

# CONNECTIONS



# **CONNECTING IN PRAYER WITH OUR LOVING GOD**

**This little book of prayers comes to you from the Church of Ireland Parish of Kilconriola and Ballyclug in Ballymena. It has been drawn up with the elderly or housebound especially in mind, though others may find it useful. Those who visit the elderly might also like to share some of the prayers with them.**

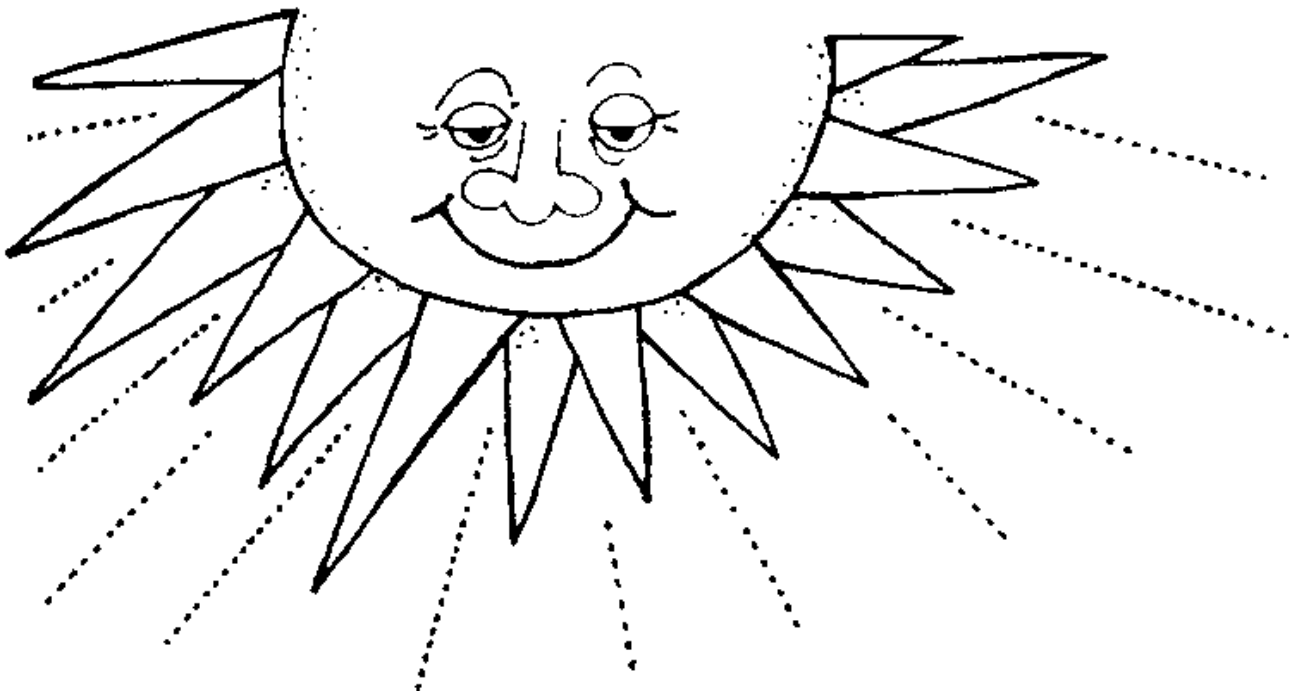
**I have found that folks often appreciate prayer cards that are given to them and I trust that you may come to value this little book. If it helps you in any way to connect with our loving God then that will be a blessing for you.**

**Yours sincerely,**

*Stuart Lloyd.*

## MORNING

Lord, I do not know what this day may bring, but each moment is in your hands and I offer it to you in advance. Nothing that will happen or be said today can separate me from you. Let me rest assured in that peace. *Amen.*



Help us, O God, to live this day quietly, hopefully; to lean on your strength trustfully, restfully; to wait for the unfolding of your will patiently, serenely; to meet other people peacefully, joyfully; to face every task confidently, courageously; in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## EVENING

O Lord my God, thank you for bringing this day to a close. Your hand has been over me and has guarded and preserved me. Forgive my lack of faith and any wrong that I have done today, and help me to forgive all who have wronged me. Let me sleep in peace under your protection, and keep me from all the temptations of darkness. Into your hands I commend my loved ones as I commend to you my body and soul. O God, your holy name be praised. *Amen.*



## SORRY

Heavenly Father

You know me and you know my failings

I confess my sins of thought word and deed

And the things I should have done

Forgive me I pray

And strengthen me

That I may please you in all my living

Through Jesus Christ my Saviour. *Amen.*

## THANKS

Father God, thank you for this day and for the gift of life itself. Thank you for the measure of health I enjoy and for the use of my senses and mind. Thank you for my home, family and friends and for my material well-being.

