

**DAY 7: Sun 24th Jan:** *The search for unity*

We know that God does not want our riches or burnt offerings, but rather that God's power works through our poverty: "I have no silver or gold". The Lord desires our loving hearts, filled with mercy, truly penitent and desiring change. Let us then prepare the gift of a heart full of love. Kneeling in worship requires hearts that are contrite for the sin that divides us and obedient to the One we serve. This obedience revives, heals and reconciles everything that is broken or wounded in us, around us, and among us as Christians.

**Prayer**

God, through your prophets you have called us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. In Christ, you have shown us what that looks like. Through your Holy Spirit you continually enable us to hear your words, to follow Christ's example, and to live as his disciples. So, as we gather at the manger, heal our wounds, reconcile our divisions and hold us together in your love. Amen.

**DAY 8: Mon 25th Jan:** *Beyond the familiar routes of separation to God's new paths*

We do not know what the wise men thought when they were warned to return by another road. They may well have been very confused, but the same light that illumined their journey showed them that there was another road, another possibility. They were called to change direction. We have to trust that the everlasting One who gave us the light, can always find a way forward when our ways and paths are blocked. A fresh start is always possible when we are willing and open to the work of the Spirit.

**Prayer**

Gracious God, when we only know one way and we think we must return to it, when we think that all roads are blocked, and we fall into despair, we always find you there, creating a new unexpected path before us. If we search our maps and find no route, nonetheless we always find you, who lead us by a yet more excellent way, trusting that you will always lead us back to you and forward in unity together. 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.

**2022 PROGRAMME**

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

**Wed 19th:** Dr. Jessie Rogers,  
Dean of Theology, Maynooth

**Thurs 20th:** Reflection by a Carmelite Sister

**Fri 21st:** Dr. Paul Manook,  
Armenian Apostolic Church in Ireland

**Sat 22nd:** Dr. Ruth Patterson,  
Restoration Ministries, N. Ireland

**Sun 23rd:** Reflection by a Carmelite Sister

**Mon 24th:** Reflection by a Carmelite Sister

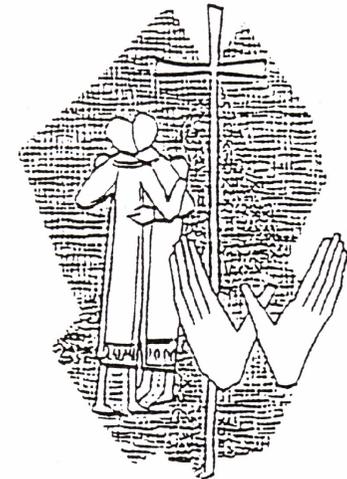
**Tues 25th:** Rev. Joe Mullan, Adm., Mt Merrion,  
Kilmacud, & Clonskeagh

The prayers and reflections on this leaflet are taken from material prepared by Christians in the Middle East. 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](http://www.kilmacudcarmel.ie)

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

***18-25 January 2022***



**"We saw His Star in the East..."**  
*(Mt 2:2)*

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

**Join us live on Zoom at 4.30pm each day:**

**Meeting ID:** 890 5282 1805

**Passcode:** unity22

**DAY 1: Tues 18th Jan:**

*Raise us up and draw us to your perfect light*

In this fragile and uncertain world, we look for light. Our confidence rests in God, who in wisdom, enables us to hope for his mercy. We are surprised when it comes in human form: Christ is the light in our midst! In the midst of darkness, the star from the East penetrates the depths of the darkness that separates us. The star's light continues to shine and to change the face of history. Throughout the ages, by the lives of Christ's followers, the Risen One continues to shine, like a beacon guiding all into this perfect light and overcoming the darkness which separates us from one another.

**Prayer**

Creator of light, illumine our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us. May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage. Enlighten us and dwell within us. Guide us to discover a manger in our hearts where a great light still shines. We thank you for the gift of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him. Amen.

