

Roll the clock on to the late 80's and I am part of a 3-person team in a large west of Ireland parish. Here I did God's work but also struggled with my personal identity, celibacy, and the stereotype role of the "Priest" in Ireland at that time.

My Mam died .... I had a huge fear of being changed to another Parish, and not wanting to go. I suppose I was like a prisoner dreading the prospect of being released and all alone.

Enter the alcohol .... and when the fuse blew, I told them all to where to go (in quite colourful language), and found myself in my aunt's house in Manchester.

Re-invent the wheel and enter the Mrs. who wanted a church wedding. This happened in a Church of England church. The rest is history fuelled by the Grace of God

Two parting thoughts. Coming to Jesus is far more important than which denomination I am. However, denominations are necessary as valid means of expressing our faith in public.

Christianity is a selfish religion: The mammy says if I am no good to myself, I am no good to anyone else. Luke 13: 31-35 – The hen and chicks. From the safety (Salvation) of being under Jesus wings, everything else is an expression of gratitude.



**HMP MANCHESTER; HMP FOREST BANK; HMP BUCKLEY HALL;  
HMP & YOI STYAL; HMP YOI THORN CROSS & HMP HINDLEY**

**GREATER MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY**

**PRISON PRAYER LETTER JULY 2024**

From Sean Page , Chaplain at HMP Manchester and HMP Garth.



Here goes:

Once upon a time in a place called Castlereah, on a road without a postcode and in a house without a door number I was born, so I was. Needless to say I am referring to the west of Ireland. The year was 1958 and our house did not yet have running water or electricity installed. Light was provided by a paraffin oil (kerosene) lamp. We also had a picture of the Sacred Heart (Think of the picture in the kitchen of Mrs Brown's Boys TV show) The lamp had a warm red glow. The picture gave me a warm feeling which in a way helped me to know God is Good.

My mother prayed with me every night, even before I could speak. Her prayer was, " I have no money, give him brains". I still have no money and brains is still a work in progress.

Through my formative years I felt attracted to church, religious education, and prayer. The fact I had an active imagination, gift of the gab and a growing sense of empathy for others was also a plus. Why become a priest? I do believe I was called, and on the other hand, I would have a roof over my head, a nice cup of tea and a car. Most of all I would be spared the hurt of working through relationships with women and avoid the possibility of being hurt.

This reminds me that in my life there is no such thing as straightforward spiritual motive. As body and soul are mysteriously held together so is the process of the things I do and the reasons I do them.



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Please make cheques payable to: **GM Prison Prayer**  
and state if you would like to **Gift Aid it**

**Check out our Facebook Page or [www.gmccsupport.org](http://www.gmccsupport.org)**

## JULY 2024

- 1 We lift up J. whose husband has just died, unexpectedly, of a liver infection.
- 2 Thank you Lord for bringing D. into the Café, when he had never even heard of us.
- 3 Please bless M. as he faithfully supports his friend, newly released from Forest Bank prison.
- 4 Thank you, Lord, for the way that S. has completely put his criminal past behind him.
- 5 We lift up L. who recently lost his job. Thank you for giving him the opportunity to gain experience and send him another job soon.
- 6 Please Lord, do a miracle in the life of P. who is being taken advantage of by people pretending to help.
- 7 Thank you, Lord, for the way that you have used GMCC to help many ex-offenders to get back into society
- 8 Please keep P. safe Lord; we haven't seen her for 2 weeks..
- 9 Please take care of A's elderly Dad, who's very frail; give him strength to carry on with life
- 10 Thank you . Lord, for Noel Proctor's Ministry in HMP Manchester for so many years, and the inspiration that he was to so many prisoners.
- 11 Pray for P. recently released from prison; that he would come to the Centre and we would be able to help him
- 12 Please help J. in his anxiety and fear of danger.
- 13 Thank you, Lord, for the many people who have volunteered with the Chaplaincy Team in Strangeways over many years.
- 14 Please undertake in the life of P. as he tries to build a new life after his release.
- 15 Thank you Lord for providing the Courses that S. needs to progress into a better life,
- 16 Thank you Lord for bringing G, into contact with the experts needed to recover his failing sight.

## JULY 2024

- 17 J, is worried about their elderly friend, who is not doing well and is now in a Nursing home.
- 18 R, asks for Prayer for his friend S. .... That hurts would be healed.
- 19 Thank you Lord for K. and the many other Clients who are now in total recovery, and come into the Café as Paying Customers, to support us.
- 20 Please pray for all prisoners who experience the loss of Family Members whilst they are in prison — either through death or rejection.
- 21 S. is so grateful for the fact that, even though he spent 24 years in & out of prison, he has now been on the 'straight & narrow' for 13 years.
- 22 Please pray for N., who has now been admitted to hospital, after being ill for a long time.
- 23 We lift up R. to the Lord, as he suffers repeated rejections in his efforts to find work.
- 24 Please keep C. safe Lord — another person who has disappeared from our 'radar'.
- 25 Help our Chaplain to give inspiration to the 2 K.s as they approach their release dates.
- 26 Lord we lift up C before you and pray for his health and peace of mind as he has been through a tough week.
- 27 Please protect all inmates and prisoners against attacks of depression, hopelessness and despair.
- 28 Lord, we lift up before you any Officers, or Prison Staff, who have been involved in traumatic situations
- 29 G. says, 'Please God, bless my Family.
- 30 Please pray for N. who has been found been suffering with poor health.
- 31 Please help J. to get his money sorted, and to get justice.