Thank you for my faith, which provides direction and meaning to life. Thank you that today nothing can separate me from your love, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



## **FAMILY**

Father God, I thank you for my family and for all that they mean to me. I ask you to bless them and to keep them in all their going out and coming in. Amidst all the hurts and hopes of life help us to be there for one another. Help us also to be open with one another and to find the right words to bring encouragement. Whatever the circumstances may I go on loving and thus witness my faith to those nearest to me. I ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

Lord, I lift up every one of my relationships to you and ask that you bless them. I thank you that you know all that goes on behind the doors of our home and you are there for us. Protect my relationships from discord and strife. Help me to be open with others and to listen and respect – to be patient, compassionate, understanding and forgiving. So may your peace reign in each relationship. And help me to value these relationships and never to take for granted the love that is given to me. I ask it through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## THE CHURCH

Father God, I thank you for the church family to which I still belong. I thank you for all that it means to me and that I can still play my part through prayer and financial support. Bless its work and its witness. May it truly be a light that shines out into our community and may it strive ever to advance your kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

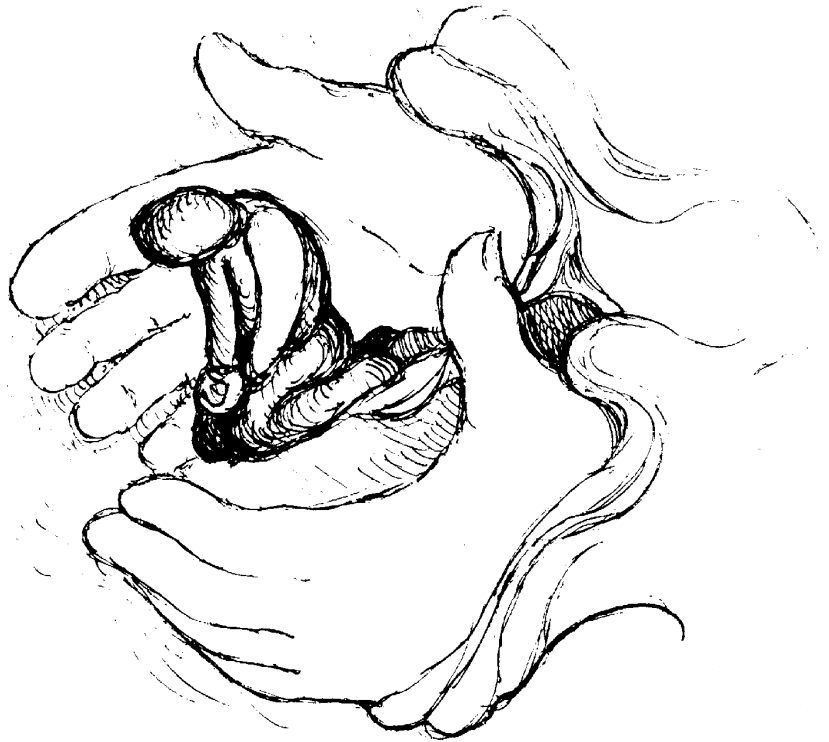


## MY FAITH

Heavenly Father you call me to live by faith. However, firm or feeble my faith may be I pray that you will nurture that faith and make it a deeper reality in my life. Amid all the things that pass my understanding may I still trust in your fatherly care and be strengthened by the assurance that underneath are the everlasting arms. *Amen.*

## **ILLNESS – Others**

God our Father, I carry into your presence those whom I love and who are ill. Take my care and prayer and use it for their well-being. May your healing power be at work in them and through medical services. In their weakness may they know your strength and in their concerns may they know your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*



## **ILLNESS – Myself**

Father God, you know that ill health has been part of my life and how I have persevered through difficult times. I thank you that you have kept me and for the help that I have received from many. I continue to pray for your healing, and for comfort and ease. Above all I pray that although there may be weakness of body, you will continue to strengthen me inwardly,



through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **ANXIOUS**



Lord God you know the fears and anxieties that are before me. Anchor my thoughts in your great power and love. Help me to rest in you. So may your fatherly care embrace those fears

and dispel them and trusting in you may I go on unafraid through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **FEELING DOWN**

You were despised and rejected of men, O Lord;  
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,  
So you can understand when I feel depressed;  
You can feel my sorrow and my sadness.  
I thank you for your presence  
In all my times of darkness,  
And for giving me light along my way.

*Amen.*

## **LONELY**

Dear God, today I feel lonely.

No one really understands my feelings and I hesitate to burden others with my troubles.

‘If only’ things could change.

Please God help me to accept the things that cannot change.

And continue to love me through these difficulties.

Penetrate my loneliness with your divine presence.

