

DAY 7: Woman, great is your faith!

In the Bible, Eli misjudged Hannah's deep and fervent prayer and condemned her, dismissing her supplications as drunken ramblings. Likewise, when the Canaanite woman came to beg Jesus to heal her daughter, he initially dismissed her. In both cases, a woman who was initially marginalised turned out to be speaking prophetic words. Even within our churches today we often devalue women. Many women and children are snatched forcibly from their homes and trafficked to other lands. These are often denied the most basic human rights. In recent years churches in Indonesia have taken common action against human trafficking and the sexual abuse of children. Their efforts are all the more urgent since the number of victims in some parts of their country is increasing daily. God also speaks today through the cries of the most abused in society.

Prayer

Gracious God, You are the source of human dignity. As we search to manifest the unity of the Church, grant us the courage to reject all forms of violence against women and to celebrate the gifts of the Spirit that women bring to the service of the Church. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 8: Fri 25th Jan: The Lord is my light and my salvation

Throughout the eight days of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the daily reflections have considered many difficult situations facing the world today, including greed, violence, exclusion, exploitation, poverty, pollution, hunger and trafficking. Churches in Indonesia are conscious that some of these sins have tainted the lives of their churches too, wounding their unity and diminishing their witness to the world. At the same time, they recognise as well the many promising instances of churches coming together to witness to their unity in Christ. Christians in other parts of the world can name many other examples from their own situations. The Holy Trinity is the source of all unity and Jesus is the light of the world, who promises the light of life to those who follow him. The many injustices in the world frequently sadden or anger us, but we Christians do not lose hope. We move to action because the Lord is our light and our salvation.

Prayer

God our Sustainer, we praise you for your loving kindness, for upholding us in times of trial, and showing us your light in times of darkness. Transform our lives so that we may be a blessing for others. Help us to live unity in diversity as a witness to your communion, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

The night before his Passion and Death, Jesus said:

**“May they all be one,
just as, Father,
you are in me and I am in you” Jn 17:21**

Each year from 18-25th January, Christians of all denominations unite around the world to pray for this great desire of the heart of Jesus—that we may all be one.

Here at Kilmacud Carmelite Monastery we dedicate our Evening Prayer at 4.30pm for this intention each day during the Week of Prayer.

All are welcome to join us.

2019 PROGRAMME

Friday 18th: *Guest speaker:* Rev. Ian Gallagher, St. Brigid's Church of Ireland, Stillorgan

Saturday 19th: Reflection on the daily theme

Sunday 20th: Reflection on the daily theme

Monday 21st: Reflection on the daily theme

Tuesday 22nd: Reflection on the daily theme

Wednesday 23rd: *Guest speaker:* Rev. Dr. Heather Morris, Home Mission Department, Methodist Church in Ireland

Thursday 24th: Reflection on the daily theme

Friday 25th: *Guest speaker:* Rev. Ibrahim (Hann) Riberu OCD, St Joseph's Carmelite Commisariate, Indonesia

The prayers and reflections on this leaflet are taken from material prepared by the Christians of Indonesia this year.

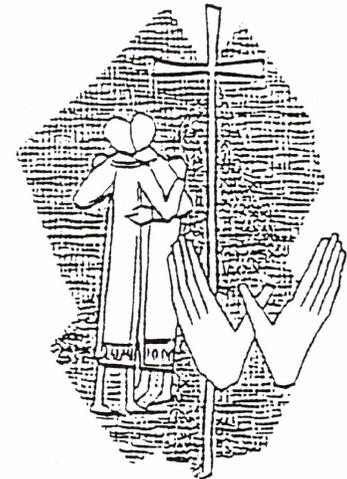
Please use this leaflet at home, both this week and throughout the year in order to pray for Christian Unity.

Carmelite Monastery of St Joseph
Upper Kilmacud Road
Stillorgan, Blackrock
Co. Dublin
www.kilmacudcarmel.ie

Christians of all denominations are very welcome to join us for Evening Prayer just after 4.30pm all year round (usually approx. 4.35-4.40pm).

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18-25 January 2019



“Justice, and only justice,
you shall pursue”
(Deut 16: 18-20)

**Carmelite Monastery of St Joseph
Upper Kilmacud Road**

4.30pm daily

DAY 1: Fri 18th Jan: Let justice roll down like waters

Christians can sometimes be very committed to prayer and worship, but less concerned for the poor. Sometimes we pray in church, but at the same time oppress our fellow human beings or exploit the environment. Christians in Indonesia recognize that in their land some people practise their faith, but also oppress those of other beliefs, even with violence. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reminds us that the outward sign of true worship is acting justly. He is fierce in his condemnation of those who neglect this obligation. God rejects the worship offered by those who neglect justice, until they 'let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 5:24). Amos insists on the absolute link between worship and doing deeds of justice. When Christians work together to listen to the cry of the poor, they grow in communion with one another and with the Triune God.

