



CHURCH OF IRELAND The Clogher Diocesan MAGAZINE

Member of the worldwide Anglican Communion

May 2020

EMPTY CHURCHES BUT THOUSANDS VIEW ONLINE SERVICES

Inside:

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JOHN BEGINS
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YOUR MAGAZINE ONLINE

Due to the restrictions enforcing social distancing and restrictions on people's movements because of the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19), it has not been possible to print this edition of the Clogher Diocesan Magazine in the normal way and instead is available free for everyone to read online.

The magazine is published on the Clogher Diocese website and will be shared on parish websites and Facebook pages.

If you know someone who cannot access the magazine this way, perhaps encourage a family member to share it with them or even print sections of the magazine for them.

For those who have taken out a subscription for the printed copy or those with a postal subscription, your payment will be frozen and will begin again once normal circumstances resume.

Views expressed in the magazine are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Magazine Committee, the Diocese of Clogher nor the Church of Ireland. The Magazine Committee reserves the right to decline any material without assigning a reason. No correspondence can be entered into regarding nonpublication of material or advertisements. Names and addresses of contributors must be provided with material submitted and may then be published. The Magazine Committee accepts no responsibility for loss, damage or the return of material..

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Next Magazine in June 2020

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Content to be sent to editor@clogher.anglican.org

Advertising rates are available upon request.

Advertising charges for material submitted in addition to the routine diocesan and parish submissions will apply.

Front Cover

Dean Kenneth Hall in an empty St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen, leading an online service for worshippers. The Cathedral will be live streaming the Sunday morning service at 11am every week. *Photo courtesy; The Impartial Reporter.*

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AS THIS ONLINE MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED, THE RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND REMAIN UNTIL REVIEWS OF THE LOCKDOWNS HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

The Republic of Ireland's cabinet is due to make an announcement by Tuesday, 5th May with some easing of the measures expected. The Northern Ireland Executive is due to make an announcement following a review by the end of the week beginning 4th May.

IN THE MEANTIME, UNTIL THERE A CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES, EVERYONE IS REMINDED TO;

STAY AT HOME

WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM OTHERS

SEEK HELP IF YOU SUFFER FROM ANY SYMPTOMS

ONLY LEAVE HOME FOR ESSENTIAL JOURNEYS

A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP



The Rt Revd John McDowell

The See House, 152a Ballagh Road, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. BT75 0QP

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Email: bishop@clogher.anglican.org

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter under very strange circumstances. The strangest and most perplexing of these is the spread of the coronavirus and the difference it is making to all our lives. It is the dominant fact in our world at present. I have no doubt that, if we all take our duties as citizens (never mind as Christians) seriously, then we will emerge as a different but not necessarily a broken society afterwards. I hope that each of us will try our best, not only to follow the public health advice that is being offered, but that we will also live out our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ, especially in his command to love our neighbour.

That may simply involve doing what everyone else, believer and non-believer, is being asked to do. But it may also involve some special task for which we have been equipped. Our discipleship of Jesus Christ will definitely require us to be constantly alert to the needs of others and of the community where God has

placed us. This is being written on 20 March when things are relatively calm and measured. It may well be that circumstances will have changed by the time you are reading this, and probably not for the better. I pray not.

I've written a good deal about coronavirus for the Diocesan website and no doubt will have to write some more as the situation develops. So, I hope you will forgive me if I say a few words now about my election as Archbishop of Armagh, which office I will take up on 28 April. One of the minor inconveniences of the present restrictions on large gatherings is that I will not have an opportunity at a farewell service to say goodbye personally. Or indeed to say hello either to my new diocese as the service of enthronement will not happen until everything settles down.

The Diocese of Clogher, and the people of Clogher have been good to me. You were patient with me as I learned to be a Bishop and I have never felt other than welcomed wherever I have gone in the Diocese. No doubt I have said and done things which some of you have not agreed with. I hope you will forgive me for those occasions when inadvertently and unknowingly or otherwise I have sinned against any of you.

It was my intention (I'm not a great believer in strategies) to try to achieve a number of priorities during my time here. The first was to provide appropriate ministry in every parish. I think that has been largely, if not wholly achieved. It can be difficult to persuade clergy and others to "come West" but when our three new incumbents (for Trory and Killadeas,

Ardess and the Ballybay Group) arrive the diocese will be as "full" as it has been for a very long time. Of course things can change quickly but I hope I have the Diocese in good shape in every sense to face into the future.

The second was to try to create a strong team of both clergy and laity working for the Diocese. In the modern world, but particularly in the Church, it is impossible to fulfil all the tasks which are laid on us, except by teamwork. Anything which I have achieved has been the result of being extraordinarily blessed in the colleagues I have had the pleasure of working with.

When I came to the Diocese in 2011, I was blessed with the friendship of Archdeacon Cecil Pringle, without whose counsel and assistance I could not have survived, much less achieved anything. Now of course ably replaced by Archdeacon Harper who has been a help and an encourager over the past number of years. And of course Mr Glenn Moore and Mrs Ashley Brown in the Diocesan Office. No diocese is more fortunate than Clogher in its administrative and financial staff.

Since coming to the Diocese, the central staff has been strengthened by an extraordinary group of very experienced and dedicated lay people, who I won't mention by name, but whose contribution has made a huge difference to our effectiveness as a Diocese.

I need also to say a thank you to my clerical colleagues who, along with Readers and DPAs provide the day to day ministry in the Diocese. I think it

is fair to say that we have worked well together and there have been very few, if any, cross words that I'm aware of. I am very grateful for the respect they have always given to the office of Bishop (leaving aside the manifold faults of the office holder). Also to members of the Diocesan Council and those individuals who have so faithfully represented Clogher on the councils of the Central Church. An enormous thank you for working with me and with others for the good of the Diocese and the Church which we love so much.

