

## Prayer Topics for January 2012

- 1 Sun. **As we step out into 2012, pray that we keep Jesus at the centre of our lives; that we put our trust in God and that we try to avoid the mistakes we made last year. As we worship today let us give thanks for our own church and let us dedicate ourselves to supporting its mission work in bringing the message of Jesus to our parishes.**
- 2 Mon. **Rachel House Kinross:** Thank the Lord for all who help the children who attend and allow their carers some respite, if only for a few days and nights. Thank God for all the work which is done with and for siblings.
- 3 Tue. Let us today in our prayers remember parts of the world suffering from natural disasters. Let us not forget past tragedies where there remains much suffering and much rebuilding of the infrastructure to be done. Pray that the disaster is not used as a cover for destabilisation but that the world will be seen as coming to the aid of suffering.
- 4 Wed. Pray today for the parish, congregation, minister (Rev Peter Gerbrandy-Baird) and officers of Aberdour, St Fillans.
- 5 Thu. Pray for the work of "Dunfermline Sound", our local "talking newspaper" for the blind which resumes today after the holiday break. Pray for continued service to the blind and partially sighted throughout 2012.
- 6 Fri. **Epiphany - Matthew 2: 1 to 12. - The Magi.** They probably came from Persia (present day Iran). Pray for Christians in Iran who are being harassed & persecuted by the authorities; pray that the Iranians might once again seek Jesus. Pray for the "persecuted church" throughout the world, for the millions who daily risk loss of job, or home, or suffer torture, even death itself as they bravely witness their faith in Jesus as Saviour.
- 7 Sat. Pray for the ongoing work of all involved with the **Street Pastors**, and give thanks for their efforts during the "festive" season. Pray for the continued support from Police, Local Authorities and the owners and workers in pubs and clubs. Pray for ongoing fund-raising and grant aid.
- 8 Sun. **Matthew 2: 13 to 15 - The Flight.** Pray for us all to be open to God's voice; that we might realise the importance of reacting to His call. Pray for those forced to move because of the tyranny of oppressors or fanatics.
- 9 Mon. As our schools return today from holiday, pray for all who might suffer from **bullying** there. Pray that through the implementation of the Guidelines, adequate supervision and teaching of social skills all pupils will be able to experience happy times conducive to learning in all the schools in our Presbytery and beyond.
- 10 Tue. Pray for families in debt after Christmas because they were "encouraged" by our materialistic society to buy the "must have" things. Pray for forgiveness for ourselves, that even as Christians we sometimes allow society to pull us down "into the world's" standards.
- 11 Wed. Matthew 2: 16 to 18 **The Innocents:** Pray for children who suffer at the hands of the powerful; pray especially for children who are abused by their parents or those who should be caring for them. Pray for agencies which seek to protect children and defend their rights.
- 12 Thu. Pray for the work of your Presbytery's Oversight Committee and its convenor, Rev. Violet McKay. Pray for the work of the four Presbytery "groups" who under its auspices will be visiting four congregations to review their progress and plans for mission over the next five years.
- 13 Fri. Pray for the Aid Agencies (both at home & abroad) which you support. Pray for their ongoing efforts to raise funds. Pray that funds are used wisely so that the majority of the money goes to help those most in need. Pray for governments to help by streamlining rules and cutting red-tape and allowing the agencies to "work".
- 14 Sat. "When we mourn, You comfort us." Pray that the bereaved can feel God's presence in their lives and may they know that they are not alone in their grief.
- 15 Sun. **Pray for the next church "along the road" from your house and the one along from your own church; pray for neighbours and friends who attend there and ask for God to bless and prosper all they do for His Kingdom.**

## Prayer Topics for January 2012 (Cont'd)

- 16 Mon. Matthew 2: 19 to 23: **The Return.** Give thanks that God guided Joseph to Nazareth; give thanks for “ordinary” family life which leads to wondrous things in God’s time. Pray for the work of the Nazareth Hospital serving Jews, Muslims and Christians – Palestinians and Israelis.
- 17 Tue. Pray for Christian broadcasting both at home and abroad, that many will learn about Jesus and be brought closer to Him; pray for integrity in all that is broadcast.
- 18 Wed. Pray for all of our members currently under medical care and facing operations or surgical procedures at this time. Pray for the success of all these operations. Give thanks for medical science which has made so many effective treatments possible.
- 19 Thu. Pray for today's Presbytery Committee meetings. Pray that all present are guided by the Holy Spirit and feel the confidence and joy of that guiding. Pray also for those unable to attend and particularly for those suffering ill health.
- 20 Fri. Our church website, “On This Day” feature asks us to remember John Howard, Christian Philanthropist and prison reformer after whom the Howard League for Prison Reform is named. Let us give thanks for his life and work and pray for that organisation’s efforts.
- 21 Sat. Pray for **your own** family, especially those members you seldom see, or to whom you “don’t speak”. Pray for those with illnesses, or addictions; unemployed or far away.
- 22 Sun. **Today pray for your own church - minister & family; elders, members, visitors and friends; old and young; rich and not so well off; the committed and the apathetic; regular attendees and the regularly missing. And pray for those you find it difficult to love.**
- 23 Mon. Pray for all who care for our health; nurses, secretaries, cleaners, surgeon, porters, ambulance drivers; for dentists, opticians, social workers and all the others in ancillary jobs especially those who work unseen.
- 24 Tue. Our church website, “On This Day” feature today asks us to remember William Barclay, professor, of New Testament language and literature. Let us give thanks that the Lord gives us such teachers to interpret His Holy Word for us.
- 25 Wed. Pray that “*man to man the world o’er may brithers be*”. As Burns’ birth is celebrated world-wide, pray that friends, families and nations not only enjoy the haggis but also work together for peace and equality for all.
- 26 Thu. Pray for the work of the General Assembly Councils and all who work in “121”, that their central desire is to serve the Lord and to promote His Kingdom.
- 27 Fri. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: The reason for the date is that it is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops. Let us pray for a renewal of our commitment to combat racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, sectarianism, and to work for an inclusive, caring and open society.
- 28 Sat. **Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2012 starts today: Prayer for the week:**  
*Father, we thank you that Jesus came to break down barriers. He did not see the migrant or the settled, the housed or the homeless, the employed or the unemployed. He saw and loved the person.*  
*Forgive us when we put up barriers between ourselves and others; help us show love to all without constraint.*  
*Help us, your church, to build communities without barriers, where all are valued because all are made in your image.*  
*In Jesus’ name, Amen*
- 29 Sun **World Leprosy Day: Pray that the Church will stand up for justice for those affected by leprosy. Pray for all who work for and with lepers and their families. Pray for ongoing research into new drugs. Pray that the stigma of the disease might be reduced and that sufferers might not be forced to live “outside” society.**
- 30 Mon Pray for all with any form of disability, physical, or mental. Pray for all involved in helping or supporting them. Help them understand that they are loved by God.
- 31 Tue. Pray for the folk in your street; for the ones who take time to speak and for the ones who ignore you and may even annoy you; pray for those who ridicule your faith.