

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. **Psalms 141:2**

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

1st May, 2021: 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 more 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.

2nd May, May, 2021: 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 the parish of Kiltearn.

3rd May, 2021: Ferintosh Parish Church

Minister: Rev Stephen MacDonald

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

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

With the church building open again we give thanks that we are able to gather in the church for two services each Sunday. Please pray that God would continue to strengthen, through his Word, those who gather together at church services and who attend the Sunday evening Zoom services as well as those who receive the Worship at Home material each week.

Isaiah 55:10-11 - For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

4th May, 2021: 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.

5th May, 2021: 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.

6th May, 2021: The Scottish Parliament and the Election of our Government and Leaders

Please pray for the 129 members of the Scottish Parliament who will be called to serve following the election today.

Pray for God's wisdom in discerning who you will vote for, and commit yourself to prayer for their lives and their integrity before God and the people of Scotland.

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

7th May, 2021: 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.

8th May, 2021: Education

Please pray for all our school teachers, college and university lecturers, and all those involved in educating those associated with our communities.

Remember all those who have now returned to face-to-face education, from the youngest to the oldest.

Pray for the mental health of so many who are clearly suffering from the difficulties created by the lockdown restrictions.

9th May, 2021: Kilmuir & Logie Easter

Minister: Rev Alistair Drummond

Church Facebook page:

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

Saint Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335-395) ~ His Death Our Life ~

"Here's the sacred issue; He came so close to our decay, so close as to mix our nature newly with His own, and thus provide to our poor clay His endless resurrection."

Please pray for:

- Minister, Session, and Board beginning to lead the congregation to think about renovation of Kilmuir Easter Church to better serve the mission of the congregation.
- Members and adherents attending in person and attending online that all may be encouraged in faith and strengthened for ministry in their various communities of family, work, and neighbourhood.

• The staff and residents of Mull Hall and other care homes in the vicinity, emerging now from lockdown, yet having suffered many Covid-related deaths - God's healing and life-giving peace.

10th May, 2021: Youth and 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.

All youth groups who are still able to meet together on-line for fellowship. Young people who have, for now been unable to meet together.

Those who may be finding things difficult.

God's hand in leading and guiding and blessing all youth and children's ministries as they develop and flourish in the coming days.

11th May, 2021: St Clements, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Bruce Dempsey

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

Reflections of the day. The light of the morning sunrise give hearts a lift. If only we would take the time to be still and admire its beauty. Psalm 19 v 1 – The Heavens proclaim the glory of God, the skies display its craftsmanship.

Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth, we do indeed thank you sincerely for the beauty that surrounds us. You have given us spring, summer autumn and winter, each having its place in your creation for us to enjoy.

We pray that as we are released from lockdown restrictions, may we all enjoy the freedom of meeting up once more, with loved ones and friends, as we being to enjoy some normality once more.

We pray for all in authority, that they may be guided by your presence, so that the wisdom they receive from your hand will help them to serve the people and not to serve themselves.

We pray for all those who have lost their jobs. Please help them Lord, through these uncertain times. May they regain employment once the lockdown is removed, and businesses begin opening for trading once more, which will also help boost the economy.

We pray, Heavenly Father, for those who have been affected by the virus. May they all make a full recovery. We continue to pray for all key, and front-line workers, thanking you for each one and their kindness compassion and service, as they continue to work through the days that may be challenging. We pray for all who are grieving. Comfort and uplift their spirits. For only you, O' God, can give them the inner peace that they need. Move forward their lives. We pray for your church here on earth. May the body of your church remain faithful to your word and calling. Bless all our ministers and their families as they serve in your name.

We pray for all our congregational family, our loved ones friends and neighbours. Be with each one, and uphold them in your sight Lord. May the grace and peace be with all whom we have prayed for, and ourselves, through Jesus Christ our Saviour, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

12th May, 2021: Ministry Candidates at Various Stages of Training

Please pray for those involved with the selection and training of all our ministry candidates: Deacons, OLM's, Readers and Word and Sacrament.

Remember all candidates who are commencing, mid-way through and completing their theological studies on-line.

Give thanks to God for the way he has used the Highland Theological College and all the staff associated with it to provide sound and robust theological and academic learning to so many students. Pray that God will continue to use, enhance and bless the work of HTC.

Please pray for our two current Candidates in Training for Ross Presbytery, Tommy MacGregor and Alister Murray.

13th May, 2021: 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.

Encourage those who are really missing fellowship in the Word and in prayer.

As we look to the future and the possibility of meeting in person, may God enable these valuable ministries to be re-established and developed safely and wisely.

14th May, 2021: Castle Street, Dingwall

Minister: Rev Drausio Goncalves

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

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

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. **Isaiah 43: 18-19**

What is God telling us in these verses? We are entering a new phase of church life due to the pandemic. Do we need to make major changes in our services, outreaches, etc. or do we carry on as before? Tradition can be a stumbling block to both believers and unbelievers so we really need wisdom from God as to the way forward. There's a hurting world out there and the Church has to be a source of healing. We need to pray for God's leading and guiding.

15th May, 2021: 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.

As we look to the future, and the possibility of meeting in person, may God enable these valuable ministries to be re-established and developed safely and wisely.

