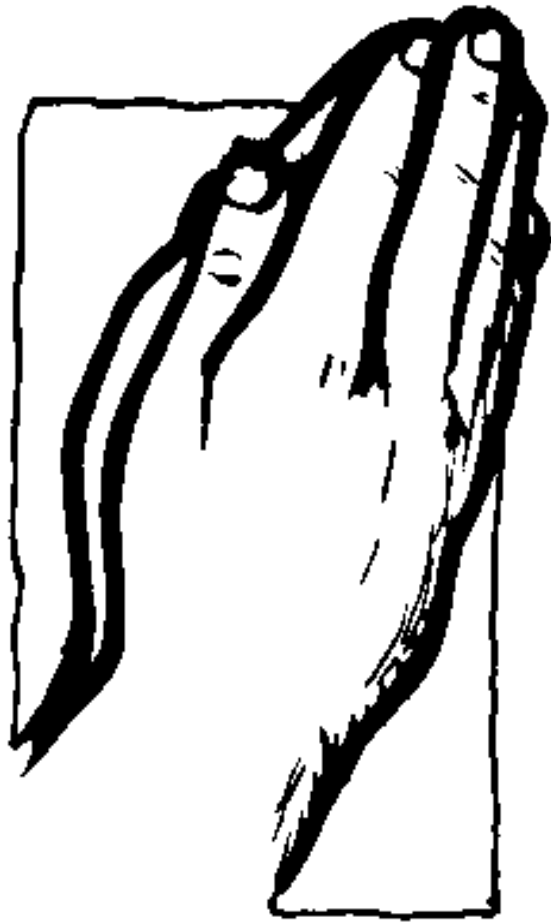


PRAYER PARTNERS

A BOOKLET OF PRAYERS



FOR USE IN THE PARISH

St Patrick's Ballymena

St Columba's Dunclog

St Patrick's Ballyclug

Our parish logo challenges us to make friendships – with God, each other and the world. A vital aspect of this is the ministry of prayer. Prayer should underpin everything that we attempt to do.

Many are indeed faithful in prayer and this booklet may be of further assistance. Others may need encouragement and help and hopefully will find it within these pages. I would encourage you to become a prayer partner – that is to join with others in praying for your parish, the wider church family and your community. Please feel free to use the booklet as best suits you. If you could use it on a daily basis that would indeed be a good discipline.

The following words convey the centrality of prayer in the lives of those who are trying to follow Jesus. We may often feel inadequate in our prayer but hopefully there is a desire to develop this ministry.

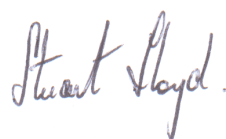
Lord, teach me to pray, to want to pray, to delight to pray.

When I pray, teach me to pray with faith, with hope, with love.

*Let me make prayer my first work, my persistent work,
my most important work.*

Work that I do for you, for others, for the whole world.

*Let my prayer be a channel for your love, your grace, your peace for those
for whom I pray, and for myself, O dear and blessed Lord. **Amen.***

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Stuart Lloyd".

Rector

MORNING PRAYER

*‘Let this day be holy; Lord accept my prayer,
and the thanks I offer for a Father’s care’*

Dear Lord,

Thank You for Your invitation to me to spend personal and intimate time with You every day. Forgive me when I have failed to do so. Teach me how to maximize my times with You. Come Lord Jesus.

Help me, O God, to meet in the right way and in the right spirit everything which comes to me today. Help me to approach my work cheerfully, and my tasks diligently. Help me to meet people courteously, and, if need be, to suffer fools gladly. Help me to meet disappointments, frustrations, hindrances, opposition, calmly and without irritation. Help me to meet delays with patience, and unreasonable demands with self-control. Help me to accept praise modestly, and criticism without losing my temper. Keep me serene all through today. All this I ask for Jesus’ sake. *Amen.*

In this morning light some of the things I have to do seem to loom large before me, and I carry the prospect of work like a heavy burden weighing me down even before I begin. Yet by this evening many of today’s difficulties will have passed. Maybe they will prove to have been far less arduous than I imagined. The thought of a problem so often turns out to be worse than the problem itself. Lord, lift my spirit, give me energy and a sense of humour through the hours of this day. Lord of the morning, help me. *Amen.*

Lord, help me today to realise that you will be speaking to me through the events of the day, through people, through things, and through all creation. Give me ears, eyes and heart to perceive you, however veiled your presence may be. Give me insight to see through the exterior of things to the interior truth. Give me your Spirit of discernment. O Lord, you know how busy I must be this day. If I forget you, do not forget me. *Amen.*

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.*

Thank you, God for opportunity. Here is a new day, untouched by my hand, but held in yours. I need you, and you have chosen to need me. Together, we can bring to fruition some of life's endless possibilities. Thank you, God. *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.*

