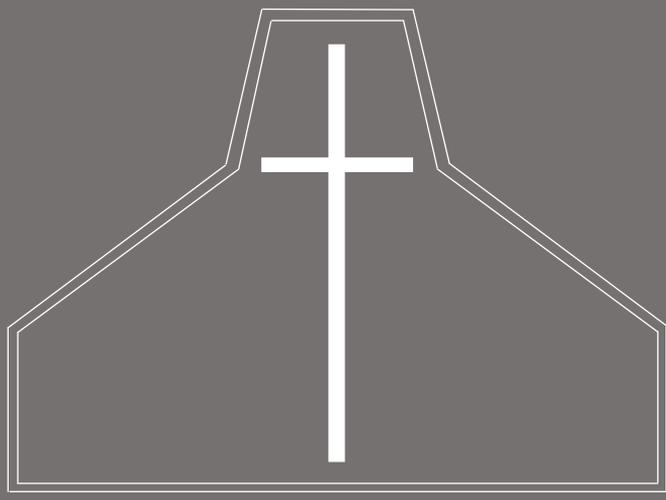


And I will do whatever you
ask in my name, so that the
Son may bring glory to the
Father.

John 14:13



Prayer Diary

August 2021

St Columba's
Parish Church

Sunday 1

Sunday Services: Pray for the Word of God as it is boldly proclaimed today that it will be sharper than a two-edged sword as it is heard and pray that it will be received with fruitfulness in people's hearts. Pray that we will not merely listen to the word but also do what it says (Jas 1.22). Remember Philip in his regular preparation to proclaim the Word, and give thanks for his ministry, that the Lord will be pleased to bless the preaching in His Name and use him mightily to His glory.

Monday 2

Bible Society, Cuba: The need for Bibles in Cuba is urgent as 40% of believers do not own one. People who do have a Bible have kept the same copy for years and often it is in very poor condition. The Bible Commission (Bible Society) works with churches from all denominations to distribute God's Word along with Scriptures for children, youth and large print for the elderly. Only Bibles donated through Bible Societies around the world are allowed into Cuba so this work is vital for Christians there. Please pray for the import and distribution of Bibles into Cuba and that everyone desperately waiting will soon experience the joy of having their own copy of God's Word.

Tuesday 3

Scripture Union: Give thanks for SU Holidays and Missions throughout the years and for this summer's Programme (which runs to Aug 13th) which has been going well with few Covid related problems. Give thanks for the very positive feedback from parents and young people. Many are expressing how long it has been since they have taken part in activities, read the Bible with others and sung together. Pray on for safety and warm hearts to the Gospel.

Wednesday 4

Church Halls and Maintenance: Continue to give thanks and pray for all those helping with ongoing maintenance and other jobs around the church and halls over the summer. Give thanks also for the regular cleaning of the church and halls week by week by Gilbert and Lorna. Give thanks for all who help in any way to ensure our buildings and grounds are kept in such good order as they are.

Thursday 5

The Bereaved: Remember those who have lost loved ones, especially those in recent days and known personally known to us. Losing someone who is dearly loved creates a deep void in those who are grieving. Please pray that they may know the Lord's compassion especially in the recent rawness of their loss and that those surrounding the grieving may be a quiet and sensitive encouragement and source of strength.

Friday 6

Little Fishes. Give thanks for the summer recess allowing the helpers to have a break in readiness for the new session about to start in the near future. Pray for wisdom in planning and preparation for the new session and remember the leaders as they make decisions conducive to the wellbeing and safety of everyone involved. Pray for families who are involved and especially for new children and carers that they may enjoy being in a happy and safe environment and meaningful relationships can be resumed and developed.

Saturday 7

The Suffering Church. Pray for the work of Open Doors which seeks to assist Christians who suffer persecution and hardship in many places throughout the world. Give thanks for the many young people in Lebanon who have worked so hard to restore the area around Beirut's port which was destroyed in an explosion one year ago. Pray that their contribution will be recognised and they will be given more opportunities to use their gifts and skills to help rebuild the country. Pray also for peace in Israel and the Palestinian territories following the recent conflict and escalation in violence. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones and for a sustainable and just peace for all.

Sunday 8

Sunday Club and Bible Class: As the schools prepare to return for the new Session remember the leaders and young people as they prepare for the resuming of Sunday Club and Bible Class. Give thanks for the steadfastness of both leaders and young people throughout the last year and more and pray for their growth in grace and faith as they seek to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Monday 9

Men's Club: Continue to remember those of the Men's Club who have appreciated and shared fellowship together on Monday evenings through the autumn and winter months and who have missed being together for such a long time now. Give thanks for the contribution of Edward Rogerson, who sadly died recently, in the life of the Mens' Club and pray for a hopeful resuming of activities in the autumn restrictions permitting.

