

Sunday 1st- **Praise and worship** should be an integral part of any Christian's life. Pray that the presence of God will be with us as we celebrate his goodness and grace in our worship today. Remember **Rev John Woodside** as he leads us in worship today. Help us to listen and meditate on the word of God and be encouraged to follow and submit our lives to Christ our Saviour.

Monday 2nd - Muslims around the world celebrate the end of the fasting month of **Ramadan** with Eid al-Fitr, "The Celebration of Breaking the Fast". Pray that Muslims will see that their righteous acts will never attain God's favour. Pray that they accept the finished work of Christ as their only means of salvation. Pray for Muslims who have come to know Jesus; that God will keep them safe and brave, especially today.

Tuesday 3rd –Crawford Bell will be the special guest at **Friendship Club** today. He will be playing some country gospel music and sharing his faith. Pray that all those attending will feel blessed, encouraged and challenged by his message and that all will enjoy the fellowship together.

Wednesday 4th- **Deaf Awareness week is 2nd-8th May**. There are over 50,000 deaf children and young people in the UK. Pray for greater awareness of deaf culture and how churches and Christian organisations can become more deaf-friendly. Pray for those churches who reach out to the deaf community, that they would know God's help and that the preaching of God's word would be faithful.

Thursday 5th- Please pray for the **NI Assembly elections** being held today. Pray for wisdom for the electorate regarding which candidates to vote for. Pray that godly people would be elected and that they would honour God in their decisions in Stormont.

Friday 6th – Schools will be running **Sports Days** around this time of the year. Pray for all those who organize and take part and that it can be an enjoyable time for pupils and their family. Pray that this will allow people to come together and celebrate achievements and that all events run safely. We give thanks for organisations such as the Paralympian movement which enable all competitors to showcase their abilities and strengths.

Saturday 7th - **Energy bills** are set to rise by nearly £700 this year. Whether your home is heated by gas, electricity or oil, all sources will rise substantially. In addition to heating costs, the price of petrol / diesel has already risen substantially -up to 40 pence. per litre. Pray for families who are struggling to meet these steep rises and that world energy prices will start to fall.

Sunday 8th – We give thanks that the process of choosing a new Minister for Muckamore has reached its final stages. We are grateful to God for his clear leading and guiding to our Kirk Session

and that **Rev Stephen McNie** has been invited to preach at our morning and evening services. We pray that many in our congregation will attend to hear and support Stephen. As we vote at the Congregational meeting tomorrow may God's will be done and we look forward to installing a new Minister in the near future.

Monday 9th- This is **Mental Health Awareness week**, which will explore the experience of loneliness, its effect on our mental health and how we can all play a part in reducing loneliness in our communities. Pray for people who are experiencing high levels of distress due to their sense of isolation and reduced ability to connect with others, exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. Pray that people would be able to talk to someone they trust about all aspects of their mental health.

Tuesday 10th - **School and University exams** will be taking place during the next few weeks. This can be a stressful time for many students. Pray that they would prepare well, keep calm and be aware of God's presence with them as they go into the examination room

Wednesday 11th - After missing the last two **Balmoral Shows** in May the 153rd Show takes place from Wednesday 11th May to Saturday 14th. Pray that all visitors, especially the farming community will enjoy this break from their daily farming activities and find renewed friendship and fellowship. Livestock production continues to be going through very difficult times with high input costs and poor prices.

Thursday 12th - Give thanks for the mission organised by **Crown Jesus** along with BB during March. Pray that the seeds that were sown will grow. Pray for Crown Jesus' work in schools through 1 WAY and the HUB. Pray that through their work, young people will connect with Jesus in fun and relevant ways for them.

Friday 13th - About 3 million people have now fled from Ukraine and entered Poland. Many are moving through Poland to countries like France, Germany and Scandinavia while others are planning to stay with relatives. Many others are seeking food and accommodation from the Polish Government. **Majed and Anna** have made contact with some of these refugees and are trying to find them accommodation, food and support. They have also been collecting food parcels and medication which is being sent into Ukraine. Continue to pray for this work that they are doing in Gdansk.

Saturday 14th- The **International Meeting Point**, an initiative of PCI, is located in South and North Belfast. IMP reaches out to asylum seekers and refugees to 'love those who are strangers' (Deuteronomy 10:19). Thank God for the team of volunteers who

make this ministry possible, by providing English classes, running a Parent and Toddler Group, providing hot lunches and by sharing the Good News of the gospel with those they meet.

Sunday 15th –This morning the **service will be taken by Rev John Woodside**. Please pray for John as he delivers prayers, readings, the children's address and brings us the message from God's Word. Pray that he will feel God's presence in this place and may he know God's leading as he speaks to us. May we all listen intently to what God is saying to us through His Word, so that we may go into a new week more able and willing to serve Him.

