

# Prayer diary for March 2017

Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March

We thank you our loving God for all that has been happening in our GFS worlds in each country. As we look back we can see your hand at work to guide all that we do. GFS in Ireland celebrated many enrolments in Kilmore Diocese. What a joy for Donacavey parish who could welcome 3 new leaders in December. We send our congratulations to Hazel Corrigan who has been appointed as the Lay Honary Secretary for the Church of Ireland General Synod and wish her well in this new role.

Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> March

We thank you for the excitement of thinking of others before ourselves as the members of GFS in USA raise money through their 'souper bowl' appeals with some very generous responses. We pray for Delores, who is to be the GFS-USA representative to the UN Commission of the Status of Women and will be able to share GFS with Honduras, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico as she attends this conference. We remember the small in numbers but very faithful members in GFS in Canada.

Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March

We reflect on the joy of Christmas as witnessed by many branches in GFS England as they joined in with a new version of the 12 days of Christmas and some Christmas Tree events. We pray for our GFS friends in Wales and think of Glenys on the road to recovery. In Australia, we celebrated with Tegan and Joel as they were joined in marriage just before Christmas and pray for their continued love in God to flourish. We pray for our New Zealand GFS women going back to University in the coming weeks.

Week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> March

We join with our GFS Japan members who have been putting so much into assisting with the World Project. Haruko Mizutani reflected on the strength of the sewing machine project going strong after 6 years. We think of the many groups around the world who have raised money at morning teas, luncheon gatherings and other events through their concern to help others and helped to give such wonderful support. We pray with our Sri Lankan GFS for the Pink Pearls group and their continued growth. We give thanks for the previous GFS world Project in South Korea in their Grace Cafes.

## April 2017

Week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> April

We look towards this Sunday when we remember Palm Sunday as our Lord entered Jerusalem with a triumphant arrival and welcome. We pray that we might welcome him into our hearts and families with this same triumphant joy and live lives that reflect this.

Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> April

AS the week unfolds we journey with our Lord through the call to remember him in the Last Supper, being forgotten by his closest friends in the Garden of Gethsemane and the torture he endured on the Cross for us. But we know of the unfathomable mystery that happened on Easter morning as

Jesus rose from the dead, taking with him our sins and bringing us salvation. This is the message of love from God that we need to share with others in our GFS groups.

Week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> April

We pray for those who are yet to know of God's love in their lives. We pray for those who will come to GFS in the coming year ready and willing to hear of God, maybe for the first time. We pray that we will have the right words to say, the love in action to share with them and for God to work within their hearts. We have many opportunities to plant this word of God, help us to be ready and willing to do this.

Week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April

We look to the theme chosen by Val – to be "Serving through GFS". Help us to find ways to forget our own selfish needs and put others first as we use our skills, talents and work to be that servant to others as modelled in the washing of the feet. Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger as we come alongside our friends, family and colleagues this week.

## May 2017

Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> May

Let us all pray for our leaders. We have leaders in all avenues – work, home, government, in GFS at our local level and up to the world level. We pray that they will seek to do God's will before their own, to use their leadership to guide peoples in right and just ways looking after those who are frail, sick, lonely, downtrodden, misjudged, marginalised and unwanted. We pray that we might show respect and loyalty where it is needed. We pray for Val as she leads us and that God will abundantly meet her needs. We pray for Thembeke as she is leading her GFS members and for the task they have before them starting in July.

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> May

We pray for those who will be journeying to Australia in July for the World Council. We pray for the travel arrangements with visa details to be organised, for bookings being made, for plans that look forward with excitement to the time to be spent with other GFS friends. We pray for those who will be at their first ever World Council and that they may quickly settle in and find some friendly faces.

Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> May

In this coming week, we pray with our friends in Ireland for the service of Celebration for 140 years of GFS in Christ Church Bray on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We give thanks for the faithfulness of the many who have journeyed with GFS over this time, for the witness and work they have left as a legacy. We pray for the next 140 years and that they will look forward with much joy.

Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> May

We pray for all our members who are in some trouble, for those who are sick, those who are lonely, missing friends or family, who have had a family breakup, who are caring for older frail friends or family, for those who have financial hardships, for those looking for work, for relief from the extremes of weather, troubled by past sins, doubting their confidence or ability. Lord fill them with

your hope, your love and wisdom as they seek to endure these times. We pray that we might step in and become the agent of change and relief that they need right now to be assured of your help through these darker days.

Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> May

We rejoice for prayers that have been answered. We lift up to you Lord our hearts with thanksgiving for all our blessings. Help us to see the delight in each new day dawning. Help us to give thanks for the people we have known who might no longer be in our lives but have made a significant difference in showing us Your love. Help us to count our blessings and not our woes when we are secure in knowing that we serve a mighty God who is full of grace and forgiveness.