

Monday

James and Heather Cochrane – global mission workers in Portugal

As we enter the Christmas season, pray for an openness among the Portuguese to accept invitations to some of the Christmas events.

- *Pray for the Sunday services, especially the special service on 22 December, which will include Christmas carols and readings and a time afterwards for food.*
- *Pray for the three small groups that will meet in the third week of December, that it would be an opportunity to invite non-Christian friends and family.*
- *Pray for the young people, meeting on 13 December for a Bible study and on 20 December for a Christmas party.*

Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal

- *Pray that God would continue to lead and direct Rev Paulo Jorge (President) and his colleagues in all decisions they make as part of the church's leadership team.*
- *Pray for the integration of Brazilian Christians arriving in Portugal into the existing congregations and church plants of the Christian Presbyterian Church of Portugal.*

Wednesday

Stephen and Angelina Cowan – global mission workers in Kenya

There has been good rainfall in most of Kenya, so problems are masked for the short term. Animals in the north should be in a growth stage, but unless there is improvement in quality and a change in mind-set the cycle of death will continue.

- *Pray for an integrated approach to change in line with the growing population in Kenya.*
- *Pray for the December youth camps as a Nairobi team shares the gospel and makes clear the implications of being a follower of Jesus Christ.*
- *Pray for students who have transitioned towards secondary education, that families will make an effort towards assisting them financially.*

Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, Indonesia

- *Pray for wisdom and guidance for the leaders of the church. Discipleship and theological education are primary concerns, along with socio-economic development.*
- *Pray for the work and witness of GMIT's Radio Gema ('Echo') Inti Suara Kasih ('Voice of Love'), as it seeks to reach out to and serve the community.*

Tuesday

Rev John Gilkinson – chaplain in Belfast City Hospital

- *Pray for John in his role as Presbyterian chaplain in Belfast City Hospital.*
- *Pray for pastoral and gospel opportunities as John seeks to engage with patients who are connected to Presbyterian congregations.*
- *As John builds up relationships with members of staff, pray that he will be able to encourage those working in an increasingly stressful environment.*
- *Pray for the wider chaplaincy teams working in each of the Belfast group of hospitals.*
- *Pray too for those going through illness, that they will find strength in the Lord.*

Drogheda Presbyterian Church – Rev Damien Burke

- *Give thanks to God for the gospel opportunities that arise at Christmas time.*
- *Pray for Drogheda's All-Age Service on 8 December, the Toddler Group Christmas event and the Carols by Candlelight service on 22 December. Pray that people who don't regularly come to church will attend and be challenged by the birth of Christ and his love for us.*

Thursday

Sam Scott – community outreach worker in Eglinton (Rev Colin Morrison)

Sam writes, "One big change in the last quarter at Eglinton has been the building work done to our kitchen and minor hall to transform them into a more comfortable communal area for members and a welcome place for visitors and parents."

- *Thank God for providing the funding and skilled people to carry out the work.*
- *Pray that they congregation will find creative and useful ways of using this improved area to carry out mission.*
- *Pray that over the Christmas period members of the church would take every opportunity to reach out to others in the local community.*

Dundalk Presbyterian Church – Rev Jonathan Porter

- *Give thanks for the witness of Dundalk Presbyterian Church over the years in the town and surrounding area.*
- *Pray for the new minister Rev Jonathan Porter and his family as they continue to settle into life in Dundalk.*
- *Pray that the people attending the church would be encouraged and built up in their faith and for more people to join the church.*

Friday

Women's Ministry is developing in a variety of ways within Presbyterian Women and wider congregational life. *Pray for an important morning for the PW Panel and Women's Ministry Panel next Thursday as they meet to consider how to envision and equip women's ministry in congregations.*

Harold McCauley House – *Pray for Harold McCauley House, which is dedicated to providing excellent nursing care and commitment in Omagh. Pray for the residents in the run up to Christmas that they may enjoy and participate in all activities provided and take all loneliness away.*

Union Theological College has its annual Carol Service on 12 December. *Give thanks for good relationships among the students and staff over the semester; pray that the Carol Service will be a fitting climax to the year; pray that staff and students alike will know the reality of Christ's presence and refreshment through the Christmas break.*

Foster Care and Adoption – *Give thanks for families who provide a home and a safe place for children and young people in need of care through fostering and adoption. Pray that they would be equipped and enabled in this work and supported by their local church community.*

Saturday

Peter and Jayne Fleming – global mission workers in Nepal

- *Give thanks for the recent United Mission to Nepal (UMN) Board meeting and General Assembly, and for the visit of Rob and Karen Craig and Helen Johnston.*
- *The current agreement for UMN hospitals is ending on 15 January 2020. Renewal of visas is becoming a huge issue within UMN and some volunteer expatriates' visas expire at different times prior to 15 January. Pray that things are sorted in time.*
- *Kathmandu International Study Centre urgently need a Junior Science teacher and a Maths teacher from the start of January until June. Pray that they will be able to fill these positions in time.*

Fahan Presbyterian Church – Rev Knox Jones

- *Pray for the 'The Way to Bethlehem' event (recreation of the nativity story) taking place in the church hall from 15 to 22 December, which many schools from all backgrounds have booked to attend and the Carol Service on Sunday 22 December. (Ronnie McCracken is co-ordinating the event and speaking at the Carol Service).*
- *Pray also for Fahan as Knox moves to new congregations and the congregation commences a time of vacancy.*

Let's pray...

Moderator – Rt Rev Dr William Henry

On Sunday 1 December the Moderator will take the morning service at Hyde Park, and in the evening will close the Christmas tree festival at Finvoy Presbyterian Church. On Thursday 5 December he will attend Coleraine and Limavady Elders' Fellowship Dinner in Ballykelly.

- *Pray for the Moderator as he speaks at the services in Hyde Park and Finvoy.*
- *Give thanks for the opportunities the Moderator will have over the next few weeks to attend special Christmas events, and pray we will be reminded that the birth of Jesus Christ is the 'reason for the season'.*

Sunday

World Development Appeal 2019 – 'Farming God's way'

The annual World Development Appeal offers congregations the opportunity to support the sustainable development undertaken by our development partners, Tearfund and Christian Aid.

One of the projects which will benefit from this year's Appeal is a project of one of Tearfund's partners - CEDES (The Ecumenical Committee for Social Development), which is working in Mozambique to improve this situation through contextualised Bible study with local churches and the development of farming cooperatives and savings and loans groups.

The 2019 Appeal will also support the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) as it seeks to improve the socio-economic status of disadvantaged and marginalised men and women through sustainable agriculture technologies.

- *Give thanks for the generous support given to the appeal last year.*
- *Pray that this year's appeal will also be well-supported, so that more people in need can be helped.*
- *Pray too for the ongoing work of Christian Aid and Tearfund throughout the world.*

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