**DAY 2: Tues 19th Jan:** *Humble leadership breaks down walls and builds up with love*

Only in Christ have we seen the example of a leader truly after God's heart. In him we encounter a loving, humble servant who comes to serve, rather than be served, and his followers are called to do the same. Today, the Middle East is experiencing the loss of its people to exile as 'righteousness and justice' are becoming scarce commodities, not only there but throughout the world. The more faithfully Christians emulate the leadership of Christ, the more division in both the world and the Church will be overcome.

**Prayer**

Just and righteous God, we confess before you that we often covet worldly models of leadership. Help us to seek our Lord Jesus Christ not in the palaces of the powerful but in the humble manger. May we emulate him in his meekness and become servants to each other in obedience to you. We pray in the name of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever in glory. Amen.

**DAY 3: Wed 20th Jan:** *The presence of Christ, turning the world upside down* Christ's coming disturbs the ways of the world. He calls for a change of heart and a transformation of life, which will bring liberation from all that dehumanises. This creates disturbance precisely because he rocks the boat of those who seek only their own interests and neglect the common good. We are invited to act constructively to make justice a reality, acknowledging where we have strayed from God's ways of justice and peace. We can bring the light of hope to those living in the darkness of political unrest, social poverty, and discrimination. The Good News is that God is faithful, always inspiring us to work for the good of others, especially the victims of oppression, hatred, violence and pain.

**Prayer**

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus. Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment. Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love. Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**DAY 4: Thurs 21st Jan:** *Though small and suffering, we lack nothing.* Today we consider why God chooses to act in and through seemingly insignificant places and people. The Gospel of Luke reassures the 'little flock' of Christ's followers that they need have no fear, because God has promised them the Kingdom. These messages of consolation invite us to take part in God's transformation of inequality, violence and injustice, not to wait passively for these things to happen. They call on us to be politically aware; to be locally ready to make our churches little Bethlehems where Christ can be born in generosity and hospitality; to recognise ourselves as a 'little flock', unimportant perhaps, but with a value and a vocation in the great mystery of salvation.

**Prayer**

Good Shepherd, the fragmentation of your 'little flock' grieves the Holy Spirit. Forgive our weak efforts and slowness in the pursuit of your will. Give us wise shepherds after your own heart who recognise the sin of division, and those who will lead the churches with righteousness and holiness, to unity in you. We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. Amen.

**DAY 5: Fri 22nd Jan:** *Guided by the one God* God walks with us. The path may not always be straight, but in all our journeying through life, we can be confident that God, who neither "sleeps nor slumbers", is with us when we slip or fall. Even in the greatest darkness, God's light is with us. The way ahead into unity with one another, into closer union with Christ, is not always clear. In our earnest attempts to build unity it is all too easy to lose sight of this fundamental message: that God does not abandon his people. This is God's message of hope for the whole world. God guides people of all kinds, by the light of the star, to where Christ, the light of the world, is to be found.

**Prayer**

God our Guide, you sent the star to lead the Magi to your only begotten Son. Fill us with the confidence that you are walking with us. Open our eyes to your Spirit, and encourage us in our faith, so that we may confess that Jesus is Lord, and worship him as the Magi did in Bethlehem. Amen.

**DAY 6: Sat 23rd Jan** *Gathered in worship around the One Lord*

When the Magi arrived at Bethlehem and saw the child with his mother, they worshipped him. Do we see? Are we amazed? Are we truly worshipping? How many times do we remain blind to God's presence? In our narrow vision, too often we see only our tangled disagreements, forgetting that we share in the one Spirit who draws us into unity. As communities enlivened by the Holy Spirit, we are called to walk together towards the Christ-Child, offering homage as one people.

**Prayer**

Compassionate God, in your mercy, remove the scales from our eyes and lead us to repent and to worship you. In the midst of our sorrow and despite the depth of our sin, give us the capacity to love you with all our hearts. As we journey together with one heart and mind, may we glorify you in the Spirit's fellowship, and witness to those around us. Amen.