

PRAYER DIARY FOR 2020 – JULY

Wednesday 1st

The Commission looking after Ballysillan Presbyterian Church will meet this week to begin the work of leading that Congregation in the light of their Minister, Rev Reuben McCormick, accepting a call to Glengormley. Pray that this Commission and the Leaders and people of Ballysillan will be open and obedient to the leading of God's Holy Spirit and that they will be able to grow and serve God in the Ballysillan area.

Thursday 2nd

Tonight the Officers of the Company Section of the BB will meet outdoors and in small groups to receive their awards for the past year. Give thanks for them and their Officers and pray the experiences and messages that they receive will bear fruit in their lives and they will grow in 'Christian maturity'.

Friday 3rd

Today will be our third 24-hour prayer event with individuals each taking an hour to make time at home to devote themselves to prayer – pray that we will all grow in our faith and closer to God and that our Congregation will be a community of loving Christians who live out our faith in ways that honour God and enables us to witness to the people around us.

Saturday 4th

Psalm 121 vs 4-5 tells us God never sleeps and watches over us day and night. As our minds turn to (hopefully) long warm Summer days and some sort of holiday, give thanks that God doesn't go on holiday. His love is eternal and we enjoy his protection despite all that this world might throw at us. God is on duty 24/7 hours and 365/6 days a year.

Sunday 5th

Today is the first Sunday that churches can begin to re-open their doors. Pray for all in authority that they will act wisely and lead people with wisdom and good sense.

Give thanks that we are in a position to begin meeting again. Pray for all who continue to self-isolate and those who are unable to come out for any reason. Pray that the 'on-line' services will reach into the hearts of people who have not trusted in Jesus as yet and for those who have fallen away in their faith.

Monday 6th

Please pray for all those people who, because of Covid19, have no longer jobs to return to as firms go out of business or have to severely reduce staff numbers. Pray for our politicians as they try to address the very high numbers of unemployed people and also the families who are suddenly without an income.

Tuesday 7th

Tearfund is committed to working on climate change and, while climate change affects us all, it hits the poorest hardest. Extreme weather is getting more frequent and severe. That's having a destructive effect on the communities they work with and why Tearfund works with churches and communities in vulnerable places to help them increase their resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters. In Ethiopia climate change is affecting the national income. There is concern that Ethiopia's famous Arabic coffee could be impossible to produce in Ethiopia as coffee plants are sensitive to climate change. Pray for Tearfund as it continues to encourage people to make changes in their lives and as it steps up campaigning, prayer and action on the climate emergency in the run up to the UN climate conference in Glasgow in November.

Wednesday 8th

Pray for the Minister for Health, Robin Swan, as the need for more mental health workers and initiatives are needed to help those who are suffering from the affects of this prolonged period of the Covid19 virus and the long period of lockdown and self isolation which many older people have had to adhere to.

Thursday 9th

Pray for the teachers of all our schools – many have been deeply involved in on-line teaching since lockdown began. Pray for them as they recharge their batteries ready for the challenges that will face them in late August. Schools may be very different. Pray for the decision-makers and planners who are trying to set things up and ready for the new term.

Friday 10th

Pray for Ken Doherty, Chaplain at the Mater Hospital, and all other PCI hospital chaplains and the important work they do. As they adjust to having to change how they are able to interact with patients and their families, pray for God's compassion, wisdom and guidance so that they will be able to bring God's loving care to each individual person.

Saturday 11th

Pray for the homeless who have no fixed abode to which to retreat for shelter and safety from coronavirus, asking that God would watch over their lives and help them find help and support. Pray for those who work with the homeless in these days, asking that God would bless and use their work in providing the basic necessities of shelter, food and love in caring community.

Sunday 12th

Today the Moderator will lead his 'on-line' service with the help of the Presbytery of North Belfast. Pray for David as he leads our denomination through these challenging times.

Many difficult decisions will have to be made. Pray for him and the team in Assembly Buildings as they seek to do what is right and follow God's leading in all that has to be done. Also pray for courage and wisdom as they seek to speak with God's voice to those in positions of power and influence.

Monday 13th

As we all know today would have been a day of Parades and celebrations for many people across Northern Ireland. The Official advice is to celebrate at home. Pray for wisdom and restraint on the part of everyone that there will be no trouble and that no one will be exposed to the Coronavirus because of poor behaviour. Please continue to pray for the PSNI as they go about their duties.

Tuesday 14th

FEBA UK is part of a wider family of Christian broadcasters sharing God's message of hope around the world. Kyrgyzstan is a small country nestled between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. This small mountainous country has some serious social problems – alcoholism, domestic violence and drug addiction are rife. FEBC launched their first FM station there in 2012. There are five FM radio stations already on air broadcasting a mixture of informative and entertaining programmes and the addition of a sixth relay station means that two thirds of the country will be covered by radio broadcasts and the remaining third will have access to the programmes via the Internet. Pray for programme producers, presenters and the follow up team that God would use them to speak His life-giving words of light and love in this land of spiritual darkness.