Into your strong hands, our Father, we commend this day our souls and bodies, our work and the tasks that await us, our homes and families, our friends and neighbours, and all who specially need your help. Grant to each of us your all-sufficient grace, and keep us in peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, we offer you ourselves this day for the work you want accomplished, for the people you want us to meet, for the word you want to be uttered, for the silence you want to be kept, for the places you want us to enter, for the new ways you want pioneered. Go with us along the way, Lord, and enable us to realize your presence, at all times and in all places, our loving Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need,
The wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward,
The Word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard.
Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

EVENING PRAYER

*‘And now this holy day is drawing to its end;
once more to you O Lord, our thanks and praise ascend’*

O God, bless the people who are thinking of me and praying for me tonight, my family, my friends, my loved ones. Bless those who have no one to remember them, and no one to pray for them, the aged, the lonely, the friendless, those who have no one to love and no one to love them. Bless those who specially need my remembrance and my prayers, those in illness and in pain, those whose life is in the balance, those who are dying, those who are in bewilderment, those who are in regret and remorse, those who have been driven to despair. Bless me before I sleep, and grant me now a grateful heart for all your gifts; a contrite heart for all my sins; a heart at peace, because it rests in you. Hear this my prayer for your love’s sake. *Amen.*

When I sit down and think at night, O Father, before I go to sleep, I always feel that there never has been a day when I have done all that I meant to do, and when I have been all that I meant to be. Somehow the day is never long enough, and my strength of will is never strong enough. Even in spite of my many failures keep me from discouragement; keep me from lowering my ideals; keep me from abandoning hope and from giving up. Help me to trust still more and more in you, and less and less in myself. This I ask for your love’s sake. *Amen.*

O God, help me tonight to relax in body and in mind. Take from me the tension which makes rest impossible. Take from me the worries which fill my mind with thoughts which destroy sleep. Take from me the fears which lurk at the back of my mind, which come to haunt me when work is laid aside, and when there is too much time to think. Help me tonight really and truly to cast my care upon you, really and truly to feel the everlasting arms underneath and about me. Help me to sleep tonight, not just the sleep of tiredness, but the sleep of peace; through Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord my God, thank you for bringing this day to a close; thank you for giving me rest in body and soul. 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 and all who dwell in this house; I commend to you my body and soul. O God, your holy name be praised. *Amen.*

Give me this night, O Father, the peace of mind which is truly rest. Take from me all envy of anyone else, all resentment for anything which has been withheld from me, all bitterness against anyone who has hurt or wronged me, all anger against the apparent injustices of life, all foolish worry about the future and all futile regret about the past. Help me to be at peace with myself, at peace with my fellow human beings, at peace with you, so indeed may I lay myself down to rest in peace, through Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

O God, I started out today with all kinds of high hopes and resolutions, but it has just been another of these days. I have been just as easily irritated and annoyed as ever I was. I have been just as easily worried and flustered and upset as ever I was. I have been just as impatient with people, just as quick in temper and tongue as ever I was. I have been no kinder, no more considerate, no more like Jesus. Forgive me, help me not to be discouraged, and not to give up the battle for goodness. All this I ask for your love's sake. *Amen.*

Give me this night, O Father, the peace of mind which is truly rest. Take from me all envy of anyone else, all resentment for anything which has been withheld from me, all bitterness against anyone who has hurt or wronged me, all anger against the apparent injustices of life, all foolish worry about the future and all futile regret about the past. Help me to be at peace with myself, at peace with my fellow human beings, at peace with you, so indeed may I lay myself down to rest in peace, through Jesus Christ my Lord. *Amen.*

God, my Father, you know all that has made up today: its joys and perplexities; its promises broken; its opportunities not seized. O God, forgive me for my share in these things today: for my slowness to respond; for my dullness of mind; for my eyes lifted afar when beauty was all about. O God, strengthen me with a greater dependence: only in your way of life is satisfaction; you have made me for yourself; you have set me in this wonderful world to love and serve. God, bless my coming-in this night as you blessed my going-out at the day's beginning. *Amen.*

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ, rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. And all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

MONDAY

NURTURING

Ephesians 4:15

'We will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ'.

Parish

We pray that

- all may desire to grow in their faith
- our people may value the Bible
- gifts among parishioners may be identified and nurtured

We pray for

- all who provide leadership and encouragement in this ministry of nurture

We pray for

- Sunday schools
- Bible Fellowship Groups
- Emmaus and Alpha Courses
- Prayer Groups
- House Groups
- Uniformed Organisations
- Youth Work

Church

Remember all who produce resource material or provide training.

Society

The schools and colleges of this town including special care schools.

Remember those who have the responsibility of nurturing a new generation especially at a time of much change.

