

it gold, even so and much more baptism makes those who are washed to be of gold instead of clay. The Spirit at that time falling like fire into our souls, burning up the “image of the earthy”, and producing “the image of the heavenly,” fresh coined, bright and glittering, as from the furnace-mould.
- *John Chrysostom [c. 350-407]*

Prayer

God our Father, we praise you and bless your name. Accept our thanksgiving for the unity Christians already enjoy in the confession of Jesus the Lord. Hasten the day, we beg you, of the full mutual recognition of our churches in the communion that you desire, and for which your Son prayed. We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY 8: Sat 25th Jan: Waiting for the Kingdom and the life to come

Whoever lives in love in this creation breathes the life coming from God. While yet in this world, he breathes the air of rebirth. In this air the righteous will delight at resurrection. Love is the kingdom whereof our Lord mystically promised the disciples that they would eat in his kingdom: “You shall eat and drink at the table of my kingdom.” What should they eat, if not love? Love is sufficient to nourish a man instead of food and drink. This is the wine that gladdens the heart of man. Blessed is he who drinks of this wine!

- *Isaac of Nineveh [7th century]*

Prayer

O Lord, hasten the coming of your great and glorious day! In our darkness, many men and women no longer dare to hope. Protect the flame of faith in the hearts of the weak and the suffering. May the Church be a faithful herald of the victory of Christ your Son over death and a beacon of expectation for his return in glory. He is the Living One, with you and with the Holy Spirit. now and forever and ever. 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.

2025 PROGRAMME

Sat 18th: Rev. Simon Nolan O.Carm,
Provincial, Order of Carmelites

Sun 19th: Reflection by a Carmelite Sister

Mon 20th: Ms Ellen Moisselle,
Chaplain, Holy Child School, Killiney

Tues 21st: Reflection by a Carmelite Sister

Wed 22nd: Rev. Martin Sauter, Lutheran Church

Thurs 23rd: Rev. Nigel Pierpoint,
Taney, Church of Ireland, Dundrum

Fri 24th: Dr. Paul Manook,
Armenian Apostolic Church in Ireland

Sat 25th: Rev. Kevin Conroy,
St. Brigid’s Church of Ireland, Stillorgan

The prayers and reflections on this leaflet are taken from material prepared by Christians in Burkina Faso. Please use this leaflet at home 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 2025



“Do you believe this?”

(John 11:26)

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

**All are welcome to join us
at 4.30pm each day
either in-person or via live-link
YouTube: @KilmacudCarmel**

DAY 1: Sat 18th Jan: The fatherhood and care of God who rules the universe

Behold the mysteries of love, and then you will contemplate the bosom of the Father, which the only-begotten Son of God has revealed. God himself is love, and through love he is contemplated by us. And while in his ineffable reality he is Father, in his compassion he has become for us mother.

- *Clement of Alexandria [c. 150-215]*

Prayer

Renew our faith in you and bind us together through your love, so that we can recognise each other as your children, and come together as one. We praise you through Jesus Christ, your only-begotten Son, in the communion of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

DAY 2: Sun 19th Jan: Creation as God's work

God cannot be seen by human eyes, but is seen and perceived through his providence and works. Just as one who sees a fully equipped ship entering port assumes that it has a pilot to guide it, so we must perceive that God is the pilot of the entire universe, even though he is not visible to the eyes of the flesh because he is incomprehensible.

- *Theophilus of Antioch [2nd century]*

Prayer

Lord God, Father of lights, strengthen our hearts in expectation and hope as we work for unity and together seek the harmony of all creation. Let us be burning lamps, until the day of the coming of your Son in glory, with all his saints in the everlasting kingdom. Blessed are you, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

DAY 3: Mon 20th Jan: The Incarnation of the Son

He took upon himself all human passions, excluding sin. That is: he hungered who gives food to all the living. He thirsted who gives the water of life to his believers. He felt weariness who is the rest of

the weary. He slept who always kept Israel vigilant. He wept who wiped away every tear from all eyes ... He took on our passible body, so that he who is impassible might suffer with the passible body and he who is immortal might die with the mortal body, to free us who are guilty.

- *Gregory of Skevra [12th/13th centuries]*

Prayer

Lord God, our Father draw our eyes to you so that together we may walk from darkness to the light of your face, revealed to us in Jesus, your Son and our brother, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 4: Tues 21st Jan: The Paschal Mystery: Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus

God the Father was very merciful: he sent his creative Word who, in coming to deliver us, came to the very place and spot in which we had lost life, and broke the bonds of our fetters. His light appeared and made the darkness of the prison disappear and hallowed our birth and destroyed death, loosing those same fetters in which we were enchained.

- *Irenaeus of Lyon [c. 135-198]*

Prayer

Lord our God, glorifying your Son Jesus, you have freed us from death. Through his resurrection, awaken our slumbering hearts, enlighten all who seek you and make the morning star shine upon us, Jesus Christ, the Living One, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 5: Wed 22nd Jan: The Holy Spirit, the giver of life and joy

It is not correct to say that the Spirit departs when we sin to return when we are converted ... What good is it for me if he dwells in me after I have become righteous? If at the time of the fall he does not dwell in me, does not give me a hand, and does not raise me up, how will I feel his help? What physician, when he sees a sick person who falls sick, leaves and abandons

him, to come to him when he becomes healthy? Is it not more useful that the physician be with the sick person at the time of his illness?

- *Philoxenus of Mabbug [c. 440-523]*

Prayer

God our Father, you have revealed to us the wondrous mystery of your life, sending your Son into the world and sharing with us your Spirit of holiness and joy. Let us rejoice in the Spirit, who renews the face of the earth and draws us towards unity. We confess our faith in you, the One God, three times Holy: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed are you, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

DAY 6: Thur 23rd Jan : The Church: Community of Believers

The church is one, spread abroad far and wide into a multitude by an increase of fruitfulness. As there are many rays of the sun but one light, and many branches of a tree but one strength based in its tenacious root ... in the same manner the church, shone over with the light of the Lord, sheds forth her rays over the whole world, yet it is one light which is everywhere diffused, nor is the unity of the body fractured. Her fruitful abundance spreads her branches over the whole world.

- *Cyprian of Carthage [c. 210-258]*

Prayer

God of heaven and earth, your Son Jesus Christ has revealed you as our Father and promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit: grant to your Church to overcome the scandal of our divisions, so that we may bear witness to your life of communion, in the unity of our profession of faith and in the love of mutual service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY 7: Fri 24th Jan: Baptism into the Death and Resurrection of the Lord

Such is the power of faith in Christ, such the excess of his grace: As the element of fire, when it meets with ore from the mine, straightway of earth makes