

Friday

Fresh Light. Fresh Light is the denomination's counselling ministry. *Pray for increasing awareness of the ministry offered and that those using it will know God at work in their circumstances.*

Social Workers. *Pray for Social Workers who work in our homes and units and also in our Health and Social Care Trusts. Pray that they will have guidance and insight to deal with difficult or sensitive situations. Pray that they will cope with heavy caseloads and budget constraints whilst showing compassion toward those they assist.*

The Council for Training in Ministry meets today to decide on the issuing of certificates for licensing for students finishing their studies; and on declaring whether current 2nd year licentiates have satisfactorily completed their probationary period. *Pray for wisdom & discernment & for the new phase of ministry they will soon enter.*

Northern Ireland political talks process

A fresh round of talks aimed at restoring devolution is under way. *Pray that those involved will receive abundant grace and wisdom, and that the talks would be held in a spirit of generosity, goodwill, respect and empathy for one another.*

Saturday

Stephen and Angelina Cowan – global mission workers in Kenya

Stephen writes, "Adult teaching times continue to attract many village people and it is opening their minds. Workers around the Samburu Awareness and Action Programme are also benefitting from attending. Informal education is an important factor in communicating the gospel here."

- Give thanks for outreach in the villages around Tuum after the youth camps.
- Pray for the continued Christian impact of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa's Tuum Girl's Secondary School.
- Pray for some thought for the future in the lives of nomadic peoples, or marginalisation will increase.

Taughmonagh Presbyterian Church, Belfast – Rev Robert Love

- Pray for a group of people in Taughmonagh (some church members, some not) who have just completed the 'Christianity Explored' course and are keen to continue meeting together for further study and discussion. After Easter they met to watch Pasolini's 'Gospel according to Matthew' and they are planning other such cinema evenings.

Let's pray...

Moderator – Rt Rev Dr Charles McMullen

This Sunday, 12 May, the Moderator will take part in the morning service at Castlecaulfield and Eglis Presbyterian Churches. Then on Sunday evening he will participate in a service at First Holywood. On Wednesday 15 May, Dr McMullen will visit Kilronan Special School, while on Saturday he travels to Killeter Presbyterian for the dedication of their new build.

- Pray for the Moderator this week, giving thanks for the opportunities he has to meet and engage with individuals from different congregations and organisations.
- Pray that he will bring blessing and encouragement to everyone he meets.

Sunday

The Council for Social Witness

The Council for Social Witness relies on the efforts of many volunteers in their homes and units; and for the 'Fresh Start' programme at Hydebank Wood and the 'Christmas Cracker' respite scheme.

- Give thanks for everyone who volunteers in whatever capacity, taking time out for others and using their God-given gifts in many different situations.
Pray for:
- All those who volunteer in the Council for Social Witness homes and units, whether it is using musical gifts, promoting indoor activities, tending gardens, taking residents or tenants on trips or on holiday.
- All those who serve on the 'Fresh Start' team, helping the inmates with English or Maths, with life skills, or with driving test theory.
- All those who volunteer for 'Christmas Cracker' in any of the Presbyterian Churches who take part, using their creative and musical skills to give joy to the adults with a learning disability and a well-earned break to parents and carers.

Resources are available for use in Sunday services to accompany today's prayer. Visit: www.presbyterianireland.org/sundayprayer

Monday

Naomi Keefe – global mission worker in Brazil

- *Recently one of the families connected with the Good News Club and Reading Room suffered a death in the family which was drug-related. Pray that the woman and her five grandchildren who live with her will know God's comfort and presence.*
- *Pray for all the planning and preparation for the evangelistic street presentation around John the Baptist celebrations in early June.*
- *Pray also for Naomi as she looks at possible training sessions with some of the members of the PW group in Beberibe congregation who have recently started an evangelistic outreach to some of the families in the neighbourhood.*

Grupos Bíblicos Unidos (GBU) – Spain

GBU is a student organisation with a vision to reach non-Christian students with the gospel and to develop Christian leaders who will contribute to the growth of evangelical churches in Spain.

- *Pray for GBU groups in universities across Spain, for Christians to grow deeper in their faith and for courage to witness to their friends and fellow students.*

Tuesday

Evelyn Whyte – deaconess in First Lisburn (Rev John Brackenridge)

- *Give thanks to God for all the people who work alongside Evelyn in different areas of ministry, and for their constant support and encouragement.*
- *Pray for Evelyn as she concludes her work in First Lisburn as she is due to retire at the end of June. Praise God for his faithfulness, love, care and guidance over the 40 years she has served as a PCI deaconess in Shankill Road Mission, Abbey Monkstown, Donegal Presbytery and First Lisburn.*
- *Pray for God's continued blessing on the life and witness of the minister, staff and members of the First Lisburn congregation in all the different areas of ministry.*

St Columba's Presbyterian Church, Lisburn – Rev Rodney Cameron

- *Pray for St Columba's congregation as they begin a concerted effort to connect and reconnect with homes around the church.*
- *Give thanks to God for their loyal core group of people.*
- *Pray too for Rodney and the elders and members of the congregation as they seek to share the gospel with others.*

Wednesday

James and Heather Cochrane – global mission workers in Portugal

The Christian Presbyterian Church in Portugal (ICPP) is a small denomination with 150 members concentrated around Lisbon and Porto.

- *Give thanks that on 30 May, the eight ministers of the ICPP will gather at Comunidade Pedras Vivas, for a strategic planning meeting.*
- *Pray for James and two other ministers as they prepare the programme to encourage reflection on what it means to be missional communities.*
- *Pray for good discussions as the group reflects on the challenges of significant numbers of Brazilian Presbyterians arriving in Portugal.*
- *Pray for God's leading as the ICPP seeks to define its mission more clearly.*

United Mission to Nepal (UMN)

- *Pray for new appointments made recently in UMN. As these people take on new roles, pray that this will work well and enhance the work of UMN in reaching the poorest people living in poverty.*
- *Pray too for UMN's work in the areas of education, healthcare, livelihoods, disaster response, integral development and peacebuilding.*

Thursday

Sean Roys – community outreach worker in Limerick (Rev Vicki Lynch)

- *Pray for the Bible teaching at the primary schools, for each of the pupils to understand God's love and come into a life-long relationship with him.*
- *Pray for the Wednesday Bible study group to continue to grow and be a blessing to the church and community.*
- *At Christ Church there are many different projects aimed at reaching out to people in the local community. Pray that they can continue to help and bless many more people in Limerick.*
- *Pray too for Sean as he serves.*

Strand Presbyterian Church, Belfast – Rev Danny Rankin

- *Pray for spiritual awakening in the Sydenham area.*
- *Pray for the congregation's many outreach initiatives and also that their links with local schools and community groups will be fruitful.*
- *Pray for Danny Rankin (minister), Elaine Getty (community outreach worker) and the elders and members of the congregation.*