

# Let's Pray

Sun 3 May - Sat 9 May 2020

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## THESE THREE REMAIN...

*Faith, Hope & Love*

*"These three remain..." is an initiative of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to draw congregations and their members together in God to express his life and witness in this moment. Content is also available on the PCI website and social media channels to resource the church for its continuing ministry and mission.*

### In this moment

#### A prayer for God's provision in uncertain days

Faithful God,

it isn't easy to trust you in these uncertain days.

We have so many questions:

Will I catch the virus?

Do we have enough to get by?

What about my job?

Help us to know you as the God who provides;

supplying manna in the wilderness,

sustaining Elijah with food brought by ravens,

feeding five thousand,

giving us each day our daily bread.

Help us not to worry about our life,

about what we will eat or drink,

what we will wear.

Help us not to be anxious about tomorrow,

or the impact of a pandemic that might last weeks or months.

Teach us not to waste these lingering hours of lockdown worrying.

Instead lift our eyes to the birds in flight,

draw our gaze to the flowers in bloom,

to see that our heavenly Father,

will meet our everyday human concerns.

Keep us focused on seeking your kingdom,

watching for how all we need will also come our way,

from your generous hand.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

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## Sunday 3 May

### Spiritual life

- *Pray for one another as members of the family of God, that the challenges of not being able to gather for worship may also be a spur to greater hunger for reading God's Word individually and in family life.*
- *Pray that this season of uncertainty in society, in which so many of the idols we have worshipped and false gods that we have come to trust in have been exposed, may begin to lead towards a fresh moment of awakening to the true and living God.*

## Monday 4 May

### Working life

- *Pray for staff furloughed from work, including those who serve in congregations and other ministry callings, that God would help them to overcome the frustration of this interruption to their roles and benefit from a season of unplanned Sabbath.*
- *Pray for those experiencing the added pressures of working from home that they would be sustained through a period of unusual and limited working practices and be wise in drawing the line between work and personal time.*

## Tuesday 5 May

### Family life

- *Pray for families with children or teenagers at home in lockdown, asking that God would help parents creatively balance schooling, home life and watching over the general wellbeing of those under their care.*
- *Pray for parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children, asking that God would help them find and sustain safe and creative solutions.*

## Wednesday 6 May

### Congregational finances

- *Pray for congregations as the normal link between going to church and giving to its work is broken, asking that God will continue to provide what is needed to sustain necessary finances during the period of lockdown.*
- *Pray for God's wisdom and strength for the Finance Department in Assembly Buildings as they continue to oversee the wider financial management of the denomination and attend to everyday matters of payment of ministers and staff while operating with a skeleton staff.*

## Thursday 7 May

### Difficult decisions

- *Pray for decision makers at all levels of government as they receive advice from specialists, interpret data and shape policy that they would be wise in their decision-making and clear in their communication to others.*
- *Pray particularly for governments on our own island and across the world as they navigate the fine lines of easing lockdown measures at the right pace, asking for God's wisdom in judging the balances required.*

## Friday 8 May

### VE Day commemorations

- *As we mark the ending of the war in Europe at this time 75 years ago, give thanks to God for the selfless and courageous service and sacrifice of those who brought peace to Europe, acknowledging the great cost to all nations in the conflict.*
- *Pray for nations still devastated by war, for their people and their leaders; for those who suffer the effects or memories of past wars; for veterans; for those who mourn; for all innocent victims whose lives have been shattered by the cruelty of others.*

## Saturday 9 May

### Volunteering and local ministry

- *Give thanks for the many people who are using this time to volunteer in their local communities, asking that their simple acts of kindness would continue to make a big difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.*
- *Pray particularly for churches as they serve those around them, asking that the relationships built would provide opportunities to show and share the good news and hope that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.*