I want also to thank all those from other Christian traditions who have enriched my life and my understanding of faith in their teaching and companionship. I have enjoyed a very close friendship with many in the Catholic community; no fewer than three Bishops (Joseph Duffy, Liam McDaid and Larry Duffy) but with

others too, especially Monsignor Peter O'Reilly and Joe McGuinness and also Fr Shane McCaughey. I owe to them a gratitude that I can never repay, except in thankfulness to our Lord Jesus Christ in whom we are one by virtue of our common baptism.

Speaking for myself and my family, I can only say that we have enjoyed our time in this Diocese. We hope in our own ways that we have added something to its life just as we have received much from it. We will leave with sorrow but also with some of the happiest memories of our lives. Many friends, many kindnesses: much happiness.

When St Paul was taking his leave of the elders of the Church at Ephesus it is recorded in The Acts of the Apostles that they "...knelt down with him and prayed. There was much weeping among all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially at

what he had said, that they would not see him again". I hope at least metaphorically you will kneel with me and pray (a fair number of us would find it hard to get up on our hind legs again if we knelt for too long) a prayer of thanksgiving for all God has been to us in this little corner of his kingdom, that we call the Diocese of Clogher. I do not expect tears but may well shed some as we take the Armagh Road.

May the God of all grace bless you as you discern his will for the future. May he keep you safe in his love as you experience the difficulties of the present moment. May he fill your memories with the knowledge of all he has given you in the past, above all His limitless love shown in the death and resurrection of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN

Laus Deo

+John Clogher

Zoom meeting brings best wishes to Archbishop John

Best wishes to Archbishop John were extended by a cross section of people in Clogher Diocese on Tuesday in a surprise Zoom meeting.

Led by Mr, Glenn Moore, Diocesan Secretary and Archdeacon Brian Harper, Archbishop's Commissary, the Zoom meeting brought together almost 30 people representing clergy, diocesan staff, Diocesan Readers, Diocesan Pastoral Assistants and Diocesan Council who all wanted to thank Archbishop John for his work in the Diocese for the past nine years and wish him well as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Mr Glenn Moore, introducing the meeting, said the Zoom meeting was their only way during the current restrictions and in the absence of a farewell service and reception to say thank you for his nine years of wonderful leadership. He said it was a day tinged with sadness but also of joy as he takes up his new role. He said Archbishop John was a great leader, tremendous for his pastoral care, looking after the pastoral needs



Participants in a surprise Zoom meeting with Archbishop John (top left) on Tuesday, 28th April, his first day in the role.

of his clergy and known for his great wit, wisdom and humour.

Archdeacon Harper led a prayer for Archbishop John and those participating sent Archbishop John and his family their best wishes for the future.

Archbishop John, replying, said he ceased to be Archbishop-Elect and had become Archbishop virtual and over the past few

weeks he had been busy writing or speaking in broadcasts in the absence of an enthronement service and General Synod.

He explained how he had learned a little about rural living since moving to Clogher Diocese and said they were all reaping the benefits of that rural lifestyle now during the Coronavirus restrictions.

PARISH NOTES

Aghadrumsee, Clogh & Drumsnatt



Church Army Officer
**Captain David
Hamilton**

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Stonebridge, Clones, Co. Monaghan.
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Drawings and creations by the McVitty family.

Anniversary

We had been looking forward in Aghadrumsee to the cumulation of events celebrating our 200th Anniversary. Sadly these events have had to be cancelled or at least postponed due to the coronavirus lockdown. Whilst church buildings have at present closed their doors and we are not meeting in our buildings, we have, for those with access to the internet and Facebook, been producing services online meaning we can meet spiritually wherever and whenever the service is played.



Online services

We are hoping to continue a service of Morning Prayer on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Clogh throughout this lockdown and hope the pictures shown are a blessing to all not just our congregation until we can meet again. We are grateful to Captain David for all his efforts with this, also to Dean Raymond Ferguson who records some reflections each Sunday and to Marina, Emma and Sarah for their music. We are working on trying other activities in the future as well, so keep watching. The address to see the services are Aghadrumsee <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1533241273555876> and Clogh <https://www.facebook.com/clogh.church?ref=bookmarks>

Easter events

Over the Easter weekend we would normally have an activity for children on Good Friday cumulating in a Service in the

church. This year we are grateful to Marina Elliott for continuing this online. Special thanks to our children who responded with their drawings, poems and prayers. We joined virtually with St Patrick's Church, Monaghan for a Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion and likewise on Easter Day with Bishop John from Kiltermon Church, Fivemiletown. We thank our Bishop and Canon Berry for their words of reassurance in these challenging times.

Sympathy

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mervyn Robinson, Magheraveely and offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Caroline, sons Dean, Andrew and Matthew, daughter Wendy, daughter-in-law Yvonne, son-in-law Les, his grandchildren and his sisters Hazel and Heather.

Notice


Aghadrumsee 200th Anniversary Books still available.



Paintings by the Creighton-Clarke family members.



Aghalurcher and Cooneen with Mullaghfad



Rector: **The Revd John McClenaghan**

Colebrooke Rectory, 8 Owenskerry Lane, Killarbran, Fivemiletown, Co. Tyrone. BT75 OSP

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 E: aghalurcher@clogher.anglican.org
 E: colebrooke@clogher.anglican.org
 W: www.colebrookeparish.org

SERVICES

Each Sunday our services are available online from 10.30am on both

- www.facebook.com/colebrooke
- www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services

If you wish to follow the service, but do not currently receive by email the order of service and the appropriate readings for each Sunday, please email me at the above address, and I will add you to our list. Also, each morning of the week I read the weekday service of daily prayer (page 139 BCP) at 10.30am, and I understand that many parishioners join with me spiritually, finding comfort in the fact that there is at least one other person praying the same service at the same time, and that we are not 'alone' during this time of confinement. If you would like to join me each morning, but don't have access to a prayer book, please

email me and I will forward you an order of service for daily prayer.