16th May, 2021: Urray and Kilchrist (Muir of Ord)

Minister: Rev James Munro (Locum)

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

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

Give thanks for and keep reading Psalms 91, 121 and 46 which gave us encouragement throughout this Covid year.

What a joy to know that the statistics are still coming down. We have been praying for this for a long time, so make sure we all tell the Lord we are so grateful. It's so wonderful to know that the death statistics, the hospital admissions and the cases continue to fall.

Do pray for the mental health of our nation. Pray that as lockdown happens, many will find the return to some sort of normality comforting, but also that they will find Jesus at this time.

We continue to pray for the spiritual side of our nation. We long for a nation that acknowledges God and who loves the Lord our God. Pray for many to turn their hearts and minds towards him. Pray for supernatural occurrences in many lives.

Let's pray that the Queen will sense a deep awareness of the presence of a wonderful God who keeps close to the broken hearted, but also look out for others in our society right now who are suffering loss too.

We give grateful thanks for the devoted life of Prince Phillip with special appreciation from us who gained so much from his Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We thank the Lord for his never-failing promises to His chosen people and especially as Israel has just celebrated its 73rd. anniversary as an independent state.

17th May, 2021: 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.

18th May, 2021: 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.

19th May, 2021: 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.

20th May, 2021: Killearnan linked with Knockbain

Minister: Rev Susan Cord

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

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

Praise God for the success of the roll out of the Covid vaccine, where many congregation members have received their first (or maybe even second) dose, throughout the presbytery.

As we all move to a new stage in the pandemic, help us all to have a vision of how the church should and needs to be; truly loving God and loving others. Grant wisdom and courage to the office bearers, as the congregations deal with impact of the pandemic.

Pray for our church communities. May they build up one another, whether meeting in church buildings or on-line.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." **Joshua 1:9**

21st May, 2021: 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.

Give thanks that we are once again able to worship together in person.

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

Pray for the young folk of our community and church, that they may be comfortable returning to school after their Easter Break and that once again we will be able to welcome them to Church.

22nd May, 2021: General Assembly

Give thanks to God for our recent Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair. Pray for Prince William in his role as Lord High Commissioner

Pray for our new moderator for 2021-22, the Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace).

Pray for the Constitution of the Assembly.

Pray for God's overruling hand on all reports presented, discussions held and decisions made (anticipated reports presented are from the assembly trustees).

23rd May, 2021: General Assembly

Pray for all who will attend the assembly virtually, that each one would be given the strength and stamina to remain focussed and attentive to all the business and discussions.

Pray for wisdom for all involved in the forthcoming business and decisions made that God's plans and purposes would come to pass.

Pray for the peace and the unity of the Church.

24th May, 2021: General Assembly

Pray for God's overruling hand on all reports presented, discussions held and decisions made.

Some of the anticipated reports presented are from the special commission on the effectiveness of the Presbyterian form of Church government, legal questions committee and ecumenical relations committee.

Pray for the peace and the unity of the Church.

25th May, 2021: General Assembly

Pray for God's overruling hand on all reports presented, discussions held and decisions made.

Some of the anticipated reports presented are from the Faith Nurture forum, housing and loan fund, guild, theological forum and registration of ministries committee.

Pray for the peace and the unity of the Church.

26th May, 2021: General Assembly

Pray for God's overruling hand on all reports presented, discussions held and decisions made.

The anticipated reports presented are from the Faith Impact forum, board of the Iona Community, social care council and safeguarding committee.

Pray for the peace and the unity of the Church.

27th May, 2021: Final day of the General Assembly

Pray for God's overruling hand on all reports presented, discussions held and decisions made.

The anticipated reports presented are from the committee to Chaplains to HM forces, general trustees, pension trustees, nomination committee, church hymnary trustees, Church of Scotland trust and Church of Scotland investors trust.

Pray for the peace and the unity of the Church.

28th May, 2021: Chaplaincy to Vulnerable Groups

Ordained Local Minister: Rev Irene Munro

Isaiah 61:3 prophesied of the Messiah who would come and give the oil of joy for mourning. **Give thanks** that Jesus Christ turned the lament of Easter Saturday to joy on Resurrection morning.

Pray for care homes in our Presbytery whose staff mourn deeply the loss of residents to the virus as they struggled to keep abreast of Covid regulations with lack of staff and challenging Care Inspectorate requirements

Pray for those relatives who mourn because they could not comfort in residential care those they loved who were isolated and confused this past year and for those who lost their relatives to Covid.

Pray for each other. **Psalm 30:11:** You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness. *NKJV*

29th May, 2021: 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/>

I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. **Psalm 63:2-3**

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 'for those in our, and indeed all, congregations unable to attend either virtual or physical services during this continuing lockdown.'

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.

30th May, 2021: 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.

31st May, 2021: Roskeen
Minister: Rev Phil Gunn

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

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

Give thanks for all those who have received their vaccinations and patience for those still waiting.

Give thanks that the three Primary schools in our parish have invited us to share the Easter story through recorded assemblies.

Give thanks for the joint services taking place throughout Holy Week pray that we will see increased unity between the churches and that the services being online will reach more people within the community who may not connect normally.