

**DAY 7: Sun 24th Jan: Growing in unity**

On the eve of his death, Jesus prayed for the unity of those the Father gave him: “that they may all be one . . . so that the world may believe”. Joined to him, as a branch is to the vine, we share the same sap that circulates among us and vitalizes us. Each tradition seeks to lead us to the heart of our faith: communion with God, through Christ, in the Spirit. The more we live this communion, the more we are connected to other Christians and to all of humanity. Christ’s will commits us to a path of unity and reconciliation. It also commits us to unite our prayer to his: “that they may all be one. . . so that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

**Prayer**

Holy Spirit, vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us. Renew in us the passion for unity so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you. May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

**DAY 8: Mon 25th Jan: Reconciling with all of creation**

With the eyes of faith, we see that the kingdom of God is a reality that is very close but still very small, hardly visible – like a mustard seed. However, it is growing. Even in the distress of our world the Spirit of the Risen One is at work. He encourages us to become involved – with all people of good will – in tirelessly seeking justice and peace, and ensuring the earth is once again a home for all creatures. We participate in the work of the Spirit so that creation in all its fullness may continue to praise God. When nature suffers, when human beings are crushed, the Spirit of the risen Christ invites us to become part of his work of healing. The newness of life that Christ brings, however hidden, is a wellspring of reconciliation for the whole of creation.

**Prayer**

Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us. We thank you for your presence in us and in creation. May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love. In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.

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.

**2021 PROGRAMME**

Monday 18th: Reflection on the daily theme

Tuesday 19th: Reflection on the daily theme

Wednesday 20th: *Guest speaker:* Rev. Joe Mullen,  
Adm. Kilmacud, Mount Merrion, Clonskeagh

Thursday 21st: Reflection on the daily theme

Friday 22nd: *Guest speaker:* Dr Paul Manook,  
Armenian Apostolic Church in Ireland

Saturday 23rd: Reflection on the daily theme

Sunday 24th: Reflection on the daily theme

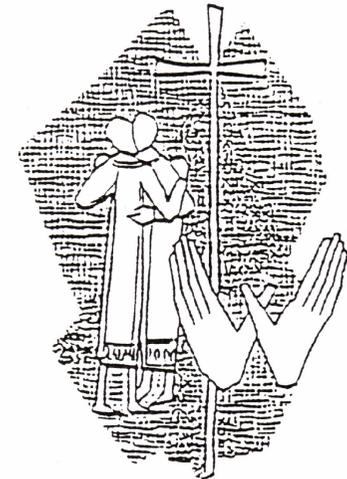
Monday 25th: Reflection on the daily theme

The prayers and reflections on this leaflet are taken from material prepared by Grandchamp Community, Switzerland. Please use this leaflet at home, 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

***WEEK OF PRAYER  
FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY***

***18-25 January 2021***



**“Abide in my love  
and you shall bear much fruit”**

*(cf. Jn 15:5-9)*

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

**4.30pm daily**

### **DAY 1: Mon 18th Jan: Called by God**

The start of the journey is an encounter between a human being and God, between the created and the Creator, between time and eternity. Like Abraham we are called to leave that which is familiar and go to the place that God has prepared in the depths of our hearts. Along the way, we become more and more ourselves, the people God has wanted us to be from the beginning. And by following the call that is addressed to us, we become a blessing for our loved ones, our neighbours, and the world. Touched by his love, we set out. In this encounter, we walk a path of transformation - the bright beginning of a relationship of love that is always started anew.

#### **Prayer**

Jesus Christ, you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship and lead us to a life that is ever more complete. Grant us the confidence to answer your call so that we may be transformed and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

### **DAY 2: Tues 19th Jan: Maturing internally**

The encounter with Jesus gives rise to the desire to stay with him and to abide in him: a time in which fruit matures. Being fully human, like us Jesus grew and matured. In this hidden life in Nazareth, where apparently nothing extraordinary happened, the presence of the Father nourished him. Mary contemplated the actions of God in her life and in that of her son. She treasured all these things in her heart. Thus, little by little, she embraced the mystery of Jesus. We too need a long period of maturation, an entire lifetime, in order to plumb the depths of Christ's love, to let him abide in us and for us to abide in him. It is through prayer, by listening to the word, in sharing with others, by putting into practice what we have understood, that the inner being is strengthened.

#### **Prayer**

Holy Spirit, may we receive in our hearts the presence of Christ, and cherish it as a secret of love. Nourish our prayer, enlighten our reading of Scripture, act through us, so that the fruits of your gifts can patiently grow in us.

### **DAY 3: Wed 20th Jan: Forming one body**

On the eve of his death, Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples. He knew the difficulty of living together and the importance of forgiveness and mutual service. Peter was washed and was touched by the humility and gentleness of Christ. Later he would follow Jesus' example and serve the fellowship of the faithful in the early church. Jesus wishes that life and love circulate through us so that Christian communities be one body. But today as in the past, it is not easy to live together. At times we fail to love those who are close to us. There are times when our relationships break down completely. In Christ we are invited to be clothed in compassion, through countless new beginnings.

#### **Prayer**

God our Father, you reveal to us your love through Christ and through our brothers and sisters. Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other with our differences and live in forgiveness. Grant us to live united in one body, so that the gift that is each person comes to light. May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.

### **DAY 4: Thurs 21st Jan: Praying together**

God thirsts for relationship with us. He searches for us as he searched for Adam, calling to him in the garden. Prayer can be solitary or shared. It can express wonder, complaint, intercession, thanksgiving or simple silence. Sometimes the desire to pray is there, but one has the feeling of not being able to do so. Turning to Jesus and saying to him, "teach me", can pave the way. Our desire itself is already prayer. Getting together in a group offers us support. Through hymns, words and silence, communion is created. If we pray with Christians of other traditions, we may be surprised to feel united by a bond of friendship that comes from the One who is beyond all division. The forms may vary, but it is the same Spirit that brings us together.

#### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, your entire life was prayer, perfect harmony with the Father. Through your Spirit, teach us to pray according to your will of love. May the faithful of the whole world unite in intercession and praise, and may your kingdom of love come.

### **DAY 5: Fri 22nd Jan: Letting oneself be transformed by the Word**

The Word of God is very close to us. If we open our hearts, God speaks to us and patiently transforms that which is dying in us. He removes that which prevents the growth of real life, just as the vine grower prunes the vine. Many Christians pray the Beatitudes every day. The Beatitudes reveal to us a happiness that is hidden in that which is unfulfilled, a happiness that lies beyond suffering. We are constantly called to renew our commitment to life, through our thoughts and actions. There are times when we already taste, here and now, the blessing that will be fulfilled at the end of time.

#### **Prayer**

Blessed are you, God our Father, for the gift of your word in Holy Scripture. Blessed are you for its transforming power. Help us choose life and guide us by your Spirit, so that we can experience the happiness which you want so much to share with us.

### **DAY 6: Sat 23rd Jan: Welcoming others**

When we let ourselves be transformed by Christ, his love in us grows and bears fruit. Welcoming the other is a concrete way of sharing the love that is within us. Throughout his life, Jesus welcomed those he met. He listened to them and let himself be touched by them without being afraid of their suffering. Even today he draws us to be co-workers in his unconditional care. Sometimes something as small as a kind look, an open ear, or our presence is enough to make a person feel welcome. When we offer our poor abilities to Jesus, he uses them in a surprising way. We then experience what Abraham did, for it is by giving that we receive, and when we welcome others, we are blessed in abundance.

#### **Prayer**

Jesus Christ, we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us. You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering, yet you are always there ahead of us and you have already received them in your compassion. Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions, and let your blessing rest on us all.