Christian Burial

On Saturday 14th March 2020, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Margaret (Peggy) Rachel Atwell was held in Dowler's Funeral Home, Lisnaskea, with interment in Colebrooke Cemetery, following. Our condolences and prayers are with Doris, Nigel, Christopher and the family circle. 'Safe in the arms of Jesus'

On Tuesday 17th March 2020, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Gordon Morrow was held in St John's, Fivemiletown (kindly granted), with interment in the adjoining church cemetery. Our condolences and prayers are with Ena, Lillian, Hazel, Noel, Leean and their families. 'The day thou gavest Lord has ended.'

Aghavea



Rector: **Revd Johnny McLoughlin**

The Rectory, 256 Belfast Road, Lurgan, Brookeborough BT94 4DS

Tel. 028 8953 1210
 Email: aghavea@clogher.anglican.org

What is Church?

Imagine that for a headline in the Diocesan Magazine! However, in many ways, that is what we've been faced with since the Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic took effect

on our lives. When the first news broke of the new disease at the very end of 2019, we never believed that almost four months and 9260 miles later we would be in the greatest emergency lockdown since the Second World War. We have been forced to consider how we live our daily lives, how we buy our groceries, and even how we make Church work in this new world order. "Church" was never intended to describe a building where people would meet once a week, but the very people who live and worship both within that building and in their daily lives. "We" are the Church, the Christians who make up our congregations both in our denomination and in every denomination around the world that describes itself as Christian. For the past year, everything we did seemed to revolve around the renovation works going on at the church building, and we (as a

congregation) overcame that challenge with great success. We were able to continue to worship together in the Parish Hall, and work together to great effect. We need to consider this challenge on the same terms, this time as a physical inconvenience that affects more than just our Sunday location. It didn't take me long to realise that Aghavea Parish is a family parish, filled with folks who are filled with love and concern for each other; that's exactly the attitude and value that we need to make it through this crisis.

How are we coping?

As the rector, I've been streaming services online through Facebook. I've been delighted to have been joined in the Sunday services by our parish reader, David Atwell. If you don't have a Facebook account – don't panic!

The services are also available through our parish website: Aghavea.blogspot.com. The services are streamed live each day at 11.30am and 5.30pm. When streaming services online, I'm delighted to be able to go outside and about when recording – and I have included a picture of my usual setup out in the back yard. I've also been known to stream from the front of my pickup! Not everyone is online, and my thoughts are still very much with those who can't follow the services, and I have been phoning around many of our folks to check on them each week. I'm aware as I've been phoning folks that other parishioners are also contacting friends and parishioners in the parish too. It has been a great encouragement to hear of the determination and resilience of our parishioners to keep themselves safe, yet be concerned for the safety and wellbeing of others. We have offered support to everyone in our community, and in Brookeborough the clergy (Revd Daphne Hannah, Methodist Church and Pastor Nathan Johnston, Elim Church) are regularly in touch, working with each other. There is also a team of workers in the village who will bring groceries and medications to anyone in the area – and we thank the village shops and pharmacy for their support during this difficult time too. If you need anything, simply call the shops and ask for help – and if you get no satisfaction, let me know at the rectory.

Holy Communion

One of the biggest challenges that I've faced has been around celebrating Holy Communion. The Bishop provided a pastoral letter that outlined the spiritual significance of the act of Celebration, and that our "virtual" presence would ensure that we would receive the same blessings as if we were physically present at the service. At the same time, a clergy friend in Felixstowe, England, shared a prayer that he had read in a service from the Apartheid period in South Africa.

The word "apartheid" has come to mean the period during which coloured members of South Africa were persecuted by the predominantly white ruling class. The word really means "apartness", or the fact that we cannot come together. The prayer that he shared reflects the time when Christians (especially mixed congregations) couldn't worship together for fear of persecution and was used by those who were not physically at the service. I have used it as a prayer immediately after I receive the sacraments in our online service, as a means of including everyone in the act of celebration. The prayer is as follows:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.



Blood of Christ, refresh me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Let me never be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me
and bid me come to you
that with your saints I may praise you
for ever and ever. Amen

Going Forward

My prayer is that you feel connected to our acts of worship. We will continue to celebrate Holy Communion each Sunday morning until we are able to meet safely as a church again, in one physical location rather than virtually. The Sunday service is at 11am each Sunday morning as usual, and will also include prayers for those on our prayer list. If you have someone who needs prayer, or even for yourself during these difficult times, please let me know at aghavea@gmail.com, through Facebook, or simply by phone (probably the easiest for many folks). I will also be streaming a short service of Wholeness and Healing, from our Book of Common Prayer, on a Wednesday evening from 22nd April. This is the service that we normally host in the Lady Brooke Hall in the

village on the fourth Sunday evening each month, but given the current circumstances, we probably need it a little more regularly. We will continue to uphold everyone in prayer, and offer our complete support to anyone who is affected in any way during this period of isolation. We don't know when this period will end – as I compose the notes, we have been told that we will be isolated until at least the middle of May, and there are no details of the exit strategy or timetable. Don't worry – the buildings are closed, but the Church is as open as ever! We are not closed – we are still open for business! We will survive this period, and come out stronger on the far side!

Final thoughts

As I've been reading online about the isolation period, I came across two thoughts that "tickled my funny-bone", one a phrase, the other a cartoon:

Some people are referring to this period as a lockdown, simply because they cannot spell "kwaranteen"!



Ballybay, Clontibret & Muckno

Vacant.

**In charge: Chancellor Ian Berry,
(Rural Dean)**

**Pastoral Care: Chancellor Ian Berry (Rural
Dean), Revd James Stevenson and Mr
Walter Pringle (DPA).**

Prayers

We remember in our prayers all those from our parish who has been unwell, at home and in hospital. We pray for anyone who has been affected by the Coronavirus and we pray for all our frontline workers who are doing an amazing job.