PRAYERS

Dedication – Heavenly Father, you have given us grace boldly to confess our faith and to dedicate ourselves to your service. Help us to put Christ first in every part of our lives, to meet Him regularly at His table and in your word, and to grow in the knowledge of His love. Strengthen us daily by your Holy Spirit and keep us as faithful members of your Church all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Use of Gifts – Lord of the Church, you have given your servants differing gifts that they may share with others in the household of faith and use them responsibly in the service of the world. Grant us to be generous in giving and humble in receiving, that we may grow to maturity and attain to the full stature of Christ. *Amen.*

Nurture of Children – Father, you have entrusted to our care the children of your Church, to bring them up in the way of Christ. Keep us faithful to your trust, in teaching and in prayer, that our children may grow up in the knowledge of your love, to worship and serve you all their days, to the honour and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Youth – Lord God, help us to learn from our teenagers about how best to accompany them through these turbulent years. Make us sensitive and patient, and give us the wisdom to support them in our challenging and confusing world. May they grow in understanding of what matters most in life, so that they become generous, strong and thoughtful adults; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Schools – God of love, inspire by your Spirit all those involved in the work of our schools. Bless pupils and parents, teachers and governors, helpers and administrators. Grant that, working together for the common good, they may make their schools places where real learning may take place and where all may discover the true meaning of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Bible – Father, we thank you for giving us the Bible as your written Word, the record of your revelation to mankind for all generations. Guide us in our reading of it, that we may not only know its teaching but also understand its meaning; and may its message both be written in our hearts and be made manifest in our lives; for the glory of him who is the living Word, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

TUESDAY

HEALING

Matthew 4:23

'Jesus went throughout Galilee healing all manner of sickness'.

Parish

We pray for

- a recognition that all are in need of healing
- a desire amongst parishioners to be healed and to be channels of healing
- the development of the Ministry of Healing in our parish
- our Healer Prayer Group

Remember

- those in hospital
- those in nursing homes
- the bereaved
- those injured through broken relationships especially many known to us
- those struggling with addictions

We pray that we may offer practical support to one another.

Church

All healing ministries in Northern Ireland.

The work of Chaplains in hospitals and prisons.

Society

We pray for

- local GP's
- Antrim Area Hospital and the Braid Valley
- victims of crime
- prisoners

We pray for the healing of relationships in our country.

PRAYERS

Those who are ill – Remember in mercy, our Father, those who are passing through illness and especially those of whom we are now thinking in our prayers ... Bless all that is being done for their good and surround them with your healing love and power, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

O heavenly Father, we pray for those suffering from diseases for which there is at present no cure. Give them the victory of trust and hope, that they may never lose their faith in your loving purpose. Grant your wisdom to all who are working to discover the causes of disease, and the realization that through you all things are possible. We ask this in the name of him who went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness, even your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

The Church's Ministry of Healing – Bless, O Lord God, your Church in its ministry to the sick, that it may fulfil your holy will and purpose and use all means of grace for the healing of your people; and grant to those who desire your healing true penitence, full pardon and perfect peace; for your dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Carers – Heavenly Father, we know that all healing comes from you. Therefore we ask your blessing on all who are engaged in the Ministry of Healing. We pray for nurses and doctors, surgeons and specialists, all who work in hospitals, our local GP's, those who care for the sick at home. Give them Lord, all needful wisdom, skill, patience and perseverance. And may your healing be at work through their care. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Bereaved – Give faith and comfort, O Lord, to all who are bereaved. Strengthen them to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your mercy in the past, and waiting for a joyful reunion in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Our country – O God, we pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and grant that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WEDNESDAY

COMMUNITY BUILDING

1 Corinthians 12:12

'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body'.

Parish

We pray that

- more and more we may be as a family, everyone contributing and all giving encouragement

We pray for

- opportunities for people from our three Churches to meet/work/worship together
- respect for those from whom we differ
- the enrichment of family life whatever form it takes
- positive parenting

Church

We pray for

- greater co-operation/interchange among Churches in our town
- local interchurch groups
- the Irish School of Ecumenics
- Pastoral Care Centre, Durlston House

Society

Remember

- local community associations
- the Community Relations Department of our Council and the PSNI
- local sporting/cultural/charity groups
- integrated schools
- the business and commercial life of the town

PRAYERS

For Love – O God of love, we ask you to give us love: love in our thinking, love in our speaking, love in our doing and love in the hidden places of our souls; love of neighbours and of our friends, love for those with whom we find it hard to bear and love for those who find it hard to bear with us; love in joy and love in sorrow, love in life and love in death, that so at length we may be worthy to dwell with you, Eternal Love, through Him in whom you are revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Marriage – Eternal God, author of harmony and happiness, we thank you for the gift of marriage in which men and women may seek and find the consummation of bodily union, the satisfaction of life-long companionship, and the fulfilment of creative and responsible parenthood. Give patience to those who look forward to marriage; give courage to those who face trials within their marriage; give comfort to those whose marriage has broken; and to those whose marriages are successful and fruitful give gratitude and understanding, that they may be examples to all of your great love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Family Life – God our Father acknowledging that family breakdown can damage the whole community we pray for family life. We pray that marriage may be upheld, that husbands and wives may live and grow together in love and that all relationships may be marked by faithfulness and stability. We pray for those who have the care of children that they may fulfil their responsibilities and provide positive parenting. Help them God in this challenging role to give encouragement, direction and discipline to the benefit of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Parish Community – Father, in your redeeming love you have drawn us together as members of your Church in this parish. Deepen our love for you and strengthen our fellowship one with another. By the witness of our corporate life may others be brought to a knowledge of you and your kingdom be enlarged; for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Church Unity – O Lord, you will your children to be as one. We pray for the unity of your Church. Pardon our pride and our lack of faith, understanding and charity which are the causes of division. Deliver us from our narrow-mindedness and our prejudices. Preserve us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to you. Teach us to recognise your gifts of grace amongst all who call upon you. We ask it in your name. *Amen.*

Northern Ireland – Lord God, we thank you for the community of which we are part; for those who share with us in its activities, and for all who serve its varied interests. Help us, as we have opportunity, to make our own contribution to the community and to learn to be good neighbours, that by love we may serve one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THURSDAY

EVANGELISING

Matthew 28:19

'Go and make disciples of all nations'.