Monday 16th - Give thanks for the vast number of **Bible reading aids** available to us on a daily basis, whether in paper format or online. Pray that the discipline of daily Bible reading will be a priority for us individually and with our children. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119 v 105)

Tuesday 17th - Pray for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the **war in Ukraine**. Pray for all the displaced people, that they would be welcomed into neighbouring countries and that their health and wellbeing would be prioritised. Pray for the four Ukraine Assistance Centres based in Belfast, Newry, Craigavon and Ballymena as they support refugees with immigration issues, including health, education, jobs, benefits and housing. Pray for the Christian church in Ukraine as they seek to provide shelter and practical support for many who have remained in the country, often putting their own lives at risk.

Wednesday 18th – **Dementia Action Week** (16 - 22 May) is the Alzheimers Society's biggest awareness campaign. The society works with individuals to encourage people to 'act on dementia'. This year the theme is 'diagnosis'. Anyone who might be living with undiagnosed dementia is being encouraged to come forward for guidance and support. Pray for anyone we know who is, or may be affected by this illness, that they might seek help and advice.

Thursday 19th – **Christian Aid week** this year is from 15th - 21st May. It exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. They work with churches, individuals and local organisations in countries worldwide, supporting people to rise out of poverty. They help people survive disasters and find shelter from conflict. They would like you to join them and help turn hunger into hope. The combined effect of the Covid 19 pandemic, conflict and drought have robbed mothers of the power to provide for their children. With every action, every prayer, Christian Aid celebrate and share hope with all those facing crisis around the world from Ukraine to Zimbabwe. Please pray for Christian Aid's work and partners around the world.

Friday 20th – Give thanks that in the past 2 years the majority of our congregation have continued to contribute financially to the

running of our Church. In particular we give thanks for the work of **our treasurer Brian McFetridge** in looking after our finances. As the church returns to some form of normality it is hoped to reintroduce monthly counting groups for the weekly envelopes. Pray that enough volunteers will become available to help in this work.

Saturday 21st – Today **P7 pupils will find out which secondary school** they will attend in September. Pray that the children will be happy with the school selected for them and pray that each child will be placed in the school that best meets their needs and abilities. Pray that God will help each child and their parents to remember that God's plans are to prosper and not to harm, to give hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29 v 11)

Sunday 22nd – We thank God for the special privilege of sharing in our **service of Communion** and especially for two new Communicant members. May this be a special time for them as they profess their faith publically and may they serve God as a church member here in Muckamore and through their witness on a daily basis. We pray that each one of us will examine our own hearts as we join together for Communion. Pray for Rev Stephen Lockington as he leads our service today and as he ministers to us.

Monday 23rd – The **homeless** can be found in every small town and large city. Some may not want anyone to know they are homeless. Guilt, embarrassment and fear of the unknown can be in the thoughts of someone without a home. The reason for people being homeless can vary. From financial situations, to job loss, to mental health issues, or numerous other reasons, there are people who are homeless and in need of food, clothing and mental, spiritual and physical help. Please pray for God to surround them with His protection and that they will receive all the help they need.

Tuesday 24th– As church organisations are taking a break over the summer months, please pray that the **leaders would benefit from the rest**. There is still much planning to be done for next term so please pray for wisdom for those who take on that responsibility in each of our organisations.

Wednesday 25th- Pray for our Midweek meetings. Give thanks that we as a congregation are able to meet together without fear of being persecuted. Pray that as church life starts to return to normal that more people would be encouraged to come out and pray. 1 Thess 5v16-18. " Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Thursday 26th -Today many Christians will celebrate the **Ascension of Jesus into Heaven**, 40 days after the Resurrection. Jesus promised His disciples the power of the Holy Spirit and told them to be His witnesses all over the world. Pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be faithful to Jesus' command until He comes back again.

Friday 27th PCI provides services for a wide range of users across Ireland. This includes **residential care, supported housing and nursing care** for older people, day care, residential respite care, supported living and other services for people with a learning disability and those with a physical disability. Pray especially for those who suffer with continual pain and those who have debilitating diseases. Give thanks for families, carers and medical professionals who care for and spend time with the residents.

Saturday 28th – “**This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.**” (1 John 5 v 14) As you pray today, rejoice in the knowledge that God is listening and that He cares.

Sunday 29th – Pray that people will continue to give **worship a priority on Sundays** and be encouraged to either continue to attend regularly or return to church services. Ask that God would speak to those who still worried about meeting in large groups or for those who have not been part of church life for some time. We long for the time when our church and others will be full of believers of all ages sharing fellowship together.

Monday 30th- Pray for **PCI and the Templepatrick Presbytery** as the church of God's people rebuild after the upheaval of the last two years. There are several vacancies in the Presbytery and having recently come through the process in Muckamore we are aware how difficult this is for congregations, Elders and Convenors. Pray for other churches experiencing various issues such as falling numbers, financial constraints, vacancy situations, shortages of leaders and adjusting to a new way of church life.

Tuesday 31st - Pray for **university students** who have completed another year of their studies. Many of them will be hoping to find summer jobs while others will be looking for permanent positions as they start their working careers. Pray that the Lord would guide and direct this important stage of their lives.



Prayer Diary May 2022

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

Philippians Chapter 2 v 2
Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being in one spirit and of one mind.