

## Ross Presbytery Prayer Diary 2021

The purpose of this Prayer Diary is to provide some short and practical suggestions to help you pray, when you can, throughout each month for the wider work of the Gospel in Ross Presbytery.

Some Scriptures which encourages us to Support One Another in Prayer:

This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one. **Matthew 6:9-13**

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. **Romans 8:26-27**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. **James 5:13**

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. **Psalm 141:2**

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. **Psalm 17:6**

### 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2020: Our Front-Line Workers

Give thanks to God for all our NHS Staff who continue to work tirelessly in the care of others.

Ask God to protect and watch over all those who will continue to give of themselves for others in the coming months.

Pray for the ongoing roll-out of the vaccines for Covid-19, and that these will be used by God to bring this virus fully under control.

Ask God to provide resilience, stamina and his rest to those who are exhausted from the intensity of giving themselves in the service of others.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020: Avoch linked with Fortrose & Rosemarkie

Minister: Rev Dr Warren Beattie

Church website links:

Avoch - <http://www.avochchurch.co.uk/>

Fortrose & Rosemarkie - <http://www.fortrosemarkiechurchofscotland.com/>

Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

**Psalm 31:24**

Let us pray for us all, in the year ahead, to find the strength, love and determination to identify and help those in need.

Pray, especially, for the minister and kirk sessions that the Lord would open up ways to reach out in practical and, where necessary, financial ways in the local community at this difficult time.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020: All Foodbank Ministries

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, .... **Matthew 25:35**

Please pray for all churches who are providing basic food essentials for those who find themselves in need of this practical help.

May God use this practical way of demonstrating Christ's love to show the power of his Gospel.

### 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Alness Parish Church

Minister: Rev Michael Macdonald (Auxiliary)

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **James 1:17**

Please give thanks for the scientists who have created the vaccines and that many in our congregations have received their first jab and are encouraged by it.

Pray that our church family may find fellowship and sound teaching while unable to gather for worship.

Ask God for wisdom and practical help as we update our technology to be able to reach out into the community.

Remember our wider community where Covid-19 has affected Care home residents and carers.

### 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Roskeen

**Minister: Rev Phil Gunn**

Church website link: <http://www.spanglefish.com/rosskeenchurchofscotland/index.asp>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rosskeenparishchurch/>

We are facing a large outbreak of COVID in Alness so please pray:

- For the local health workers and care homes as they battle with the COVID outbreak in the area
- For those who are sick and as they experience isolation cut off from their normal routines pray that they will receive the care and treatment they need, and that they will know peace and perseverance throughout their suffering.
- For the staff pray for their protection from the virus, for stamina during their long, intense and emotional working hours, especially as they cover for staff who are isolating.

### 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020: Presbytery Prayers

Please pray for the continuing monthly meetings of Ross Presbytery via Zoom, and for the ongoing work of all the Committees

### 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Castle Street, Dingwall

**Minister: Rev Drausio Goncalves**

Church website link: <https://castlestreetchurch.org/>

Church Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/castlestreetchurch/>

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. **2 Chronicles 7: 14**

Pray that our church and every church where there are those who are concerned about the state of the country will humble ourselves and pray especially thinking about the laws being passed that are contrary to the Word of God.

Pray that each of us will stand up for the Truth as contained in the Scriptures.

Pray for all our families, that as restrictions eventually begin to ease, parents will feel safe to return to worship services along with their children

### 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Ferintosh Parish Church

**Minister: Rev Stephen MacDonald**

Church website link: <https://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FerintoshParishChurch/>

Pray that God would continue to strengthen, through his Word, those who can attend the weekly worship services on Zoom each Sunday while the church building is closed.

May God use the weekly Worship at Home and recorded services to draw those who read and listen closer to Jesus.

### 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Our Moderator for 2020-21, Rev Dr Martin Fair

Give thanks to God for Martin Fair, and all that he has been enabled to do during his period in office as our Moderator.

Pray that God will continue to strengthen, lead and guide Him as he continues to support and encourage the Kirk during this time.