Parish

We pray for

- confidence in our faith
- a readiness to reach out and share faith
- the encouragement of friendship evangelism
- a faithful witness where we live and work

We pray for all Mission Partners.

Church

We pray that

- we may be encouraged by the life and witness of the church overseas
- we may recognise the needs in our own local community and be ready to 'get our hands dirty'

Society

We pray for

- a Christian witness through the press, radio and television
- communities of reconciliation in their quiet witness

PRAYERS

Renewal – Lord Jesus Christ, grant renewal to us your people and grant renewal to your whole Church: renewal of love for you and for one another; renewal of faith in your promises and in the power of the gospel; renewal of vision for the work of your kingdom throughout the world. Renew our lives, O Christ, after your own image. Renew us by your indwelling Holy Spirit and make us strong for service and witness, in your name and for your glory. *Amen.*

Witness in our society – Show us O Lord in this new day in which we are called to witness for you, how we can effectively present your claims to those who are outside your Church. May your Holy Spirit fill us with love for them and deepen our understanding of their needs and may our lives as well as our lips commend them to you. We ask it in your name and for your glory. *Amen.*

Mission Partners – Lord God, we remember before you all who have crossed frontiers and entered into new situations for the sake of the gospel. When they are hard pressed refresh them; when lonely or discouraged strengthen them. So enable them to continue this great work in which they are engaged. We ask it in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Our call to mission – Heavenly Father, you have called your Church to proclaim the gospel in all lands and to gather the people of all races into the fellowship of Christ's Church. Help us in obedience to your call to participate actively in the Christian mission, in our own country and overseas and to commend the gospel of Christ by what we are, by what we say and by what we do for others, to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

Mission and ministry – Most merciful Father, you have called us to be a caring Church, reflecting in our lives your infinite care for us your children. Help us to fulfil our calling and to care for one another in an unselfish fellowship of love; and to care for the world around us in sharing with it the good news of your love and serving those who suffer from poverty, hunger and disease. We ask it in the name of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

FRIDAY

SERVING

Luke 22:27

'I am among you as one who serves'.

Parish

We pray for a readiness to serve and not to leave it to others.

We pray for

- our clergy, lay reader and parish readers
- our commissioned ministers
- our youth workers
- our Sunday school teachers
- all our group and organisation leaders
- the Select Vestry and St Columba's Committee
- secretarial staff
- all who give of their time and skills in the parish and the wider community

Church

We pray for

- the four Church leaders
- Alan our bishop

Society

Remember

- political leaders
- local councillors
- those involved in voluntary and charitable groups
- those in Civil and Public service
- those in security and emergency services
- those who administer the law

PRAYERS

The Spirit of Service – Heavenly Father, your Son declared to His disciples, I am among you as he who serves. Take from us the spirit of selfishness and deepen within us the spirit of service; that we may think less of our own interests and more of the needs of others, after the perfect example of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Serving in our parish – Almighty God, we ask you to bless all who are working for the Church in this parish. Give them love and humility, vision and strength. May they set your will always before them and persevere in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Ministers – Strengthen by your Spirit, O Lord, God, all ministers of your Church, lay and ordained, that they may faithfully fulfil their calling in building up your people in faith and knowledge and in equipping them for work in your service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Serving in the community – Heavenly Father, we pray for all who serve our community, in elected, salaried, or voluntary office. Bless every effort they make to work together in harmony, to increase the prosperity of our district, to enhance the beauty of our environment and to help those in need; for the sake of Him whose heart went out to the needy, our Lord Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Those who govern – Hear us, O Lord, as we lift up before you all who bear the bewildering responsibility of government among the nations of the world. Give them wisdom beyond their own, integrity in all their dealings, and a resolve to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness for all mankind. We ask it in the name of Christ. *Amen.*

SATURDAY

WORSHIPPING

Psalm 96:9

'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the whole earth stand in awe of Him'.

Parish

We pray that our people may desire to worship, that they may work at worship and that others may be drawn into worship.

We pray for

- the congregations of St Patrick's,
St Columba's and Ballyclug
- organists and choirs
- bellringers
- Churchwardens
- all who contribute to worship

We pray for the services in our Churches this week.

Church

We pray for

- all the congregations of this town
- an appreciation of the Anglican Church and its diversity
- a sense of belonging to the worldwide Church

Society

We pray that worship may not be removed from everyday life but carried into society through Christian witness.