Jesus Christ,
you travelled through towns and villages 'curing every disease and illness.' At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.
May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your



eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist

and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Exam Time

It is a very anxious time for all sitting their exams in school this year especially the leaving cert students. We wish them well with their home studying and hope they don't get too stressed.

Christ Church

We are delighted with our new driveway up and around Christ Church. Thank you to all for helping make this possible. Our next project is our church hall and we would hope to get started on fund raising for that in the near future.

Coronavirus

Due to the corona virus our church and hall will remain closed until further notice.

Carrickmacross Union, Magheraclone and Ardragh



Rector:
**The Revd
Colin McConaghie**

The Rectory, Drumconrath Road,
Carrickacross, Co.Monaghan.

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E: carrickmacross@clogher.anglican.org

The Rector Writes

By the time these notes are published in the online version of this magazine I will have celebrated three years as Rector of this Group of Parishes. When I first met parishioners from the three churches the one word that stood out for me, and the word that made me certain this was where God was leading me to be, was 'potential.' If you look for a definition of the word potential you may find something like "having or showing the capacity to develop into something in the future." It is I would suggest the prayer of every incumbent that their new parishioners would be people who yearn to grow who see the potential of what God can do through them and building on the foundations laid down by faithful clergy who have gone before. Over the past three years

that has become our vision as a church as we have sought to grow in faith, in unity, in love and in number.

Of course not everything we have tried over the past three years has been a success but we have been willing to try and to trust.

In many ways we have been like Peter throwing his leg over the side of a boat in the midst of a lake, uncertain of what the outcome would be but knowing if Jesus was with us it was worth the risk.

For over a year we sought God's vision for our parishes and a plan was drawn up under the guise of our '20/20 Vision' in which we had three main objectives for this year; to deepen our faith, to reassess our giving and to become more community focused. Programmes were set out for the year and we had key measures in place to

Easter pack for parishioners.



Donations to the Food bank.

see the vision grow – but then the world changed, and our community changed and our church had to change due to Covid-19. Plans that seemed so right were thrown into turmoil, events cancelled and the freedom of meeting together gone.

Restrictions set in place for the better good of our nation have not come without a cost. Jobs have been lost or put on hold, finances are strained and the loneliness of not interacting with people is real. Like everyone else in society our plans as a church and how we actually do and are 'church' has changed. In such circumstances it may seem easy to say everything is on hold, but even in turmoil God opens doors of opportunity. There is still the chance to throw your leg over the side of the boat even if the lake seems even choppy and uncertain than it did before.

So we look for potential once again, potential in how we must all live for now and we pray and ask God to open different doors. Technology has been a blessing that has enabled us to reach our community by bringing worship right into their homes. There have been opportunities to serve our community through the Foodbank and as a church community we have grown closer even by being physically apart through phone calls, WhatsApp group and texts. People looking out for and encouraging one another. Perhaps we have needed this time to realise that church is not about buildings but rather people and community and we are reminded that Jesus is often found the most in the midst of choppy, uncertain waters – we just have to see the potential.

Online Worship

During the restrictions on public gatherings we are worshipping together online. Services are broadcast on Facebook Live on our

page Carrickmacross Group Church of Ireland.

Services are on Sunday mornings at 11am and Thursday evenings at 8pm.

Sunday services are following our regular pattern:

- Sunday 3rd May – Morning Prayer
- Sunday 10th May - Holy Communion
- Sunday 17th May – Arise and Shine
- Sunday 24th May – Holy Communion
- Sunday 31st May – Service of the Word

We also have daily Bible readings brought to us by parishioners which are available each day (bar Sunday and Thursday) at 6pm on our Facebook page.

Caring For One Another

Revd Colin as well as a number of parishioners are available to collect and deliver groceries, medical supplies or any other essential needs to anyone who is cocooning or simply wary about going out to the shops. Please contact Revd Colin at any time if you need any help at all.

We encourage parishioners to continue to pray for one another and to keep in contact via phone or messages to encourage one another while we are staying at home.

We pray especially for the many from our churches who are in the frontline whether in the health service, carers, essential retail or essential services.

Carrickmacross Food Bank

With many local businesses temporarily closed the Foodbank lost its regular collection points. We were able to offer St Finbarr's as a drop off point for donations until the restrictions were tightened.

Currently people are able to drop donations off at the Rectory front steps.

We have also been helping the Foodbank

with deliveries to families who are struggling financially at this time and also to vulnerable people who cannot risk going out.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Foodbank.

Sunday School And Youth Group

With both Sunday School and youth Group being unable to meet we have been producing a weekly resource which is emailed to parents and is also available via our Facebook Page. The Sunday School materials follow the same readings as we study in church each Sunday and contain activities, prayers and imaginative ways to look at the reading.

Revd Colin is producing a weekly reflection for our young people using a movie theme each week. The reflections encourage the young people to keep praying as well as giving some ideas of activities for during the restrictions.

Worship Resources

Over the Easter weekend each household received Easter Eggs, an activity booklet and a worship booklet for the Easter Services. This was a follow up to the Covid-19 Resource booklet that was delivered to all homes in the parish along with a plant for Mothering Sunday.

These resources contain prayers and orders of services for people to either join our online worship or for those without WIFI coverage to pray and worship in their homes.

There was also a message from Revd Colin along with the resources.

It is hoped that a further resource booklet will be made available in May if restrictions continue beyond the current date of 6th May.



Sunday School activity.

Congratulations

We pass on our congratulations to Craig and Natalie following the birth of their first child Harry. We are enjoying the photos which Harry's dotting parents have been sharing in our church Whatsapp Group.



Cleenish & Mullaghduin

Rector:
The Revd Canon Geoffrey Bridle

Cleenish Rectory, Bellanaleck, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. BT92 2BA

T: 028 66 348259
E: cleenish@clogher.anglican.org
W: www.cleenishparish.weebly.com

Notice

Due to the present Coronavirus19 situation, all church services and organisations are cancelled for the immediate future.
If urgent assistance is required contact

Canon Bridle 02866 348259. Rosemary Forde in Cleenish 02866 322795 or Heather Carson in Mullaghduin 028 6632 3390 See also B.C.G., Reps below.

