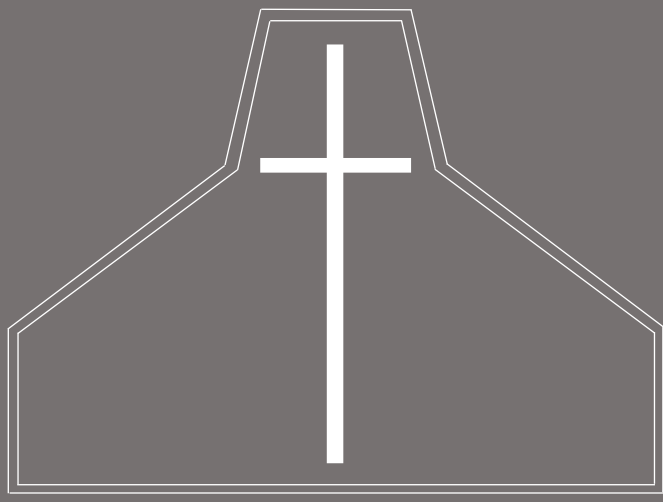


For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes
in him shall not perish but
have eternal life.

John 3:16



Prayer Diary

April 2021

St Columba's
Parish Church

Friday 2

Good Friday: On this Good Friday give thanks to God for giving up his one and only Son to die on the cross. Pray that we never take Jesus' sacrifice of Himself for our sins for granted.

Saturday 3

The Suffering Church: Remember our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world who are suffering on account of their faith this Easter time. Pray for the church in Iraq which has been through so much and continues to be persecuted. On the Open Doors website we read, '...2020 saw recurrent violent protests and the instability in Iraq is a catalyst for the ongoing persecution of Christians.'

Sunday 4

Easter Sunday: On this Easter Sunday give thanks to God for the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Give thanks that in rising from the dead, Jesus Himself is our guarantee that all those who trust in Him will one day rise to new life.

Monday 5

Young People: Whilst some of us are looking forward to a trip to the hairdresser or the garden centre today, young people aged 12 to 17 can now play contact sports outdoors. Pray for young people known to us who have been so impacted by the restrictions over the past 12 months and have found this so hard. Pray that they would get the help and support they need.

Tuesday 6

Easter Holiday Club: This is the second year in a row that we've not been able to hold an Easter Holiday Club in the Church Halls. Pray that in time we would find ways to adapt to host Holiday Clubs again in the future.

Wednesday 7

Our Neighbours: Pray that we might be good neighbours to all those amongst whom God has placed us. As we have recently celebrated Easter, pray that we might be people who are eager to share the Good News of our Risen Saviour with others. Pray too for opportunities to do so.

Thursday 8

Christian Books and Bible Reading Notes: Give thanks for those that have found the Lent Reading helpful ('Where is God a Coronavirus World?' and 'Hope in the Face of Suffering'). Give thanks too for those who produce and distribute Bible Reading Notes such as 'The Upper Room' that many of us benefit from here at St Columba's.

Friday 9

Little Fishes: Give thanks that has been possible to deliver Easter bags to some of the Little Fishes families over the past few days. Pray that these might be an encouragement to these folks and a reflection of the love of Jesus.

Saturday 10

Scripture Union: Give thanks for schools and other groups who have made use of the 'Colour In Easter' resource for P6 and P7 aged children. Give thanks for two young people who came to faith In Jesus as this resource was used by their youth group.

Sunday 11

Sunday Club and Bible Class: The Sunday Club and Bible Class are having a well-deserved break today having met together week by week on a Sunday morning by zoom for nearly 12 months. Pray that it might soon be possible for Sunday Club and Bible Class to meet together in person as they are all very much looking forward to that.

Monday 12

Vaccination Programme: Give thanks for all those who have worked so hard to produce vaccines for coronavirus and for the remarkable effectiveness of these vaccines. Give thanks too for how so many in Scotland and in the UK at large have received at least their first vaccination jag and for many now also receiving their second jag. Pray for the World Health Organisation and others working for a fair and equitable allocation of coronavirus vaccines for all countries.

Tuesday 13

United Bible Societies: The United Bible Societies, of which the Scottish Bible Society is a founding member, operates over 240 countries and territories. Over the last year as the pandemic became more widespread more than 90 societies faced closure due to losing their normal sources of income. However the close fellowship and partnership across UBS has ensured a truly global response with funding resources secured. Give thanks that this has allowed vital Bible mission to continue worldwide.