PRAYERS

Preparing for worship – Father, make us glad when it is said, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Let it be our duty and delight to worship you in the fellowship of your Church. Prepare us for worship, in mind and in spirit and tune our hearts to sing your praise. May we receive all that you have to give us and offer all that you require of us, that our lives also may glorify you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Give us, our Father, a sense of your presence as we gather for worship. Grant us gratitude as we remember your goodness, penitence as we remember our sins, and joy as we remember your love; and enable us to lift up our hearts in humble prayer and fervent praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Father, as we go forth from this service in church, strengthen us for service in the world; that the words we have heard and said and sung may find expression in our daily life and work, to the glory of your holy name. *Amen.*

Worship in this town – Lord our God, before you the heavens bow and you listen to the praises of your Church on earth. Look upon all the congregations of this town. Give them reverence in worship, sincerity of purpose and purity of life. So what they say with their lips they may believe in their hearts and show forth in their lives, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Church in the world – Lord God, we pray for your Church throughout the world. Make her witness faithful and her worship sincere. Heal her divisions and renew her life. Bind her members together in loving service to one another. So may your Church be an instrument of your purpose for the reconciliation of all people and the healing of the nations, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THANKSGIVING PRAYERS

General

Almighty God and merciful Father, we give you hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation and preservation and for all the blessings of this life; but above all for your love in redeeming the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. Give us a due sense of your mercy that our hearts may be thankful and that we may praise you not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God of love, accept our hearty thanks for all that you have given us so richly to enjoy. For health of mind and body when many are sick and afflicted. For homes, loved ones and friendship when many are lonely and desolate. For sight and hearing when many are blind or deaf. For food and clothing when many starve and go in rags. For security and hope when many are anxious and in despair. Above all for your redeeming love made known to us in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Help us to show our gratitude by using our lives in your service and in the service of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Father God,

Thank you for this new day 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, my family and friends and for my material well being. Thank you for my faith which does provide direction and meaning to life and for the Church family and its care. Thank you that today nothing can separate me from your love and that today is full of opportunities. *Amen.*

For Creation

Almighty God, our Creator and Redeemer, we praise you for all your wonderful works, for the beauty and bounty of the world around us, for everything you have given us so richly to enjoy. We bless you for our own creation as men and women made in your image, with minds to know you, hearts to love you and wills to obey you. Accept, O God, this our praise and thanksgiving and to your name be honour and glory for evermore. *Amen.*

For the Church

We thank you, Lord God, for the faith and courage of those men and women who, from the days of the apostles, have preached the gospel of the living Christ and have built up your Church in every land. *Amen.*

We thank you for those who stood firm in the face of persecution; for those who brought the good news to these islands; and for those who have gone forth from us as witnesses for our Lord in other lands. *Amen.*

Help us to realise that we are part of your great Church universal; keep us faithful to our trust; and make us the agents of your kingdom in the world of our day, for the glory of your name. *Amen.*

For Family Life

Father of all, who made known your love to mankind by the birth of the Holy Child at Bethlehem: help us to welcome him in our homes and to make room for him in our lives, so that we may care for one another and live at peace with all your family here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord and heavenly Father, we thank you for our homes and families. We thank you for all the love we experience, support and encouragement we receive and fellowship we enjoy with each other. But we recognise that living closely with others is not always easy. There can be hurts, strains and stresses. Help us O God to work our way through these and help us to remember that we are always under your care. *Amen.*

For the Departed

We give thanks to you, our Father, for all your servants departed this life in your faith and fear; for the memory of their words and deeds; for the sure and certain hope of reunion with them hereafter; for the joy that is now theirs, free from earth's sin and sorrow; and for our communion with them in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

An Act of Penitence

Father, forgive the apathy and cowardice which hamper our witness as Christians;

our busy occupation with lesser things which prevents us from seeing the great vision of your kingdom on earth;

our pride and jealousy which keep us from involvement with others in your service;

our many failures to mould our desires and plans into the shape of your living will;

our prejudices which hold us back from doing what you have called us to do in the mission of your Church;

our unreasoned fear of change and of new patterns of unity in ministry and worship;

our little faith;

our loss of hope;

our lack of love.

Father, forgive what we have been;

inspire what we are;

and direct what we shall be;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers of 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.*

My God, I am not my own but yours. Take me for your own, and help me in all things to do your holy will. My God, I give myself to you, in joy and sorrow, in sickness and in health, in success and in failure, in life and in death, in time and for eternity. Make me and keep me your own; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God our Father, we offer you our lives to do your work in the world. Help us by your Holy Spirit to hear more clearly your call to deeper devotedness in your service and give us grace to respond with gladness; for the glory of Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, you gave yourself for me upon the cross.

I now give myself to you:

all that I have,

all that I am,

all that I hope to be.

Give me in return your forgiveness,

your love, your courage,

and send me forth in your name and in your service. *Amen.*

A Parish Litany

Let us pray together for the progress of Christ's mission here in Ballymena and seek God's guidance and help in the tasks to which he has called us in this parish.