C & M Prayer Connect

Sometimes it is only when something is taken away from us, that we begin to realise just how valuable it is. Up to very recently as part of the "People of God" we all had the opportunity of coming to Church together to worship God. Now, due to the Coronavirus – Covid 19 because of the need for "social distancing" we are unable to do so. People can carry it and not be aware of doing so. For those of you who can go online there is a weekly Service available each Sunday on the Cleenish website; <http://cleenishparish.weebly.com>.

Personal Injury

Jim Clements who is a prominent member of Mullaghduin Select Vestry, suffered a serious leg injury when attending cattle on Wednesday evening 15th April. He was admitted to the South West Acute Hospital and following treatment will be required to

go for further surgery at Altnagelvin Hospital in Londonderry. The parishioners from Mullaghduin wish Jim a speedy recovery.

Illness

Pauline Smyth, a former Parish Reader and Choir Member in Cleenish, has at time of writing been admitted to Hospital. The members of Cleenish Parish wish Pauline a speedy recovery and trust she will soon be returned to her former good health.

Bereavement

The Church family at Mullaghduin and the entire local community were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Emily Gallagher. Emily, formerly Elliott and her husband Tommy, both natives of Garrison, moved from Templefferin, Belcoo to Drumconlan East, Letterbreen with their young daughters, Ann and Eveline in the mid 1960's. The birth of Pearl in 1967 completed the family. Regular attendance at Mullaghduin was important to the Gallagher family where, over the years, Tommy served the parish as Sexton, Churchwarden, Glebewarden and as a member of the Select Vestry. Emily



Mr. Stanley Moffatt working on a new car park area at Mullaghduin Church.

and Tommy built up a happy family home where neighbours and friends received a warm welcome to visit and in due course sons-in-law and grandchildren were added to the family circle. Sadly, Emily's health deteriorated recently and following some time in the South West Acute Hospital she died peacefully at her home on 1st April. We express sympathy to Emily's husband Tommy; her daughters, Ann, Eveline and Pearl; her sons-in-law, Ivan, Jim and Nigel; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the wider family circle. Because of the current circumstances it was not possible for the local and wider community to attend Emily's funeral which took place to Mullaghduin Churchyard on 3rd April.

Sympathy

We express condolences from Cleenish Select Vestry to Trevor Kingston and his family circle, on the recent death of his dear mother, a devoted grandmother and great-grandmother (peacefully) at the Tilery Nursing Home, Florencecourt, in her 101st year. Trevor's colleagues in the Vestry stood in silence at the Five Points on Tuesday 14th April, as the cortege passed on its way to Swanlinbar

Church of Ireland graveyard.

Mullaghduin Car Park

Stanley Moffatt has recently been involved working with his mini digger, tractor and trailer excavating the foundations for the newly proposed Car Park alongside the road up to Mullaghduin Church. As a sole agent, the Select Vestry are very thankful for the major task Stanley has undertaken. See photos.

Bellanaleck Community Group

All meetings are now suspended. The Group sends out a reminder that the River Erne including, the Play Area, and M.U.G.A., in Bellanaleck are all now closed. Should any parishioner in Cleenish require assistance contact Owen Wilson 02866 349602, or Sharon Elliott 077325 21533.

Christian Burial

Friday 3rd April

Emily Gallagher, Drumconlan East, Letterbreen. Aged 86 years.

Clogher Cathedral Group



Rector:
The Revd Olivia
Downey

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Clogher, Co. Tyrone. BT76 0AD

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Diocesan Pastoral Assistant:

Miss Isobel Stewart

Non-Stipendiary Minister

Rev. Margaret Pringle

A note from the rector – The Original and Best Antidote and Vaccine.

As I write these notes lockdown continues. As Church we have journeyed through Lent, celebrated Easter in a way which none of us could ever have contemplated before. On the second Sunday of Easter we paused as we considered together the 'first lockdown' ever recorded in scripture when we joined the disciples on the first Easter Sunday evening huddled behind locked doors in fear.

Perhaps this scene has more resonance with us at this present time than it has ever done before. Yet Jesus come among his beloved friends, knowing exactly what is going on for each of them. He meets them at the point of their need. He addresses the thick dense cloud of fear and dispels it with four simple words "peace be with you," and showed his friends his hands and side. A week later when we revisit the scene, and

yet again though the doors are locked, Jesus comes and stands in the middle of his bewildered friends, this time addressing the common human complaint of unbelief. Again knowing what makes each individual tick so to speak, Jesus not only speaks, not only shows his wounds, but also gives the invitation to touch them saying "do not disbelieve, but believe."

Wherever you are reading this today, Jesus is the same today as He was with His disciples and as He will be when He comes to finally judge this world. Jesus knows exactly what is going on in our hearts and minds – He after all is the one who put us together. And Jesus is still the only one who has the antidote for all fear, disbelief and indeed any concern which burdens the human soul. If we seek Him, Jesus still speaks, He still shows, He still invites us to reach out to Him and see that He is real. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, we are God's handiwork, created to do

His will and in doing so live life to the full. We were not created to be locked away either physically or emotionally, we were not created to live in crippling fear, nor to be robbed of true joy, peace and fulfilment by the thief of disbelief, this was never in our original plan. So, today Jesus stands in front of you, right in the middle of whatever storm you may be encountering, and He offers you Himself, just as He did with his disciples – open your eyes, your heart and reach out to Him today, for Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, His love was so great for YOU that he gave His life for you.

News Around our Parishes!

There has been a lot going on in our parishes over the last weeks.

Congratulations

On Monday 20th April, although confined by lockdown Wilfred and Jean Bell from St. Mark’s Parish Newtownsaville celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The rector and parishioners send their heartiest congratulations to the much loved and respected couple.