Tuesday 10

Tuesday Morning Fellowship. Remember those who regularly met together each Tuesday morning and who have missed these Meetings over the last months. Pray that they may continue to know the Lord's presence with them and His blessing in their lives and the encouragement of the Lord's people with them.

Wednesday 11

Those who are Unwell or in Hospital: Remember those who are unwell, awaiting investigation, diagnosis, surgery/treatment, especially in the current backlog of cases due to Covid. Pray that they may receive medical care as promptly as is possible. Pray for all Healthcare staff amid great pressures on them to respond to increasing demands for their help and care.

Thursday 12

Local Schools: Remember staff and pupils as schools In East Dunbartonshire return today. Pray for teachers that they may have benefitted from the summer break in readiness for the new session with its hopes and demands. Remember headteachers and senior staff in their particular responsibility for school management that they may exercise wisdom and integrity in decision-making. Remember class teachers in their engagement with pupils as they seek to develop the children's learning in a safe and happy environment.

Friday 13

The Boys' Brigade: Give thanks for the commitment of BB staff and pray for their preparations for the forthcoming session. Pray that there will be a keen desire by the boys to return and to continue to grow in the Christian life and fellowship of the BB. Pray also for a safe environment with fun and challenge for character-building and to know Jesus.

Saturday 14

Leprosy Mission: Pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission, especially the urgent situation in India. The Indian government has identified LM hospitals to provide beds and care for Covid patients with some hospitals designated as Vaccination Centres. Pray that people affected by leprosy will receive vital care like everyone else. Remember key staff and their families with Covid who have been hospitalised. Pray that LM staff get the vital resources and supplies they need to help those in desperate need that the Urgent Appeal established will receive a substantial favourable response.

Sunday 15

Live Streaming: Give thanks for the recent funding from the Scottish Government's 'Adapt & Thrive' Programme for live-streaming equipment to be installed here at St Columba's. Pray that this equipment may be a blessing to reach those who do not normally attend church worship and for those unable to attend services in the church building. Pray that God may use this new way of church worship practice to His glory.

Monday 16

The Housebound: Remember and pray for the housebound who are unable to leave their homes for one reason or another. Pray that they may not feel isolated but have people to call and others to call upon them intermittently to ease their isolation especially after months of lockdown.

Tuesday 17

The Guild: Remember all those who enjoy the fellowship which the Guild provides. Give thanks that the Office-Bearers have been able to prepare a full Programme for meetings for the forthcoming Session with the theme 'Lights and Bushels', circumstances permitting. And give thanks also for the pastoral care extended to each other and especially those on their own and those unable to leave their homes for a long time during the last months.

Wednesday 18

Following Jesus Group & Friendship Club: Pray with thanksgiving that the Following Jesus Group was able to meet up face to face at last before the summer and pray that this may be able to continue after the summer break which would be a great joy for all who share in the life of this Group. Also remember the young people of the Friendship Club and their parents and carers who give and receive encouragement to each other in their coming together and which was so missed in the last months.

Thursday 19

Lammermoor Gardens: Continue to remember and pray for the residents and staff in Lammermoor Gardens especially since our contact has been limited in recent months. Continue to pray that it may be possible to resume some form of monthly service and re-establish the Congregation's personal engagement with staff and residents.

Friday 20

The Vaccination Programme: Continue to give thanks for the progress to date of the Vaccination Programme. Pray for a continuing take-up amongst all age-groups and ethnic and social groups to provide wide-ranging immunity amongst communities for a greater freedom of life after many months of continued restrictions. Pray also for increasing numbers of vaccines to be made available to less prosperous countries.

Saturday 21

Scottish Parliament, Assisted Dying Bill: Pray for the Scottish Parliament as a new bill aimed at legalising assisted dying in Scotland is brought before the Parliament. Pray for MSPs as they prepare to consider all the issues raised by this Bill - primarily the long-held stance of sanctity of life, and the proposed desire to change the law to access safe and assisted dying to end life with the consequences that will have. Previous attempts to change the law to enable assisted dying have failed. Pray especially for all those Christians who are submitting contributions to the debate that our heritage based on Christian values will be heard and acknowledged. Remember Christian healthcare staff as they seek to honour the Lord in their desire to uphold the sanctity of life and also those working in palliative care as they deliver end-of-life care everyday with compassion and kindness to those facing death and their loved ones.