*Amen.*

## **HOUSEBOUND**

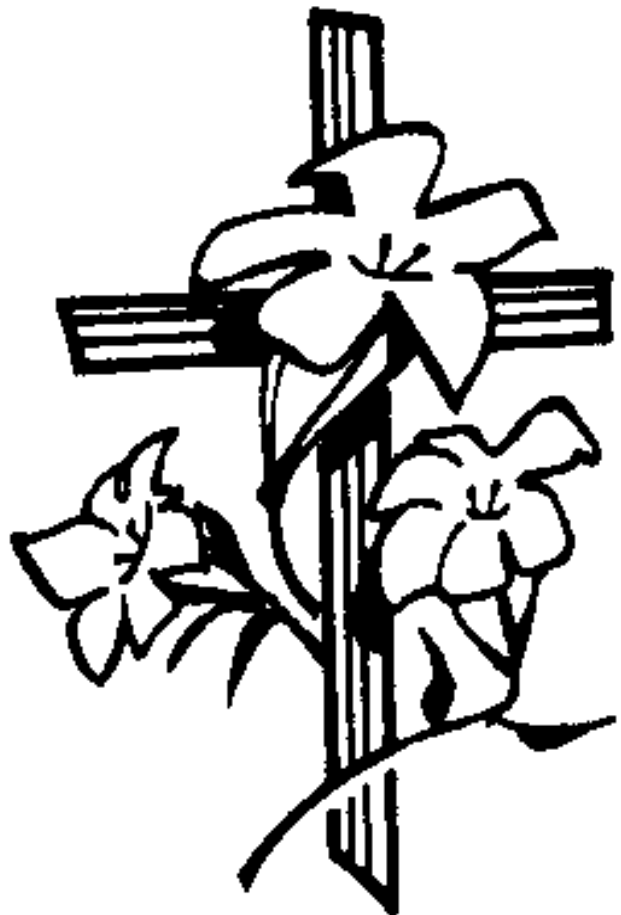
Lord Jesus Christ, you are the friend of the helpless and companion of the lonely, be with me now in my limitations. I am unable to leave this house yet I know you are always with me. I can no longer attend church yet still I pray that you may constantly assure me of your presence, and of my oneness with the whole family of the church. Help me to be passionate and constant in prayer for those who don't have time to pray. May I make a difference in the lives of everyone for whom I pray including my own family and in the various situations they may face. Bless this home too, Lord, and may your peace dwell here and may my welcome show your love for everyone who walks through this door. In your

name I pray. *Amen.*

## **THE BEREAVED**

Gracious and loving God, I bring before you those known to me who mourn the loss of loved ones especially ..... Comfort them in their loneliness, supply all their need, suffer them never to doubt your love, but draw them through their sorrow into closer fellowship with you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gracious and loving God I bring before you my great loss. I thank you for giving me ..... as a loved one on my earthly pilgrimage. I thank you for the person ..... was and for all ..... meant to me. I thank you for all the special times shared and all the memories. Comfort me now in my loneliness, supply all my need, suffer me never to doubt your love, but draw me through my sorrow with the hope that is mine through faith in Jesus Christ, in whom



there is always life. *Amen.*

## **GROWING OLD**

Merciful Father, you have promised that your goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our life. We claim that promise for ourselves in these years when we find ourselves growing old.



Teach us to adapt ourselves to a different pattern of life. Give us the courage to accept and deal with our limitations yet help us to see that we can still be of use to you and to others.

May we come to appreciate more and more your grace and love and may we be sustained by the hope of so much more to come. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **ADVANCING YEARS**

Grant O Lord, that the years that are left may be the holiest, the most loving, the most mature. I thank you for the past and especially that you have kept the good wine until now. Help me to accept diminishing powers as the opportunity to prepare my soul for the full and free life to come in the state prepared by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

(George Appleton)

## **EASTER**

Loving God we give you thanks and praise for the Good News of Easter, for the triumphant message of the resurrection, for new hope, new joy, new life. Christ is risen – and that makes all the difference. Thank you for your love, purpose and goodness that is evident in and through the Easter stories. Grant that we, who may at this time be feeling overwhelmed by the trials and temptations of life will have the assurance that your love will conquer in the end and that neither darkness nor death will prevail. Whatever we face in life may our hope be in you and you alone. Through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. *Amen.*

## **CHRISTMAS**

Loving God, we thank you for this season of Christmas and for all it continues to mean to many – the much loved words of Scripture, the familiar carols and for all that speaks of the coming of Christ. May we never lose sight of the true heart of Christmas – how you came among us in the Christ child to share our humanity and to be our Saviour. Help us to appreciate ever more deeply the wonder of the Word made flesh and thus of Christ's presence with us in all of life. And so in this time which can be one of joy or of sadness may we know

that we are not on our own but that you are there for us in Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

## **HARVEST**

Almighty and eternal God, at this harvest time we give you thanks for all your gifts, for the greatness of your love, the fullness of your provision, for the rich variety of your creation. We give you thanks for family and friends and being able to share with them that goodness. Help us to be faithful stewards of all that you have given so that our lives and words would offer you praise and worship. Speak to us this harvest time that our hearts may be stirred and we may respond to your goodness towards us, for you have blessed us in much. In the name of Christ. *Amen.*



## DEDICATION

God our heavenly Father,  
I acknowledge the shortfall of my life  
I confess my sins  
I repent of them  
I know Jesus died for my sins  
I seek forgiveness  
I am thankful for His love and acceptance  
I turn to Him now as Saviour  
I submit to Him as Lord  
I will endeavour to follow Him as the Way, the  
Truth and the Life  
I will do so in the power of the Spirit. *Amen.*