Wednesday 14

Friendship Club & Following Jesus Group: Remember all those who miss meeting together for the Friendship Club and Following Jesus Group. Give thanks for being able to keep in touch with folks from both groups, and for being able to give out Easter wreaths for the Friendship Club to make and Easter mats for the Following Jesus Group.

Thursday 15

Leprosy Mission: Pray for the Scottish Leprosy Mission as it works to help people with leprosy worldwide. Pray for people like 'Friday' who grew up in a village in Nigeria with a loving family but after contracting leprosy and receiving treatment at the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Chanchaga was not allowed to return home by his father. Pray for the Leprosy Mission as it works to end the stigma of leprosy.

Friday 16

The Boys' Brigade: Now that outdoor meetings of up to 15 are permitted please pray that The BB outdoor activities undertaken by all sections of the Company will be fun, challenging, educational and successful. Pray too that boys who have not participated online will be encouraged to join with face to face meetings.

Saturday 17

Lodging House Mission: Continue to remember the valuable work of the Lodging House Mission as the team there continues to help homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people on a daily basis. Give thanks that Lodging House Mission has been able to provide food and support since 1909. Pray for the staff and volunteers as they provide essential services to those in most need today.

Sunday 18

Sunday Services: Give thanks that it is once again possible to hold services in the church building. Pray for those who are coming back to a service in the church building, some for the first time in a year, that they might be encouraged as they worship in person with others. Pray too that those who have connected with us online and who have not previously been in the habit of worshipping with us in person might be able to come to a service in the church building.

Monday 19

Schools: Remember pupils, teachers and support staff as most pupils in Scotland return to full-time education in school today. Pray that this would go as smoothly as possible and that further disruption to children and young people's education might be avoided.

Tuesday 20

Those who have been bereaved: Remember those known to us who have lost loved ones and for whom the restrictions on meeting with people who would otherwise have provided company and support have been especially hard. Pray that we would be mindful of their needs and the needs of others too as we consider how to make use of what we hope will be a continued easing of restrictions.

Wednesday 21

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF): Continue to remember Jo Crotty serving God with MAF as she helps children of MAF workers in Papua New Guinea and beyond with their home schooling. There has been an increase in cases of coronavirus in Papua New Guinea and the BBC News Website reports that the fragile healthcare system is under huge strain.

Thursday 22

Those who are unwell: Pray for those who have been unwell, and some who have recently been in hospital, that God might strengthen and encourage them. Pray too for those who care for loved ones, that God might give them all they need to do so and that they themselves would have opportunity for rest and refreshment.

Friday 23

Christian Aid: On the Christian Aid website we read, "Through the coronavirus pandemic, economic, financial and health systems in every society have been stretched, and the poorest and most marginalised people have been hit the hardest." Pray for the Christian Aid in Haiti, working since the 1980s through local partners to improve the livelihoods of underprivileged Haitians, Dominicans and Haitian migrants.

Saturday 24

Myanmar: Pray for the people of Myanmar following the military coup in February. Hundreds of protesters have been killed and injured and refugees have attempted to flee into neighbouring India and Thailand. Pray for an end to the violence and for freedom from oppression.

Sunday 25

Sunday Services: Give thanks for the continuing opportunity to worship together online and on CD and for those who give of their time and talents to make that possible. Give thanks too for all those who work to ensure that we can worship safely in the church building.

Monday 26

Those who are housebound: On this day when further easing of restrictions is expected pray for those who are confined to their homes for reasons other than coronavirus. Give thanks that the recorded services are an encouragement to some of these folks. Pray that we be mindful of them as we now enjoy greater freedom to get out and about.

Tuesday 27

Our Community: Many in our community have been impacted by coronavirus and the measures taken to reduce its spread. Pray that we as a church might be able to respond to some of the needs of our community in supportive and creative ways.

Wednesday 28

Small Group Bible Studies: Give thanks for many people who benefitted from the most recent Small Group Bible Study series on the book of Jonah. Pray that the next series, scheduled to run in May/June, would also be helpful in building us up together as a fellowship of God's people here at St Columba's.

Thursday 29

New ASN School: A new school for children with Additional Support Needs (ASNs) has recently been approved by East Dunbartonshire Council to be built in Waterside, with a potential earliest completion date of April 2023. Pray that this might be beneficial for the education and support of up to 200 children with ASNs.

Friday 30

Scottish Parliamentary Elections: As candidates are in the final days of campaigning across Scotland pray for wisdom as we listen to what they say and weigh up who to vote for. Pray that those who will serve as MSPs in the next parliament might do with humility, compassion and integrity and that they might seek God's help.