

Some Prayers for February:

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

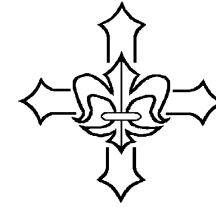
Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



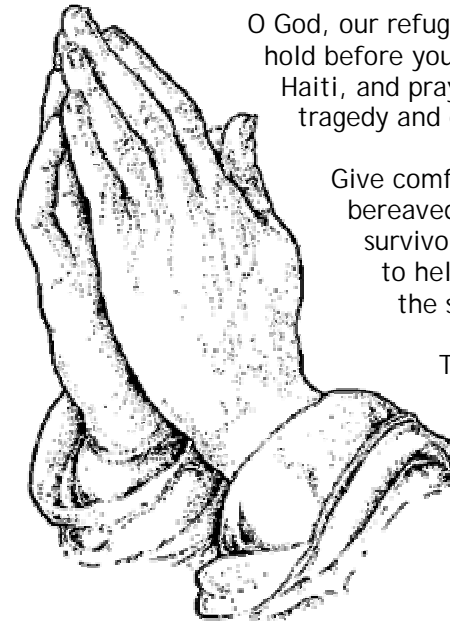
February Charity of the Month

Corrymeela is people of all ages and Christian traditions, who, individually and together are committed to the healing of social, religious and political divisions that exist in Northern Ireland.



Prayer Leaflet

February 2010



O God, our refuge and strength, we
hold before you the nation and people of
Haiti, and pray for healing in the midst of
tragedy and devastation.

Give comfort to the homeless, the
bereaved and the suffering, courage to
survivors, wisdom to those who seek
to help, and light to all who live in
the shadow of death.

This we ask in the name of Jesus
Christ, our rock and our salvation.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Godmanchester

"Daddy, I found you!"

John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



In his book *Jesus Among Other Gods*, Ravi Zacharias tells a story about a girl who became hopelessly lost in a dark and dense forest. She called and screamed, but to no avail. Her alarmed parents and a group of volunteers searched frantically for her. When darkness fell, they had to give up for the night.

Early the next morning the girl's father re-entered the forest to search for her and spied her fast asleep on a rock. He called her name and ran toward her. Startled awake, she threw her arms out to him. As he picked her up and hugged her, she repeated over and over, "Daddy, I found you!"

Applying this story to Mary Magdalene's search for Jesus in John 20, Zacharias comments: "Mary discovered the most startling truth of all when she came looking for the body of Jesus. She did not realize that the person she had found was the One who was risen, and that he had come looking for her."

We who believe in Jesus sometimes speak of "finding" Him. But why did we seek him in the first place? Because, like the shepherd who went out into the darkness to find one lost sheep, God seeks us. He is waiting for us to realize our lostness and reach out to him. He will pick us up, embrace us, and give us his peace.

Our Prayers in February are especially requested for:

In the Church

Events — Altar Servers meeting (13th); Film Night (13th); Pancake Race around the Church (21st); Lent Groups (w/c 21st); — please pray for these events, and for those attending them.

Children's Church — Lent theme is, "God's generosity to the world", and Lent Charity is, "Christian Aid". Please pray for them as they try to live their theme and raise much needed funds, throughout Lent, and especially at the Pancake Race.

Choir — give thanks for the new members that have joined us recently and pray that they feel welcomed and valued.

Mothers' Union — pray for the members throughout the world who are actively involved in alleviating poverty. We pray that they are given the resources they need, spiritual as well as practical, to keep on giving in the midst of so much hardship.

St Mary's 0-5 Group — During these cold winter months let our families warm our hearts. Let us care for others, especially those who are alone, and share our warmth with them. Allow us to look forward to the coming spring with optimistic hearts, and rejoice in the new life and potential that it brings.

Flower Guild — for all less fortunate than ourselves throughout the world.

In the World

Haiti — for the people of Haiti following last month's earthquake.

Womens World Day of Prayer — for the preparations for March's service (in St Mary's); and that more people will want to be involved. This year's service material has been prepared by the women of Cameroon.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide — Please uphold in your prayers the over 3,000 Christian prisoners in Eritrea who, without charge or trial, remain incarcerated in cells and shipping containers, exposed to the harshest heat and cold, without proper food or medical care, and in danger of beatings and torture unless they renounce their faith.

This month, in our **Street Prayer Mission**, we'll be praying for:

Week commencing Sunday, 7 February

London Street; Betts Close; Barringer Court; Earning Street; Sylton Close.

Week commencing Sunday, 14 February

Holmehill; Hayling Close; Cob Place; Fishers Way.

Week commencing Sunday, 21 February

Cambridge Street; Orchard Way; Linden Grove; Clyde Yard; East Chadley Lane.

Week commencing Sunday, 28 February

Old Court Hall; Corpus Christie; Silver Street; Wigmore Close; Duck End; Allen Farm Close.