We pray.

For a readiness to be open to you God, to acknowledge you in all our lives, to listen to you amidst all the demands and attractions of our world.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For a genuine desire to draw closer to you and one another, for an eagerness to grow up into Christ.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For the teaching ministry of this church, for an enthusiasm to learn more of you and each other, that we may be well equipped and instructed in the truths of our faith.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For those who have the care of our children and young people in Sunday school and Youth organisations. For those involved in our House Groups, Prayer Groups, Bible Fellowship and Emmaus Group and all those preparing for confirmation.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For those who share in the ministry of care, counsel and comfort and those to whom they minister: the sick, the sorrowful, the aged and the anxious.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For all endeavours to foster a sense of community in our Church family, in our town and in our country. For all who engage in the ministry of reconciliation.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For a willingness to serve and a readiness to make use of gifts. For all Church officers and those who serve in the community.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For a desire to worship amongst all our parishioners. For those who lead in worship. For our services this week that they may be living, meaningful and reverent, drawing us and others to you God.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For ourselves as Church members, that we may share what we have learnt of Christ and that we may have grace to proclaim through our lives the joy of Christ's victory.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

For a living faith, for renewed vision, for a fresh sense of purpose that we may worship you, proclaim your love, serve each other and bring your peace and hope to the world.

Lord hear us.

Hear us good Lord.

Almighty God, as you have called us to serve you here in the mission of the gospel, and in the ministry of your love to all, so bless us with the wisdom and power of your Spirit, that we may know your will and be strong to obey it, for the honour of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. ***Amen.***

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Almighty God,
watchful and caring,
our source and our end.
Accept us now,
as we give thanks to you for our Parish and
Places of Worship,
where we come to praise your name,
to ask your forgiveness,
to know your healing power,
to hear your word,
and to be nourished by the body and blood of
your Son.
Be present always to guide and judge,
to illumine and to bless your people.

For the Church universal, of which our Churches
are a visible symbol.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have
gathered in your name.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For the gift of music, and those who help
lead our worship Sunday by Sunday:
our organists and choirs, our bellringers,
our readers, our welcomers.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For the gift of fellowship and the joy of our being
together; our various organisations and groups
and their leaders.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For those who have pastoral and teaching responsibilities in this parish: our clergy, lay reader, parish readers, youth workers and Sunday school teachers.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For those given responsibilities for management and care of our Churches: our churchwardens, the Select Vestry, our secretarial staff, St Columba's committee, and our sextons.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for the continuing faithfulness of many today.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For the fellowship of all your saints, and especially for Patrick and Columba to whom our Churches are dedicated.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

For all that you are doing amongst us despite our many failings.

In gratitude we pray.

We thank you Lord.

O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

PRAYERS FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

ADVENT

O God, you sent your Son into the world
to be the Saviour of all who believe,
and promised that he will come again to be our judge:
increase in us the attitude of watchfulness and prayer,
so that we may always be ready to meet him,
with our lamps trimmed and burning
and our lives active in his service,
to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

CHRISTMAS

O Lord our God, as we celebrate again the festival of Christmas, we ask you
to make us humble and loving like Jesus, who did not come to be served but
to serve, and who said that it is better to give than to receive; so that, in his
name, we may devote ourselves to the care and service of all those who are
in need. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

EPIPHANY

Lord Jesus, may your light shine upon our way,
as once it guided the steps of the magi:
that we too may be led into your presence
and worship you,
 the child of Mary,
 the Word of the Father,
 the King of the nations,
 the Saviour of mankind;
to whom be glory for ever. *Amen.*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent.
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,
that, lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect forgiveness and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LENT

Lord, you were tested with a choice of three ways to do your work; help us in our own lives always to choose the fourth way, the way of self-giving and of the cross. *Amen.*

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Thank you, Lord, for our mothers. We remember today their loving care, and their ceaseless love for us. May we show them by our gifts, our words and our actions that we love them and care about them too.

Father, we thank you for the family of the Church. May they know your blessing and strength as they care for others. *Amen.*

PALM SUNDAY

As on this day we keep the special memory of our Redeemer's entry into the city, so grant, O Lord, that now and ever he may triumph in our hearts. Let the King of grace and glory enter in, and let us lay ourselves and all we are in full joyful homage before him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Lord Christ, our Servant and Saviour, on earth you washed the feet of your disciples, and now through your cross and resurrection you always live to make intercession for us: give us grace to be your faithful disciples and servants to our lives' end; for your name's sake. *Amen.*

GOOD FRIDAY

By your wounded hands:

teach us diligence and generosity.

By your wounded feet:

teach us steadfastness and perseverance.

By your wounded and insulted head

teach us patience, clarity and self-mastery.