Pray for his family and the congregation and community served by St Andrews Parish Church in Arbroath

### 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Kilmuir & Logie Easter

**Minister: Rev Alistair Drummond**

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Kilmuir-Logie-Easter-Church-of-Scotland-323528971170799/>

Moses used to take the tent, and pitch it outside the camp, at some distance from the camp. . . . Anyone who wanted to consult Yahweh would go to this tent of meeting outside the camp. **Exodus 33:7**

Richard Rohr writes: “The early desert fathers and mothers imitated both Moses and Jesus by fleeing to Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Cappadocia—and some as far as Ireland and Scotland. Beginning in the 4th century, we Christians surrendered our unique and free perspective to the Roman and Byzantine Empires. In the desert and outside the camp, these people discovered what we now call “contemplation”: the alternative mind and the alternative community to the status quo—then and now—of money, power, and war.”

Please pray for:

- Minister and Kirk Session leading the Congregation to answer the long-standing question of the future of our church buildings.
- Members and adherents currently worshiping without in-person worship that they may be encouraged, feel loved, and included in the fellowship.
- The Mercat Centre in Milton and its staff innovating ways to be of service to the community around them especially those in most in need.
- The recently bereaved in church and parish as they grieve and find comfort in prayer and phone calls while in-person contact is limited.

### 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Children’s Ministries

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:7**

Please pray for:

Existing ministries which have continued and will continue to adapt.

Children who are unable to attend activities due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Families who may be struggling during this difficult time.

**12<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Chaplaincy to Vulnerable Groups**  
**Ordained Local Minister: Rev Irene Munro**

I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.  
**Psalms 34:4**

Many people who have disability both physical and mental are extremely fearful and upset due to the effects of Covid-19.

Please pray that they would seek the Lord's peace and find reassurance in Him.  
Also pray for family carers who are exhausted with no respite and are also fearful of becoming ill and not being able to care for those they look after.

Please pray for their peace of mind also and that they will receive emotional support from the church and community in the absence of (the restricted) physical and material support.

**13<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Contin linked with Fodderty & Strathpeffer**  
**Minister: Rev James Bissett (Locum)**

Church website link(s):  
Fodderty & Strathpeffer <http://www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org/>

Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. **1 Chronicles 16:11**  
Please pray for the locum minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in these local communities.

**14<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Kiltearn Parish Church**  
**Minister: Rev Donnie MacSween**

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. **1 John 4:9-11**

Please pray for the minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in their local communities.

**15<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: St Clements, Dingwall**  
**Minister: Rev Bruce Dempsey**

Church website link: <https://www.dingwallstclements.org.uk/welcome.htm>

Under the heading "unhappy new year" these words:

The tragedy of life Einstein observed is what dies inside a man while he lives. What dies in many people is hope. A belief that things can and will get better. The word hope in the dictionary translates thus: 'A feeling of expectation. A desire a person or things giving cause of this anticipation. Expectancy. Ambition. Anticipation. Dream-wish.' These are emotional feelings. But the hope that the Christian has in Christ our Saviour is not wishful thinking. As the writer to the Hebrews explains in Chapter 11 verse 1 '**Faith is being sure of what we hope for, and being certain of what we do not see.**'

The Christian can completely trust in our Lord, knowing that he will never leave us nor forsake us. Through these uncertain times, we have that assurance. Jesus Christ is at the centre of our lives. By prayer and reading God's word, He will help, guide and encourage us to have the confidence to meet each day with renewed strength.  
So, as we continue into this New Year, with the pandemic still causing restrictions and as we make changes to our daily living, may we pray that:

God will bless those who are struggling, grieving, and living in isolation  
That He will bless those who are working tirelessly to relieve suffering, and those who have shown compassion and kindness. Bless them all, dear Lord, through Jesus precious name and by the Help and Guidance of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

**16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Youth Ministries**

Please pray for:  
All youth groups who are still able to meet together for fellowship.  
Young people who have, for now been unable to meet together.  
Those who may be finding things difficult.

**17<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Killearnan linked with Knockbain**

**Minister: Rev Susan Cord**

Church website link: <http://kandkcofs.org/>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kandkcofs/>

Please pray that God will be with those who are shielding. May they know the Lord Jesus' presence with them.

May God help a spirit of support and community to deepen throughout the congregations; that they may feel bound to the body, even while physically apart.

