

Sunday 1st- On this first Sunday of the New Year, we take time to thank God for the measure of health and strength that He has given us for yet another day, another Sunday, another new week and another year. Praise God that we can begin 2023 in church, with our church family and in His presence. Pray that God will enable us, through His Holy Spirit, to **keep Him at the centre** of all that we think, plan and do this year, and that every part of our lives would glorify Him.

Monday 2nd - At the start of a new Church year give thanks for the many events in December that allowed many of our members to **come together and share friendship and fellowship**, including the Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, the Christmas Tree Lights Switch on evening and the Carol Service. Pray for the Session as they plan for the year ahead including the Men's breakfast in January, the Sunday service taken by our Elders in February as well as the Tearfund Lunch. Pray also for the Elders as they lead all aspects of our congregational life so that God's name will be glorified.

Tuesday 3rd –Praise God that He has given us the **gift of family and relationships**. Thank God for those who are looking forward to welcoming a new baby into their family this year, and pray for His protection on expectant mums and their newborn babies. Pray also for those who are getting married this year, and ask for God's blessing on them as they take their vows, make a commitment and begin to share their lives together as husband and wife.

Wednesday 4th- Give thanks today, "**World Braille Day**", for Braille as a means of communication for blind and partially sighted people. Give thanks too for "Torch", as the organisation works to provide resources and equip churches to help people face the challenges of sight loss and provide comfort and encouragement in their Christian faith.

Thursday 5th- Many **missionaries** have been unable to spend Christmas or the New Year with their families. Give thanks for all those who serve the Lord in this way both home and abroad. Please pray that God will be with all who have been called to serve as missionaries. Pray for protection for them in every situation and they will have good health. Please also pray for the families of missionaries who must miss those who are far from home. Pray they will have peace and comfort knowing that God is with their loved ones in every situation.

Friday 6th – Today many churches all over the world celebrate **Epiphany**, when we remember that the Wise Men came to visit the young child, Jesus. Just as the star led the Wise Men to Jesus Christ, pray that we will allow ourselves to be led by God's Word as a "lamp" for our feet and a "light" for our path. (Psalm 119v105).

Saturday 7th - Pray for all those **living with any form of dementia** and their families/carers. Often this will put a huge emotional strain on those seeing, feeling and dealing with mood swings, confusion, memory loss and experiencing difficulties in daily tasks, language and behaviour. Pray that help and support can be found from health professionals and other agencies to cope with the daily pressures of this ever increasing syndrome.

Sunday 8th — Give thanks that today we can celebrate together the **sacrament of the Lord's Supper**. Jesus left us this simple "meal" to remind us that He died to pay the debt for our sin. Pray that we will come humbly and joyfully, supporting and encouraging each other in our Christian lives.

Monday 9th- With no government in Northern Ireland all educational establishments are unable to meet their budgetary requirements. All will be overspent unless a new budget cycle can be implemented. Pray for **schools, colleges and universities** and their governing committees as they try their best to provide good quality education for all their students with very limited resources.

Tuesday 10th - Early in 2023 a new **Congregational Committee** will be elected consisting of 18 members as well as the Kirk Session. Pray that all those elected will be eager to undertake various tasks within the Church including property, finance, administration and information technology including the sound system. Pray also that suitable people will be found to organise catering and hospitality.

Wednesday 11th - The **Ladies Bible Study** recommences today. The book to be studied is called, " Proverbs : Real wisdom for real life." Please pray for all the ladies who will come along, that they will know God's presence as they study God's word and learn more about Him. Please pray that everyone will feel they can share their thoughts so they can learn from each other and grow together in fellowship.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>- Rev Nigel Craig has recently been appointed as **Presbyterian chaplain** to Queens University, Stranmillis College and Union Theological College. Pray for Nigel as he settles into his new role. Pray for him as he gets to know the students, and as he shares fellowship with Christian students. Pray also for the busy outreach programme that the universities have, and as Nigel takes a role in the various events.

Friday 13th –A **questions box** has been left in the foyer. This is an excellent opportunity for the congregation to write out questions about the bible or the Christian faith. Pray that we would make use

of this resource and pray for Stephen as he seeks to answer these questions.

Saturday 14th- Pray for the **elderly in our congregation** as they face difficulties associated with the cold weather especially with ill health. May we as a congregation be attentive to their worldly and spiritual needs. Pray that they would be aware each day of God's presence with them and be encouraged as they read or listen to God's word.

Sunday 15th – Give thanks for all of our **leaders in the different organisations** who so willingly give up of their time to teach and encourage others. Pray that God would use them and bless them in their different ministries and that God would lead and guide them in all their preparations.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>- Poor mental health is one of the greatest public health challenges affecting our generation. Today has been called "**Blue Monday**" and it has been said to be the "most depressing day of the year" due to a combination of post-Christmas blues, dark nights and bills piling up. Please pray for comfort and relief for those suffering from mental and emotional illness and anxiety. Pray that they will seek help and allow themselves to be helped.