By your wounded heart:

teach us love, teach us love, teach us love,

O Master and Saviour. *Amen.*

EASTER

God Almighty, we praise your holy name in this joyful Eastertide. We thank you, Lord, because through your death and resurrection we have won the victory and your redeeming grace and love. Loving Father God, fill us with new life so that we may love one another and do what you want us to do in sharing your love with those who don't know you. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

ASCENSION

Dear Lord, at this happy and holy season help us to see that the real footprints of your ascension are to be found, not upon a mountain-top near Jerusalem, but in the marks and tokens of the witness of your disciples here and now, living and serving in the presence of their ascended Lord. *Amen.*

PENTECOST

Father, pour out your Spirit upon your people,
and grant to us
 a new vision of your glory;
 a new faithfulness to your Word;
 a new consecration to your service;
that your life may grow among us,
and your kingdom come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

TRINITY

Thanks be to God our Father, who made us and sustains us through the harvests of the world.
Thanks be to Jesus Christ his Son, who redeemed us and reconciles us to God through the blood of his cross.
Thanks be to God the Holy Spirit, who regenerated us and revives us in the life of the Church.
O God, all-loving, all-holy, all-wise, we worship and adore you. *Amen.*

HARVEST

Lord, your harvest is the harvest of love;
love sown in the hearts of people;
love that spreads out
like the branches of a great tree
covering all who seek its shelter;
love that inspires and recreates;
love that is planted in the weak and the weary,
the sick and the dying.

The harvest of your love is the life that reaches
through the weeds of sin and death
to the sunlight of resurrection.

Lord, nurture my days with your love,
water my soul with the dew of forgiveness,
that the harvest of my life might be your joy. *Amen.*

REMEMBRANCE

On this Remembrance Day we come, O Lord, in gratitude for all who have died that we may live, for all who endured pain that we might know joy, for all who suffered imprisonment that we might know freedom. Turn our deep feeling now into determination, and our determination into deed, that as men died for peace, we may live for peace for the sake of the Prince of Peace, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALL SAINTS

We give you thanks, our God and Father, for all those who have died in the faith of Christ; for the memory of their words and deeds and all they accomplished in their time; for the joyful hope of reunion with them in the world to come; and for our communion with them now in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

Let us recall the words Jesus spoke from the cross.

Father, forgive them: for they know not what they do.

We thank you, Father, that Jesus did as he told others to do, and forgave those who wronged him. Help us to forgive others from our heart. And forgive our world for still committing acts of great cruelty.

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

We thank you, Father, that Jesus gave this assurance to a man convinced he deserved to die. Awaken us and all sinners to a true understanding of what we are and what we have done. But give us, too, the same assurance, that whatever we have done nothing can separate us from your love.

Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother.

We thank you, Father, that Jesus thought of others even when dying. Deliver us from self-pity, from brooding on our own wrongs and misfortunes. Help us to be like Christ to our neighbour, acting as Jesus would act, mediating your love.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

We thank you, Father, that Jesus was fully human, and no stranger to the anguish of despair. Help us also through the dark times, so that we may emerge with faith strengthened.

I am thirsty.

We thank you, Father, that someone answered this cry. Help us to answer the cry of those in our world who are hungry.

It is finished.

We thank you, Father, that Jesus died believing he had done your will and accomplished your work. May we too be single-minded, and when we die not need to regret that we have squandered your gift of love.

Father, into your hands, I commit my spirit.

We thank you, Father, that Jesus died trusting fully in you. May all Christians have the same confidence in the hour of death. May we know that Jesus has conquered death for us all.

Caryl Micklem

OTHER PRAYERS

Creation – Almighty God, you fill the earth with riches for the use of all. Yet we acknowledge that so many have so little while others have so much. We remember all who are suffering because of man's apathy, greed and inhumanity. May we always remain sensitive to the needs of others and seek to respond to them. Give to those in authority wisdom and courage that being lifted above selfishness they may establish a new order and new trading relationships whereby the needs of all may be supplied, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In a world whose web of life is intricate and beautiful, save us, Lord, from carelessness and blindness. In a world whose creatures are so varied and vulnerable, save us, Lord from plundering and cruelty. In a world whose waters are fresh and whose oceans should cleanse, save us, Lord, from wanton polluting. In a world whose weather patterns dominate our lives, save us, Lord, from global warming. In a world whose forests protect our air and wild-life, save us, Lord, from the systems that drive us to destroy them. In a world whose fruits are rich and plentiful, save us, Lord, from waste and greed. *Amen.*

The Church - Lord, help your Church to be the Church, the Church as you would have it be, loyal to its Lord and faithful to its calling. Lord, save your Church from compromise and self-interest: from accommodating itself to the false values of the world; from substituting a comfortable religion for an adventurous faith; from being absorbed in its own concerns and neglecting its world mission. Lord, have mercy on your Church. Cleanse it, revive it, enlighten it, empower it; and what we thus ask for all your people, we ask also for ourselves, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

The Persecuted Church – Lord God uphold all who are presently being persecuted for their allegiance to Christ. Give them courage and patience and a resolute reliance on you. By their example and witness may they challenge us in our discipleship and may they win others to the service of him who suffered for all mankind, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Stewardship – Lord of our lives, teach us to use aright our money and our possessions. Deliver us from meanness or extravagance. May a spirit of generosity inspire our giving. In all our getting and spending may we remember that all we have is from you and so may we be faithful stewards of your bounty through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Self Control – God, let me put right before interest, let me put others before self, let me put the things of the spirit before the things of the body. Let me put the attainment of noble ends above the enjoyment of present pleasures. Let me put principle above reputation. Let me put thee before all else. *Amen.*

