

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group

December 2010

Welcome to the newly formed EMBRACE Prayer Group! It is our hope that through monthly letters we might draw attention to people, places and situations in need of prayer. Equally, we want to highlight and give thanks for the many ways in which newcomers contribute to society and our local church communities. It is our hope that by holding these issues in our prayers, we may be mindful of the ways that God is moving in and around us, and the ways that we might be called to respond.

The Nativity

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. *John 1:9*

By an ancient Irish tradition many homes used to display a candle in a window on Christmas Eve, to light the way for strangers and welcome the Holy Family.

It has been a Polish tradition for Christians to fast until the first star is visible on Christmas Eve before they start to celebrate because of the biblical association of a star with the birth of Jesus.

Along with people born on this island, we will celebrate the birth of Christ this year with Christians from many nations who now live here, from well over 100 countries.

We Give Thanks for

- People from many different countries worshipping alongside us in our churches and groups.
- Local people who are developing the ministry of hospitality and welcome.
- Pastoral leaders from other countries who give fresh insights as they minister among us.
- Volunteers and students from other countries who give their time to assist in our parishes, congregations and groups.
- Christians from denominations and groups that are new to us.
- The excitement of new Christian customs, words and music that give fresh insights about the Incarnation.

Prayer Requests:

- Many from Belfast will have noticed that the Roma are no longer selling copies of the Belfast Telegraph at traffic lights. Their contract has ended and 26 men who were earning a meager wage now have no income or means of supporting their families. This will mean significant hardship for A2 nationals (people from Romania and Bulgaria) who have no recourse to public funds including housing, benefits or welfare and who are not able to apply for other employment. There will be an increased need for community voluntary support at a time when resources are very strained.
- Please pray for the Roma families, those in the voluntary sector who are trying to support these people and the interagency groups who are trying (in spite of legal restraints) to offer what services they can.