N.I Scrubs – thank you

Some weeks ago the rector appealed for fabric to make additional scrubs for our hospital and community frontline staff. This appeal was met with immense generosity not only from our own parishes but also from parishes and individuals from across our diocese and denominations. So a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this. One lady upon not having anything to donate actually went to a supermarket and purchased packets of blue bed sheets – that is a generous heart that I know the Lord will bless.



Our very cherished St. Mark’s Newtownsaville parishioner, Mrs Violet Clark who celebrated her 100th birthday last Autumn and who is now resident in St. Macartan’s Nursing Home sends some good advice to us all at this time entitled “Advice for the younger generation.”



Mrs Hilary Keys sewing at home scrubs and laundry bags for frontline staff to bring their uniforms home in (Hilary has made 130 bags to date) and facemasks.

Online Broadcasts
 The rector’s online broadcasts continue with a short reflection on Wednesday evenings at 8pm and a Service on Sunday mornings at 11am, all available on the Clogher Diocese Facebook page and the Clogher Cathedral Official Facebook Page.



Wilfred and Jean Bell who have celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary (above and right).



Clones, Killeevan, Currin and Newbliss



Rector:
**The Revd
Roy Taylor**

The Rectory,
Scotshouse,
Clones,
Co. Monaghan.

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T: 089 2239646

During this period of 'lockdown' I have had the privilege of being able to telephone around our parishioners and to keep in contact despite the restrictions on movement that we have all had to face. Another 'job' I have tackled (at least to some degree) during this time is 'decluttering', which is something I think many of you might have been doing too! For me, this tidying-up process has included sorting through the books on my bookshelves – and a couple of days ago I came across one small pocketbook about

which I had forgotten, called "Life Is Short, Pray Hard". It brought a smile to my face since it had been a present from a good friend quite a few years ago now, and so I decided to have a look at it again. In fact, the book is basically a collection of sayings found on road signs outside churches in the USA – put together by a couple called Mary and David Compton – and as I read these sayings, I found that they offered me lots of 'food for thought'. It occurred to me that they might do the same for you too, so here are my favourite 12 (in no particular order) of the several hundred contained in the book:

- Your life might be the only Bible some folks read.
- Improve your outlook by looking up.
- If God had a wallet, your picture would be in it.
- I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.
- If you feel far away from God, who moved?
- God's retirement plan is out of this world.
- Today is a gift from God. That's why it's called "The Present".
- The closest distance between a problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.
- Be the soul provider for your children.
- Jesus invested his life in you – have you shown any interest?
- Satan subtracts and divides. God adds and multiplies.

- Is God your steering wheel or your spare tyre?

Well, I hope that you find some useful thoughts and challenges in the sayings above – they may have come from my decluttering process, but perhaps they offer some serious points for our consideration as we go through the current health crisis and head into the next stage of our life's journey. There will no doubt be all sorts of changes ahead for each one of us – but amidst all the uncertainty that we are facing at the moment, we can surely have the quiet assurance of faith that, if we hold fast to Christ and seek to serve him in unity and love, we need have no fear. Our God of resurrection life is with us always, weaving His plan for our salvation – so let us just pray with confidence that he will bless us all richly as we travel onwards together.

Roy

PS. We have started a WhatsApp group for our parishes – which gives us the opportunity to share all kinds of thoughts, prayers, resources, etc. that we think might be helpful to each other. Please call the Rector on 0892239646 if you are not part of the group at the moment but would like to join.

Colaghty



Rector:
**The Revd Canon
Alan Irwin**

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E: colaghty@clogher.anglican.org

Services

"Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together." Psalm 34: 3. Services will be posted, (DV) on our new Facebook page, (Colaghty Parish Church, Lack) on Sunday mornings, until advised otherwise by the

Diocese. Can I encourage you, were it is possible, (under public health guidance) to share the services with others who don't have social media or internet access. We acknowledge and thank those who record and post our weekly church services for our parishioners and many others to join with us as they remain in their homes with their families.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." Colossians 3: 16. While services are posted online at present, worship still happens; God is in our midst wherever we meet at this time, for worship is not confined to a building. The benefits of podcasts, live streaming, Zoom, Team or Facebook have their place, but they should not replace assembling for worship together as scripture reminds us. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10: 24 – 25 NKJV

Coronavirus-COVID 19

"Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved." Psalm 62: 1 – 2
Coronavirus-COVID 19 has become the topic of conversation for many, though it might be said, there are still some who are complacent even with the official updates and messages from individuals who have shared their experiences of how it affected them. How we do things has changed, with restrictions limiting movement and interaction with others. The 'not knowing' raises many more questions of which answers are either limited if at all, or just mere speculation and in all probability created greater fears and anxiety. The Psalmist reminds us in God alone; no one else can give rest to the troubled soul, to the soul that is weighted down with fear, loss and uncertainty, to set aside anxiety and distraction by taking account of God "But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."



Attending the Confirmation event in Colaghty Parish Hall.



Isiah. 40: 31 The need to rely on God in all circumstances, as David reminds us why, because God, He alone is our rock. The solid rock on which to stand but sometimes we slip from the rock unto sinking sand. The more we wrestle and struggle, the more we sink deeper and deeper, until the realisation hits us we need to be still, to be at rest, to be calm and let God speak to us in whatever circumstances we find ourselves in at this time. When we put our trust in God, trusting Him to be our rock, our fortress, our defence, our salvation will change our entire outlook on life. We can cast aside those things, which are holding us captive at this moment, those things, which are quenching our spirit, those things, which stifle our focus. To find rest in God's strength, to find again He is our hope, in Him is salvation a place of safety a defence against the darkness of this world through which hope shines forth to all who believe and trust in His Son Jesus Christ.

