

General

Easter is almost here! Will you keep watch and pray with us?

As we prepare for Easter, pray for our own hearts and those whom we serve to be repentant and open to God's transforming grace and forgiveness.

7th April Good Friday - Give thanks for Jesus' sacrificial love that brings forgiveness instead of punishment, reveals hope out of devastation, and shines light into our darkness.

9th April Easter Sunday - Alleluia! Praise God for His gift of love and grace, that through Jesus' resurrection we have the promise of life eternal.

Pray for our CEO, Robin Scott, in leading the work of PF. Ask God to continue to strengthen him and give him discernment and energy.

Prison

Pray for men and women involved in PF programmes in prisons, that they might have an encounter with God's grace and love that will change their life forever.

Give thanks for the commitment of prison chaplains, who have obeyed God's call to walk alongside men and women in prison. Pray they know God's sustaining grace and love in their work each day.

The goal of our Sycamore Tree programme is to help reduce reoffending, so that everyone benefits. Pray for courses in Maghaberry and Magilligan this month that men will be impacted and will make changes in their lives for the better.

Aftercare - Women

April 6th - Pray for our Women's Aftercare group 'Instilling Hope' as they meet in Emmanuel Church, Lurgan tonight. May all who come feel loved and encouraged.

K continues to grieve the loss of her mum and husband. Please pray for her as life is incredibly difficult and she is struggling so much.

Pray for A who has recently been released from Hydebank. She is in temporary accommodation and is trying so hard to stay 'clean' from drugs.

Family

Holiday times like Christmas and Easter, when families typically spend time together, can accentuate the pain and loss felt by many families of prisoners. We remember them this Easter, especially the children, and pray that they may know God's strength and comfort.

Pray that the visits to the prison this Easter, in person or on zoom, will be special family times together.

Give thanks for the Easter story books that are going out to the children of prisoners this month. Pray that these books will be read by all the family and that the truth of the Easter Story and of God's love will reach their minds and hearts.

Give thanks for all the families we have contact with and the privilege of supporting them in different ways. Pray the Lord will give us His wisdom and love as we walk with them.

Everyone Suffers

Everyone Suffers,
The offender, the victims, the community, and others.
The ripple effect goes on and on,
It's hard to restore and the process is long.
Wish I could turn back time for the things I done wrong,
Reconciliation—it's time to move on.

From a broken home, hard life from the start,
All I wanted to do was get money fast,
From drugs, robberies, driving nice cars,
Look at me now, doing years behind bars.

Everyone suffers, not just me.
I want to say sorry to the victims and the community.
Sorry to my children and my family,
Because everyone suffers, not just me.

Now I'm looking forward to a new way of life,
Getting a job, being with my kids and wife.
Healthy and productive, no more crime,
Finally taking responsibility for mine.

While incarcerated in HMP
So glad I done Sycamore Tree.
The things I've learnt will stay with me,
Especially everyone suffers, not just me.

(A learner on the ST programme,
first posted by Prison Fellowship England & Wales)