Tuesday 17th - Pray for God's protection over our young people in our congregation and those in the Hub; that they would stand firm in their faith and not be swayed by peer pressure or worldly desires. Pray for those who do not yet know Christ as their Lord and Saviour, that God would speak into their lives.

Wednesday 18th -Tonight Olive Turkington will be at **PW** to give her "shoe talk"! Pray for Olive and the PW members as they enjoy talking about shoes and listening to a devotional talk about what shoes Bible characters would have worn if they had been alive today. Pray that the ladies would enjoy the evening and be encouraged as Olive shares with them.

Thursday 19th – You may be aware of **Girassol Charity Shop**, Antrim which is the fundraising arm of the T. L. C. Charity, which operates projects in Mozambique. The projects provide wheelchairs and walking aids, provide opportunities for education, training and employment, demonstrating God's love for those in need and sharing the gospel with them. Please pray for support for the shop and for volunteers to work in it.

Friday 20th –Remember and keep in our hearts our new favourite carol – **Titus Chapter 2 v 11-14...**"while we wait for the blessed hope- the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ who gave himself for us....". May this verse be fixed on our

minds and evident in our lives as we enter a New Year redeemed by the grace of God.

Saturday 21st – Remember to pray for the **Crèche** as it meets during church tomorrow. This is such a vital part of church life, as it can be a little one's first introduction to the church family. We are so blessed to have so many small children in MPC. Thank God for each one of them. Thank God for the crèche leaders who faithfully serve Him each Sunday as they help the children to have fun in a church setting.

Sunday 22nd – Give thanks for our **worship team** within Muckamore. Pray that God would bless them week by week as they lead us in worship and praise to our wonderful God and Saviour.

Monday 23rd – **Summer outreach teams** provide wonderful opportunities for young people to discover more about themselves and God in unforgettable small group adventures combining discovery, friendship and mission. This allows Christian young people (and some not so young) to serve God either at home or abroad. Organisations such as PCI, Exodus, SUNI, Spark, Hope for Youth Ministries and others will now be planning for the summer and rely on the goodwill, dedication and hard work of so many faithful volunteers. Pray for everyone who has a role in running, leading or being part of these teams.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Pray for the **International students** that are already here in our province and for those who will be arriving back from their Christmas break. Pray for the different organisations involved in student outreach such as churches, Christian Unions, and IFES; that God would use these resources for His glory. Please also pray for those in our province who do not have access to such education privileges.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - We pray for our **Midweek meeting** tonight. Thank God for the opportunity we have to take time during the busyness of the week to meet together to learn from God's word. Pray for Stephen as he leads and for everyone who attends, that we might know God's direction and guidance as we learn to live out our faith in a practical way on a daily basis.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Please continue to pray for the pressures that are felt within our **health service**. Pray that those who need urgent medical care will receive it quickly. Pray for the medical staff that they would be able to make wise and prudent decisions under such pressures. Pray for a speedy resolution to the staffing issues within our hospitals and for the ongoing industrial disputes

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - The theme for **Parent Mental Health Day** this year is "Build Family Resilience". Pray for parents within our own congregation, that God will help them navigate their own and their children's mental health. Pray that Christian parents will be strong and faithful to God's Word: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it". (Proverbs 22 v 6)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Many at present are overwhelmed by **money worries** including the price of electricity and heating their homes and rising food costs. Some may be worrying how they are going to get through these tough economic times, ease stress and anxiety and regain control of their finances. Financial problems can take a huge toll on people's mental and physical health, relationships and overall quality of life. Please pray that people will be able to find help with these issues and for their health and wellbeing in these difficult times.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> – Today is **World Leprosy Day**- this infectious disease can cause severe disfigurement, horrific wounds and damage to nerves. It is a disease that need not exist in the 21st century as there has been an effective cure since 1982. It is the lack of knowledge and healthcare and also stigma that allows leprosy to cause irreversible disabilities today. Pray that there is sufficient money, education and practical help to ensure that people affected by leprosy get the cure, care and restoration they need to live life in all its fullness.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> - Tearfund produced a daily prayer guide over the advent period highlighting many of the projects they are involved with around the world. This focused on praying for peace in communities, families and traumatic situations. As **Tearfund staff** follow Jesus where the need is greatest sometimes they are working in areas of conflict, kidnapping, terrorism, corruption, economic instability and severe human rights violations. Pray for **protection and safety** for these staff as they seek to break through all barriers and bring God's peace to broken lands and people.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> - Thank God for **Mums and Tots** as they meet this morning, and every Tuesday. Pray for every child and for each parent, carer or grandparent who attends. Thank God for the friendships that have been built up over the weeks and months. Pray that the group would be an opportunity for outreach outside the church, and a means of bringing new families into the church setting in a fun filled and non-threatening way. We pray that God's presence would be felt in each meeting.



## Prayer Diary January 2023

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

**He said to them "Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation".**

**Mark Ch 16 v 15.**