Appreciation

The 'Stay at Home Policy, Save Lives and protect the NHS' is the key message articulated daily. Many of us have always been supportive of the NHS, always thankful to the admiral service they provide to the community, when key medical assistance is required without criticism. At this present time, they continue their respective roles under stricter and at a greater personal risk than would initially be expected. We express our thanks to all on in our hospitals, hospice care, home care assistants, pharmacy, GP practices, and would remind them of our support and prayers, as we are mindful of many within our own parish who are part of the team. The overwhelming response to support for the NHS and frontline services is evident as we see and hear from the media as many use their skills to assist or give financial support, to which we offer our

thanks. I am aware of those within our parish family who are making masks, and scrubs for frontline staff, in home care, hospice and hospitals. They work quietly in the background using their skills, not seeking praise or thanks, no trumpets blowing, but seeking to be of service at this time of need. On behalf of us all, we thank you.

To the many individuals, community groups and others with financial and charitable assistance, who are delivering food parcels to those who are isolating and are in need. To the various shops, individuals and others who have donated food items to assist with this charitable outreach. We are equally grateful to all in food processing, agriculture, supermarkets, local shops, garages and those in warehouses who ensure that we have enough food for to sustain us through. To those in government, health ministers, medical advisors, virologists who are seeking a way through, as information becomes known. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers," 1 Thess. 1: 2a



Confirmation event

As promised in last month's magazine, some photographs of the night held in Tubrid Parish Hall. Thanks again to everyone who attended, assisted and participated on the night.

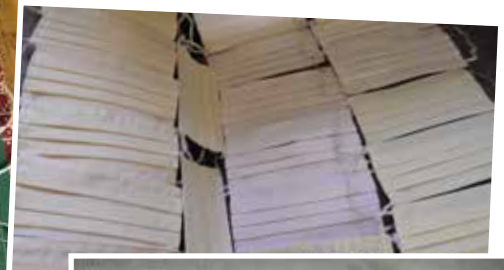
Activities/planned events

Due to the current restrictions in place around prevention of the coronavirus – COVID 19 pandemic, these planned events have been either cancelled, postponed or are under review, and may be changed, as per Public Health and Diocesan guidance. Changes will be notified as they arise and can be found our Facebook page, Colaghty Parish Church Lack.

Dates for your diary

2020

- 2nd May Annual Parish Auction – POSTPONED
- 7th June Confirmation 11.30am - POSTPONED
- 18th July Bible Activity Day 9.30am – 1.00pm – UNDER REVIEW
- 25th July Parish Barbecue – UNDER REVIEW
- 9th – 11th October Harvest weekend



Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale



Rector:
The Revd Canon
Paul Thompson

The Rectory, Enniskillen Road, Irvinestown
BT94 1BD.
T: 028 68621890
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Services

During this period, although public worship is not possible we are still able to follow the Biblical teaching found in the letter to the Hebrew 10:25 of “not neglecting to meet together” but we have to apply it differently given our situation. Through our online services, wherever we are and whenever we share in them we are still united in worship and prayer. Since the beginning of this period the Rector had been able to upload recorded services to Facebook – to a page called “Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale” There is a Service each Wednesday evening, which is usually the Late Evening



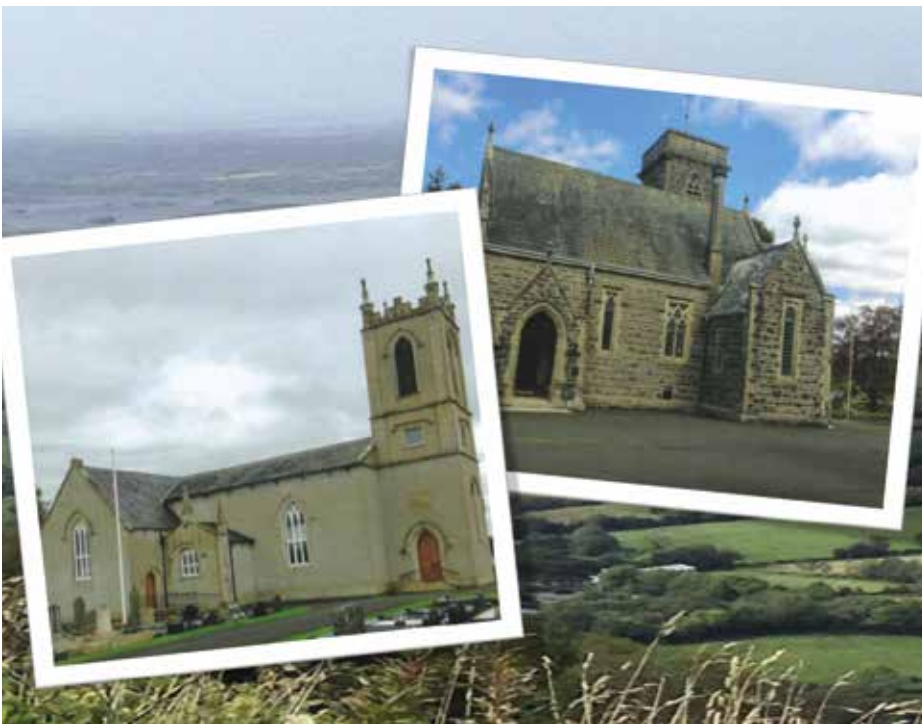
Office from the Book of Common Prayer. This is a thoughtful way to end the day and receive some spiritual nourishment in the course of the week. Each Sunday the Service of Morning Prayer is uploaded (Holy Communion for the Festivals) and these include musicians from both parishes as well as people reading the Bible too. The most recent addition has been photos and videos of flowers from peoples’ homes and gardens – we have always enjoyed the lovely displays in our churches and having these as part of the video Services is a lovely way of still enjoying creation. It has been very helpful to have the videos

also available on the Diocesan internet page so that those who do not have Facebook are still able to see them and also share in the worship. It has also been very helpful for others without internet access to have had radio Services to share in. While the church buildings are not open for public worship and we are unable to gather as we once did, each Sunday, in addition to the recorded services, the Rector currently goes to both Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale and makes a short prayer video outside each building so that we are able to continue to have a link with these special places and also so that the pattern of prayer at each church continues.