Do not fear, for I am with you'

do not be afraid, for I am your God;

I will strengthen you, I will help you,

I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. **Isaiah 41:10**

### **18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Lochbroom & Ullapool**

**Minister: Rev Heidi Hercus**

Church website link: <https://www.ullapoolkirk.org.uk/>

Church Facebook page:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/LochbroomAndUllapoolChurchOfScotland/>

"We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.  
I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through"

Please pray for the Minister, Heidi, and for the session as they seek to best serve the parish through these strange times.

Pray for unity, compassion, empathy, kindness and love for a community fearful as Corona moves in.

Please pray for a vulnerable church and community, our Faith may be bigger than our fear.

### **19<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Cromarty linked with Resolis and Urquhart (Culbokie)**

**Minister: Rev Terry Burns**

Church website link: <http://www.cromartychurch.org/>

Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. **Matthew 22:37-39**

Please pray for the minister, office bearers and those associated with Christ's church who seek to serve God faithfully in these local communities.

### **20<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Ross-shire Guilds**

Please pray for all the local branches of the Guild that are still faithfully operating and meeting on-line in Ross Presbytery.

Give for the blessing the Guild continues to be to the Church of Scotland.

Praise God for the fellowship provided, and the amazing practical projects that share the Love of God and the Gospel of Jesus with others.

### **21<sup>st</sup> February, 2020: Informal Drop-In Ministries**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. **1 John 3:16-18**

Please pray for those who are lonely and vulnerable. For example, those who miss the weekly opportunities to meet for a cuppa and chat at informal drop in ministries provided by the Church.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020: Prayer and Bible Study**

Rejoice and give thanks to God for the power of prayer and the freedom we have to read and be taught the scriptures.

Give thanks to Him for those who have still been able to pray and enjoy bible study through on-line means of communication.

Draw Close to and encourage those who are really missing fellowship in the Word and in prayer.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020: Urray and Kilchrist (Muir of Ord)**

**Minister: Rev James Munro (Locum)**

Church website link: <https://www.muirofordcofs.co.uk/>

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/urrrayandkilchrist.churchofscotland>

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:5-7**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

People throughout the world are struggling with the many-faceted effects of the current pandemic.

Let's pray for people everywhere, in whatever circumstances, that God may hear their cries and surround them with His comfort and reassurance.

Let's pray, too, for our current vacancy, that a minister may be moved to respond to the call to Muir of Ord.

We also pray that our congregation remains strong in faith and patiently grounded in the belief that God's will shall be done, in His timing. In the meantime, we give thanks for the faithful service of our locum minister.

**24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Invergordon**  
**Interim Moderator Rev S. Macdonald**

Church website link: <http://www.invergordonparishchurch.org.uk/>

Church Facebook page:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/InvergordonChurchOfScotland/>

Pray that God would continue to bless the congregation and Parish of Invergordon.

May God encourage the congregation, Nominating Committee, and office bearers as they prayerfully seek the Lord for a new minister.

**25<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Fearn Abbey & Nigg linked with Tarbat (Portmahomack)**  
**Interim Moderator - Rev Andrew Fothergill**

Church website link: <http://www.easter-rosscofs.co.uk/home.php>

Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/PortmahomackandFearnChurchofScotland/>

Please pray that the linked congregations will grow stronger in unity as they desire to see the good news about Jesus proclaimed in Tarbat & Fearn.

Pray also that in 2021 significant progress is made towards filling this vacant charge.

**26<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Tain Parish Church**  
**Minister: Rev Andrew Fothergill**

Church website link: <http://www.tainparishchurch.co.uk/>

Church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tainparish/>

Please pray:

That our congregation will remain resilient in a significant time of change.

That many in our community hungry for hope, peace and good news, will see Tain Parish Church as a welcoming family church to attend when services are resumed.

**27<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Our Local Communities**

Pray for our local businesses who have been affected in so many ways by the current Corona Virus Pandemic.

Intercede for those in our communities who are facing uncertainty over the future in regard to their employment, etc.

Pray that many folks will be drawn back to God, and that our churches and congregations will be used to share Christ and His Gospel with them.

**28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020: Our Government and Leaders**

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. **1 Timothy 2: 1-2**

Pray for our politicians, those whom God has given the responsibility to govern our land. Ask God to help our leaders to make wise and right decisions.

Pray that He will direct the paths of those who know Christ, and that His sovereignty will overrule in all things.