Sunday 22

The Church and Ministry: Remember the work and ministry of God's servants today as they proclaim the Word of God that they may know God's Hand upon them as they serve the Lord. Pray for the Holy Spirit's boldness in preaching and for God's Word to bear much fruit in people's lives. Pray that His ministers may be mindful and watchful as faithful leaders of Christ's Church and that God may protect them in their living out of the Gospel in daily life. Pray also for the Church of Scotland as it seeks to respond to difficult issues resulting from Covid and the consequent work of Presbyteries in working with local congregations.

Monday 23

Care for the Family: Remember the work of Care for the Family in their aim to strengthen families throughout the UK, Isle of Man and beyond by equipping parents, supporting couples and comforting those experiencing bereavement especially post-Covid. Pray for the new projects that are happening - producing new digital content and family resources, the expansion of services to provide a listening ear in time of need and live streaming of training and events to make content even easier to access - that people will be blessed through such Christian care and compassion.

Tuesday 24

The Suffering Church: Pray for agencies such as Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Voice of the Martyrs, Barnabas Fund and International Christian Concern (ICC) whose concerns are the human rights of Christians and religious minorities. Every year 200 million Christians suffer some level of persecution (ICC). Pray for those under persecution or missing that their voices may be heard and their suffering and injustice acknowledged and ended. Pray for governments and their leaders especially in North Korea, Cuba, Nigeria and China to uphold religious freedom.

Wednesday 25

Bethany Christian Trust: Give thanks for the recent visit to St Columba's by Rev. David McAdam to conduct Sunday worship and for his illustrative examples of his involvement with those who are homeless and vulnerable. Pray especially for their vision to be realised, which is - working together to End Homelessness in Scotland. Pray especially for the continuance of high-quality support services and provision of accommodation which is always needed and invaluable support which is much appreciated from stakeholders, partners and supporters to meet the vital demands asked of them. Pray that they may keep in step with God's purposes and that they may know the favour and grace of God in furthering the work.

Thursday 26

Bible Society, Burkina Faso: The Bible Society has asked for prayer for the successful completion of the Old Testament translation in the Bissa language which is widely spoken by 800,000 people across West Africa. 500,000 of these are in southern Burkina Faso. The New Testament was published in Bissa in 2000 and the need to complete the Bible with the Old Testament addition is important to contribute to the spiritual growth of the Church and reach out to non-Christians. Pray also for encouragement, patience and inspiration for the translation team in Burkina Faso who are working to translate the Old Testament into Lyele, spoken in other parts of Burkina Faso, and to revise the existing New Testament.

Friday 27

Our Neighbours: Pray that we might be good neighbours to all those amongst whom God has placed us. Pray that through our inter-connection of relationships and lives the light and love of Christ may be made known. Pray that people may seek to know more about Jesus and be drawn closer to Him. Pray for opportunities to allow this to happen.

Saturday 28

Jo Crotty, Mission Aviation Fellowship: Give thanks for 75 years of ministry of MAF Scotland (2020) in saving lives in the most isolated places through life-changing flights across the world. Anniversary events were deferred to this summer due to the Pandemic so we celebrate and rejoice with MAF in this special Milestone. MAF's desire is to see so many isolated people in today's 'connected world' changed by the love of Christ. Pray for Jo serving in Papua New Guinea in her role of Education Support Coordinator for Asia Pacific that she may share her skills effectively and build solid and caring relationships with those she engages with.

Sunday 29

The Church and Community: As the church engages in public worship today to praise the Lord pray for the parish and community we serve. As the long-standing restrictions are eased pray for the Church that it may find creative ways to engage with the Community to make the Lord known in new and meaningful ways to people and for people to meet Him personally in faith. Pray also for those who are vulnerable and anxious regarding their health situations and those with mental health issues in our community as restrictions are eased that their concerns may be alleviated.

Monday 30

Lodging House Mission: Pray for the continuing work of the LHM in its dedication to providing care and support to the homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people. Give thanks for the visit to the LHM by the new Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery, Mr Robert Hynd, at the beginning of July and for the encouragement and Presbytery's thanks which he and his visit brought to staff and volunteers in their work for the LHM. Pray also for the new Manager, June MacLeod, as she settles into her new role and also for the chaplain, Claire Herbert, who took unwell after her second vaccination and was hospitalised. Give thanks for her improvement and pray for her ongoing recovery and hopeful return to her role at LHM in the autumn.

Tuesday 31

The Pastoral Care Group: Give grateful thanks for all the care and concern which has been given by the Pastoral Care Group over the last months. Such great encouragement has been given through the cards sent with their meaningful words of hope and encouragement to many in the very different times we have experienced in Lockdown. Continue to pray for this very significant ministry of encouragement and pastoral care that it may continue to be a rich blessing in the Lord's Name.