

Monday

Patients

- Pray for those people who are presently unwell in hospital or at home and need God's loving touch because they are suffering the effects of Covid-19. May they feel God's power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.
- Pray that the Lord will take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or presently under quarantine.
- Pray that those who are currently unwell would be patient as they take time to get better. Pray that those they live with will be protected as well. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.
- Pray for the families of the 5000-plus people (as of March 14, 2020) who have died. Ask God to comfort the broken-hearted and to strengthen those who mourn, assuring them that God has promised to be close.

Wednesday

Churches

- As churches do not meet in their usual buildings, pray that the congregations would still have a community heart and concern for one another.
- Pray that people would be able to find a way to worship meaningfully during these challenging weeks.
- Pray for church leaders as they offer insight and wisdom to their congregations and communities. Ask God to give them opportunities to be voices of reason, clarity and grace.
- Pray that God would calm fears and that his people would be reminded we have a different identity—one of boldness, not of fear.
- Pray that the church would be a calming presence and radiant light in the face of so much confusion and darkness.
- In this time of great anxiety, pray that God's people would be ready to meet the world with the comfort and hope that only the good news of Jesus Christ can offer.
- Pray that we as God's people would be reminded of our hope in Christ & the truth that our Saviour who died & rose for us has already overcome the world. Pray that we would be people who read his Word and take both his call and his promises to head & heart.

Tuesday

Global and National Concerns

- Pray for political world leaders as they work with healthcare organizations and the medical community to develop next steps. Pray that all would be united for the common good.
- Pray for the leaders of the World Health Organization and other important agencies as they give advice to the global community.
- Pray for refugees and migrants around the world whose living situations might leave them vulnerable and exposed. Lord protect them and be ever present with them.
- Pray for those countries that have been hardest hit by the virus so far and regions that are in lockdown.
- Pray for the homeless at this time. Help us to be kind and compassionate to the most vulnerable in our communities and to seek out opportunities to serve them and show them our love.

Thursday

Economy and Welfare

- Pray for those whose jobs or hours have been cut due to economic downturn.
- Pray for parents who are struggling to work and care for their children.
- Pray especially for healthcare workers (and for the general workforce) as they explore childcare options in the event of schools closing prematurely.
- Pray for those who are anxious about their financial security as a direct result of this crisis.
- Pray that churches would look for ways to reach out to families in their communities to provide for them and show them the love of Christ.
- Pray for the help that local foodbanks and other practical organizations can bring to families in need in these days. Pray that the stock in foodbanks would be sufficient to meet the demand in the community.

Friday

Researchers

- Pray for people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world.
- Pray for the people developing better tests to diagnose the virus, vaccines to prevent it, and protocols and communication to eliminate the disease's spread.
- Pray for senior medical and scientific officers in Ireland and the UK as they analyse the situation and apply their knowledge of medicine and science to this illness.
- Pray for researchers and biologists as they work to develop a coronavirus vaccine. Pray for wisdom, insight and quick success in their work.
- Pray for those who are involved in the production of additional ventilators and other necessary medical items at this time of emergency – may they speedily gain the skills they need. Pray also for wisdom that those in management will know the priorities to adopt.

Saturday

Vulnerable / At Risk

- Pray for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from Covid-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty.
- Pray for those who are immunosuppressed and are especially at risk as the virus spreads.
- Pray for those facing financial hardship.
- Pray for students who are being required to vacate university and college housing with very little notice.
- Pray that God's people will be able to meet the opportunities that may present themselves over the next number of weeks as people reveal their need of help and assistance.

Let's pray...

Moderator – Rt Rev Dr William Henry, writes:

This week we have suspended the usual & expected content of this prayer guide to focus on the global Covid-19 pandemic that is unfolding in front of us. We are people of prayer & our first resort in times of uncertainty is towards the one who has ultimate control. To quote the late Dr Billy Graham, "We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbeliefing. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient."

Right now we take our lead from the apostle Paul. Writing to the church at Philippi, where he had once been beaten & imprisoned, Paul tells the believers in the book of Philippians not to worry or to be anxious about anything. Instead, Paul instructs them they should pray for God's blessing & make supplication for his protection & do it all with thanksgiving.

Sunday

Health Service

- Pray for those who work in healthcare, whether they are nurses, porters, doctors, carers, ancillary staff or suppliers. Pray for safety and strength as they work. Pray for stamina and resilience.
- Pray for the NHS as staff cancel operations, reorganize services and learn how to best deal with this great upheaval.
- Pray for those who have been awaiting operations and now have to deal with the disappointment of their appointment being cancelled. Ask God to grant them patience while they continue to deal with their own discomfort and pain.
- Pray for first-responders who are tasked with triaging, testing, and treating increasing numbers of people who arrive in hospital suffering from the Covid-19 virus. Ask God to give them patience, wisdom and a gentle spirit as they work to navigate fears and offer effective treatment.

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