of having to deal with many stressful and emotionally difficult situations. Pray that they will receive the support they need from agencies, professionals and close friends and family who will draw alongside them.

Friday 16th- There are 2 million **Christians in Pakistan**, around 1% of the population. Pray for the Christians who live in this Islam dominated country. Pray particularly for the hundreds of Christian girls as young 12 years old who are kidnapped, shackled and forced into Islam marriages by their abductors. Pray that the authorities in Pakistan will intervene to stop this type of criminal activity.

Saturday 17th Pray for the staff and many volunteers working with the RNLI – **Royal National Lifeboat Institution**. Give thanks that lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 142,700 lives since 1824. Pray for their boat crews as they provide a 24-hour rescue service in the UK and Ireland; their seasonal lifeguards looking after people on busy beaches; their flood rescue teams helping those affected by flooding and their international teams working with like-minded organisations to help tackle drowning in communities at risk all around the world.

Sunday 18th- Reflect on **Psalm 28 V 7** " The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song " NIV. Pray that through difficult times as well as joyful times we remain assured that God is with us and will never leave us.

Monday 19th - Think of **businesses planning to re-open** after such a long period of uncertainty and financial loss. Some local businesses may never reopen. Pray for employees who have been made redundant or furloughed or those who are maybe entering the job

market for the first time. Pray that the government may make adequate resources available to rebuild our economy and help those firms who are struggling to remain solvent.

Tuesday 20th-Give thanks for the Lord's strength and guiding hand as He continues to help **Mark Johnston** and his family in their role in St Andrew's and in their family life. Pray for the final four months of the Redevelopment Project, as the main church building is refurbished and a new Welcome Centre is added. (The builders are the same team who helped build Muckamore's church building.) Pray that the Lord would give them great courage and wisdom to know how He wants them to use this refurbished building, to make and grow disciples of Jesus. Pray that the Lord, by His Spirit, would draw people across Clondeboyne Village, to faith in Jesus. Pray that He would show them how He wants them to reset and rebuild church family life post-lockdown, so that they can help people to grow in their faith as followers of Jesus.

Wednesday 21st – Pray for countries **around the world where conflict and fighting** dominate everyday life; eg. Syria where the civil war has now been going on for ten years; Myanmar where the military coup has led to “a reign of terror”; Yemen where fighting has now been ongoing for six years. Pray for an end to such conflict situations. Pray, too, for the many, many people whose lives have been ruined; who've had family members killed; don't know the whereabouts of parents or children; have been left with nothing – not even hope.

Thursday 22nd- Pray that **Bible translators**, working in dangerous circumstances in countries where Christians are persecuted, would know the truth of Psalm 23v4, "I will fear no evil for you are with me". Pray for personal protection and safety for their families. Many Bible translators risk much to get the truth of God's Word into the heart language of many people, because they know that the Gospel is "the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1v16).

Friday 23rd – Pray for people who are **awaiting diagnostic test** results or other health related tests. Ask God to be with these people and their loved ones as they experience worry and anxiety until they know the outcome of the results. Remember those who will receive news of the need for surgery or other treatment and ask God to be with them as they journey back to good health.

Saturday 24th. Genesis tells us that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and God saw all that he had made and it was very good. Give thanks to God for His **beautiful creation**, especially at this time of year. Signs of his amazing creation are all around us – birds nesting, spring flowers and new birth of lambs and calves. As the hymn says “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above, then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love”.

Sunday 25th – Pray for **Peter as he carries out his final few months of his role as minister of Muckamore Presbyterian Church**. Pray that Peter's online services would continue to reach out to people and draw

them closer to God and pray that God would guide and direct Peter as he also carries out services in the church building again after all these months. Pray that Peter, Sandra and Aaron will get time to rest and enjoy each other's company and pray that God will reveal to Peter His future plans.

Monday 26th - Please pray for the many people in Northern Ireland who rely on **Guide Dogs** to enable them to go about their daily lives. Give thanks that the Guide Dogs Association is continuing to work with the relevant governments and agencies to secure the best outcome for travellers with assistance dogs so far as travelling to other countries in Europe, and between NI and GB from 1st Jan 2021 as a result of Brexit. Pray that changes will be made to ensure that people with guide dogs will not be hindered or disadvantaged in travelling outside NI.

Tuesday 27th – Pray for the **staff of the Northern Health & Social Care Trust**. It has been a tough year for staff and many are weary from the pressures and work intensity which Covid19 has imposed. Pray for the senior management team as it seeks to re-establish services, deal with lengthy waiting lists and manage the way forward. Give thanks for the way staff have risen to the challenges of dealing with Covid19 and for the many innovative ways in which they have sought to redesign services. May we never take for granted the privilege it is to have access to a health service which is free to all.

Wednesday 28th- Pray today for all the **pupils who are preparing for school assessments and their teachers**, who are trying to grade their pupils' work as fairly, carefully and accurately as possible, given the ever changing guidance and proposals. It has been such a hard, unsettling year for pupils and teachers as they adapt to the continual changes. Pray that God's hand would be upon all the decisions being made regarding every pupil's education, assessments, gradings and their future.

Thursday 29th - During the summer months and particularly in Springtime, **agricultural contractors** are busy on farms helping farmers with activities such as silage making. Pray for the agricultural contractors who are under pressure to get crops into farm silos and are dependent on good weather to reduce delays to their busy schedule. Pray that they will remain safety conscious as they carry out their work and road users have patience as they encounter increased numbers of farm machinery on our roads.

Friday 30th. Take time to be still and to hear if God has something he may want to say to you. Set aside some quiet time to pray to God, bring all your requests to Him and focus, for a while, on this comforting verse. "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**" (Matthew 11:28)



Prayer Diary April 2021

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

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 v 16-18.