Wednesday 15th

July is a time for holidays – schools are shut and thoughts turn to beaches, caravans and family holidays in the sun. Things are changing. Restrictions are being eased, caravan parks are opening up and people may be able to get away. Pray for safety and good fun and relaxation. Sometimes people make bad choices and take foolish risks – pray for our Lifeguards, Mountain Rescue Teams, Lifeboat Crews and other Rescue Services as they risk their lives to save others.

Thursday 16th

Bible Society for Northern Ireland Pray for the Bible 2020 app as it is promoted in NI, that people would engage with it. Pray that God would strengthen our connections with churches and that more people would volunteer with NI Bible Society. Pray as we seek to support people through the Coronavirus situation. Pray for the office staff led by General Secretary, Catherine Little.

Friday 17th

Pray for Latin Link members who are in Latin America – many of whom have been living under very strict lockdown for several months. Pray that God would continue to sustain and protect them, and also for those who are feeling particularly tired at this time.

Saturday 18th

Summer is a time of hard work for many of our struggling Farmers. Warm dry July days will see silage being cut late into the wee small hours with lamps fitted to tractors. Pray for kind weather as they do their work and safety as they go about their dangerous tasks. We are grateful for our milk and cheese, fresh potatoes and vegetables and the meat and poultry that Northern Ireland is rightly proud of. Give thanks for the 'plenty' that we enjoy and pray for those many people who are struggling just to find enough to stay alive.

Sunday 19th

Pray for all medical and hospital staff and also care workers in the community or in care homes. Pray that a spike will not come and that their workload will return to normal.

Monday 20th

Give thanks for organisations such as Trussell Trust and Storehouse who are working to support the many people who cannot afford to feed themselves for many different reasons. Pray for the many extra people who have lost jobs and are now finding themselves needing to use foodbanks and other organisations to get by.

Tuesday 21st

Our economy has taken a huge hit in the past three months and recovery will take many years! Pray for the Business owners, Hotel and Restaurant owners, Builders, Shopkeepers and Farmers who will have to work very hard and in new ways to make a living. Pray for the Politicians and the decisions they will take to get things going again. May they act with wisdom and vision as they seek a way forward.

Wednesday 22nd

Wycliffe Bible Translators have asked for prayer for Tim and Nim Kempton, Nigeria. Pray for Tim as he analyses Nigerian languages and develops writing systems for them.

Thursday 23rd

As the IMP OP shop at Carlisle Circus plans to open on 3rd August pray that it will be safe to do so and that all the necessary plans and safety measures will be put in place and the friendships already forged will continue and that the care of all volunteering there may mirror the love and concern of Christ.

Friday 24th

Give thanks to God that Open Doors was able to distribute 1,873,503 Bibles and Christian Book to persecuted believers last year. Give thanks also that Open Doors was able to provide food aid for 2,500 Christian families displaced by Fulani militant attacks in Benue State, Nigeria. Pray for the many Christian women around the world, whose husbands and family members have died because of their faith and who are left to bring up families on their own. Ask God to continue to work through Open Doors to provide support and practical help where possible.

Saturday 25th

The Officers and boys of our BB Company Section should have been heading to their Annual Camp in Castlewellan Country Park today. They are all disappointed that this will not be happening. Pray that the boys will find ways to enjoy the Summer and not be bored and that the Company might find ways to keep in touch with them and organise some events or activities that are worthwhile.

Sunday 26th

“Through partnership links with indigenous churches, Christian institutions and international mission agencies in more than 20 countries, PCI directly supports global mission workers in 11 countries on 4 continents. Each has a clear outreach focus, and to varying degrees, the pandemic has affected each of their countries and their ability to work, which they have shared in their monthly bulletins on the PCI website.

Monday 27th

Pray for those in our congregation who have recently been bereaved. At this time of Coronavirus it has been very difficult to mourn and process grief as many family members have not been able to sit alongside and give physical help and support. Pray that Philip will be able to give pastoral care and help albeit at a distance or by phone.

Tuesday 28th

Pray for those who are wanting to find jobs and are unable to find any work available. Pray that they will not be too depressed and anxious. Also pray that soon more jobs will become available and our economy will improve.

Wednesday 29th

Pray for all Ministers and Deaconess who are on holiday during July and August. Pray that they will find refreshment and relaxation and that as they come back to a very different way of worshiping and proclaiming Christ that they will have been given the strength and wisdom to undertake this with renewed vision and enthusiasm.

Thursday 30th

MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) flights save lives! Earlier this year, MAF airlifted a young girl suffering from intestinal problems, took a medical missionary team to a remote region of Angola, and flew two children to Lubango for medical treatment. Give thanks for the many life-saving flights MAF make - praying that all their passengers recover well.

Friday 31st

Pray for all those in our congregation who are fighting life limiting illnesses. Pray for all who care for them and ask God to deepen the faith of both patients and care-givers. Pray also that they may be ever aware of the Holy Spirit that they may experience His peace and love.