Prayer

God of the widow, the orphan and the stranger, You have shown us the path of justice. Help us to follow your way by doing justice as our worship of you. As Christians together, may we worship you not only with our hearts and minds, but also by our deeds. May the Holy Spirit help and guide us to work for justice wherever we are, so that many people may be strengthened through our works. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY 2: Sat 19th Jan: Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'

Violence towards fellow humans is not found only in physical assault and robbery, but also in gossip and malicious rumours. Social media have made it easy for untruths to be circulated instantly to a wide audience. Christians in Indonesia are aware of how this has sometimes led to lies and prejudice being propagated by religious groups, including Christians, against other religions. Deceitfulness destroys good relationships between persons and between groups, including churches. Dishonesty disrupts the unity of the Church. Christians are called to be honest and accountable to each other, so that they may grow in fellowship. When we do so, it is not the spirit of the evil one, but the Holy Spirit of God who will be with us.

Prayer

God of righteousness, grant us wisdom to distinguish right from wrong. Let our hearts be guided by honesty and our lips speak the truth. Give us courage to be truthful even when others go against us. Keep us from spreading deceit; make us, rather, agents of unity and peace, spreading good news for all people. We pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DAY 3: Sun 20th Jan: The Lord is gracious and merciful to all

The love of God is beyond boundaries of ethnicity, culture, race, and even religion. The account of the genealogy of Jesus reflects this expansive vision. Matthew names four women among the ancestors of Jesus, two of whom, Ruth and Rahab, were Gentiles. Three other ancestors in the list were known for their sinfulness, including the adulterous King David. God includes everyone, male and female, sinner and righteous, in his plan of salvation, regardless of their backgrounds. Indonesia is a nation of over 17,000 islands and 1,340 different ethnic groups, and churches are often separated along ethnic lines. Amidst escalating ethnic and religious fanaticism and a growing spirit of intolerance, Christians can serve the human family by joining together to bear witness to the all-embracing love of God, proclaiming 'the Lord is gracious and merciful' to all.

Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, we give praise to you for your great glory made manifest in all of creation. Give us an open heart to embrace all who experience discrimination. Help us to grow in love beyond prejudice and injustice. Grant us the grace to respect the uniqueness of each person, so that in our diversity we may experience unity. This prayer we make in your holy name. Amen.

DAY 4: Be content with what you have

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews warns against excessive love of money and material things. In the face of our tendency to think we never have enough, this text reminds us that God will never forsake creation. Through the fruitfulness of earth, rivers and seas, God's goodness has provided ample food and fresh water to sustain all living beings, and yet many people lack these basic necessities. Human weakness and greed frequently lead to corruption, injustice, poverty and hunger. It can be tempting to gather and accumulate money, food and natural resources for ourselves, or our own nation or ethnic group. In recent years, some churches in Indonesia have been providing various kinds of financial, human and educational support to small churches in rural areas. Living more simply, not preoccupied with earning money beyond our needs or with hoarding resources for the future, can enable us to make the earth, our common home, a more just place.

Prayer

Compassionate God, we thank you for your bountiful gifts. Give us the grace to accept all blessings in simplicity and with humble gratitude. Enable us to be content and ready to share with others who are in need, so that all may experience unity in the love that flows from you, our Triune God, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 5: Tues 22nd Jan: To bring good news to the poor

The prophet Amos criticized traders who practiced deceit and exploited the poor in order to gain maximum profit. Amos also underlined how God observes their wrongdoing and will never forget it. God listens to the cries of victims of injustice and never forsakes those who are exploited and treated unjustly. We live in a globalized world where the gap between the rich and the poor is getting wider. Economic issues often trigger tensions and conflicts. It is hard to enjoy peace when justice is absent. By virtue of our common Baptism, all Christians share in the prophetic mission of Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor and the weak, in both words and deeds. When we recognise this mission, the Spirit of the Lord will be upon us too, empowering us to work for justice. Our dignity as Christians calls us to speak and act in such a way that the words of Jesus are fulfilled each day in the hearing of those around us.

Prayer

God our Father, forgive our lust for power and free us from the temptation to oppress others. By your Holy Spirit of communion, help us to live in solidarity with our neighbour, and so share together with your Son Jesus in fulfilling your promise of freedom from poverty and oppression. We pray in his name. Amen.

DAY 6: Wed 23rd Jan: The Lord of hosts is his name

The created world is a manifestation of God's wondrous power. Today, however, we are facing a serious global ecological crisis, which threatens the survival of the natural world. In this context it is useful to remember that after his resurrection, Jesus commissioned the disciples to proclaim the good news 'to the *whole* creation'. No part of creation is outside God's plan to make all things new. Movements among people of different faiths in Indonesia and many other places are inspiring Christians to promote eco-friendly churches, and to take a stand against environmental abuses. This unites Christians in bearing witness to their Creator, 'for he is the one who formed all things'. When we join with other Christians in defence of our common earthly home, we are fulfilling the Lord's command to proclaim the good news to *all* of creation.

Prayer

Loving God, by your word all things came to be. We thank you for the universe which manifests your glory, beauty and kindness. Grant us the wisdom to walk gently upon the earth and together to be prophets of your good news to all creation. Amen.