Our Life – Father of all mercies, we bless you for our creation. The life we possess is your gift: we hold it in trust from you. Teach us to value it and to use it to the full. For we have but one life to live on earth, one life in which to glorify you, to serve your Church, to advance your kingdom, to help other people. Lord, show us what to do with our life, and let us not live to be useless. *Amen.*

Our Speech – “Set a guard, O Lord, on my mouth, and keep the door of my lips.” Father, we should make our own this prayer of the psalmist. Save us from foolish or hurtful talk, from uttering lies or making false promises. Give us the courage to say what we mean, and the honesty to mean what we say. And may our speech always be seasoned with grace, that it may bring a blessing to those who hear it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Self – Lord, we confess that we ourselves are our own worst enemies. We know there is too much of self in our lives: self-righteousness and self-centredness, self-indulgence and self-deception. Save us, O Lord, from ourselves, and lead us in the way of self-denial, self-discipline and self-sacrifice. And as we learn to dethrone self, help us to enthrone Christ and crown him Lord of all, our glorious King for ever. *Amen.*

Looking for Salvation – O Lord, who has taught us that to gain the whole world and to lose our souls is great folly, grant us the grace so to lose ourselves that we may truly find ourselves anew in the life of grace, and so to forget ourselves that we may be remembered in your kingdom. *Amen.*

Contentment – O God, make us more thankful for what we have received, more content with what we have, and more mindful of other people in need: we ask it for his sake who lived for us in poverty, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Graces at mealtimes – Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and bless us to your service, and make us ever mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, may our fellowship be the revelation of your presence and turn our daily bread into bread of life. *Amen.*

Creator of the universe, you give us this gift of food to nourish us and give us life. Bless this food that you have made and human hands have prepared. May it satisfy our hunger, and in sharing it together may we come closer to one another. *Amen.*

To God who gives our daily bread a thankful song we raise, and pray that he who sends us food may fill our hearts with praise. *Amen.*

O Lord: in a world where many are lonely: we thank you for our friendships. In a world where many are captive: we thank you for our freedom. In a world where many are hungry: we thank you for your provision. We pray that you will enlarge our sympathy, deepen our compassion, and give us grateful hearts. In Christ's name. *Amen.*

For peace and serenity –

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush,
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals,
He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.
He leads me in the ways of efficiency; through calmness of mind,
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,
I will not fret for his presence is here.
His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity
By anointing my mind with his oils of tranquility,
My cup of joyous energy overflows.
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,
For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and dwell in his house for ever.
Amen.

A Modern Beatitude –

You are blessed who are poor in desires,
never seeking the riches of earth, which the fires
can consume, turn to dust,
or the waters of fortune can rust;
the Kingdom is yours, you are just.

You are blessed who are sad, but whose crying
is not for yourself, for your self must by dying:
your tears shall have worth
when they share in the cares of the earth;
for a cross brings the Kingdom to birth.

You are blessed who are gentle and meek,
for the war-cries of rage are the tunes of the weak:
your silence is long,
and the trumpets of anger blow strong;
but the Kingdom will dance to your song.

You are blessed who make peace, who believe
not in weapons to conquer, to ravish, to grieve:
you find your employ
in creating what guns just destroy;
the name of God's sons you'll enjoy.

You are blessed when they seek you to kill,
and to wound like the master himself on a hill,
amid laughter and scorn;
so his wounds must be worn
to recall where the Kingdom was born.

The Lord's Prayer –

We bring before You, O God, our petitions; for You have taught us to cast
all our care upon You;

Our Father in heaven

Through the dedication of our work to Your glory and the common good;

Hallowed be your Name

Through our zeal to do Your will;

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven

By the fruits of the earth in their due season;

Give us today our daily bread

Because we have not put our whole trust and confidence in Your mercy;

Forgive us our sins

If we have suffered because others have neglected their duty;

We forgive those who sin against us

That we may never put self-interest first;
Do not bring us to temptation
When we desire more than is our due;
Deliver us from evil
For You are the Lord of all, at last, all evil will be ended;
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

Words of St Patrick – Lord, be with us this day, within us to purify us; above us to draw us up; beneath us to sustain us; before us to lead us; behind us to restrain us; around us to protect us. *Amen.*

Fasting and Feasting

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of all light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; Feast on God's providence.
Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip; Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.



PARISH VISION PRAYER

O God, help us to catch the vision of our Parish Logo.

**May we truly embrace the centrality of the Cross,
rejoicing in all that you have done for us and
trusting in your unfailing mercy and grace.**

**Renew a right Spirit within us to
inspire and empower us to make friendships with you,
each other and the world and
cultivate within us worshipping and welcoming hearts
that communicate your love and compassion.**

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

[illegible]