World Day of Prayer

It seems a long time ago now, but back on Friday 6th March the World Day of Prayer Service was observed – this year the Service was hosted by the Roman Catholic Church and held in the Sacred Heart Church, Irvinestown. The Service was a very thoughtful one followed by an enjoyable supper held in St Paul’s Primary School. The Service was led by women from all the churches and was attended also by Fr Kevin (Devenish PP) and Canon Paul (Rector). Our thanks to the organising committee and especially to Mrs Carol Clarke our parishes’ member on the group.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen’s initiative and has as a motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.” It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the



FOODBANK



In this time of developing crisis, if you are able to donate any non-perishable food to the ARC Healthy Living Centre, Irvinestown please get in touch with the team there. Thank you. 028 6862 8741

Holy Week Calendar

Wednesday 8th – Night Prayer of Holy Week. Jesus speaks of the betrayal that is to come

Maundy Thursday 9th – Holy Communion, recalling the institution of the Sacrament in the Upper Room and the call to serve others. It will end with the traditional stripping of the Altar, accompanied by the reading of Psalm 88, which marks the move towards Good Friday.

Good Friday 10th – In the afternoon, part 2 of the Bite Sized Bible Series will be uploaded. – in the evening there will be the Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day 12th – Holy Communion of Easter, "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Regarding Holy Communion, the Bishop has explained that the teaching found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 440, applies in our circumstances.

"Spiritual Communion – those who are incapable to receive the sacrament are to be assured that, although not receiving the elements in the mouth, they are by faith partakers of the blood of Christ and of the benefits he conveys to us by them."

year. This year the planning of the worship was carried about by women in Zimbabwe.

The Foodbank at the ARC, Irvinestown

The Foodbank is unfortunately needed throughout the year and in Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale we have been supporting it for some time. With the economic impact of the shutdown, need for the Foodbank has increased and at the time of writing the number of people being supported each week has risen to 133 – a figure that is going up each week. Jenny and the Team at the Arc Healthy Living Centre do a wonderful job, not only in the Foodbank but also in the Chit-Chat (telephone support) Programme and before the shutdown in many other community programmes too. The members of all the local churches, local businesses and individuals have been helping provide food and household items for the Foodbank.

Pastoral Support

As pastoral visitation to people at home is

not currently permitted, the Rector and the Diocesan Pastoral Assistants have been telephoning people instead and this will continue for the duration of the current crisis – it has been important to be able for them to talk, share and pray with people in this way so that the pastoral ministry of the Church continues. There has also been various forms of pastoral support offered via his Facebook page too – one example is that of a prayer given to the Rector by Mrs Paula Moore, who had received it from a relative. He uploaded it on a suitable background and the words seemed to offer to many people the sentiments they wanted to bring to God in prayer. A picture of this prayer has been included. There have also been photographs uploaded to the page, often included in previous editions of this diocesan magazine, of happy events and occasions to give us a little boost in these days – BB 40th anniversary, pictures of the beautiful interiors of the churches, a baptism. These all can help give us a smile and remind us that we will gather together again and enjoy such days once more.

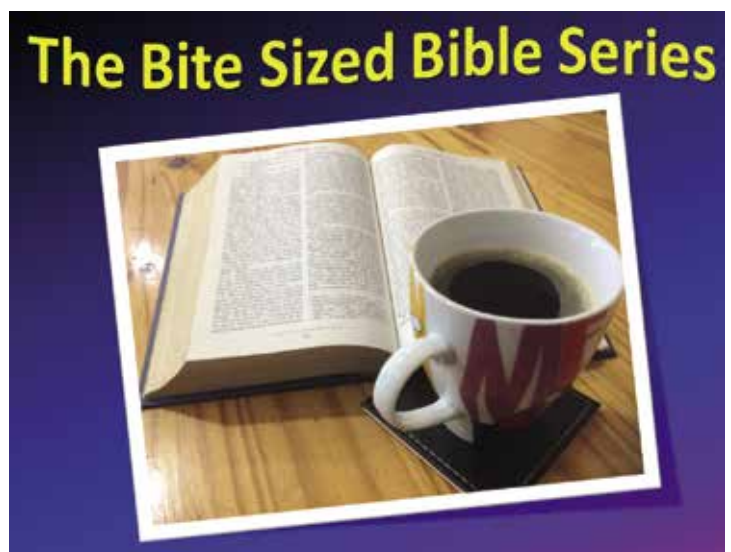
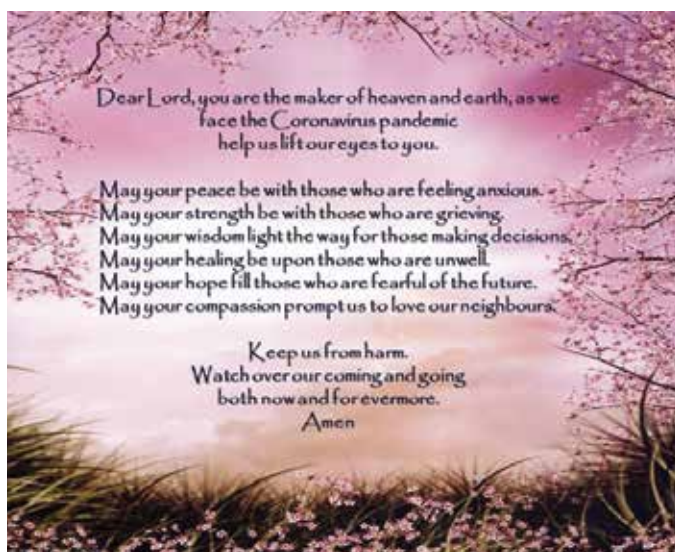
Bite Sized Bible Series

Each week the Rector has prepared and uploaded a short Bible Study – part of a Bite Sized Bible Series. These sessions aim to offer a time of spiritual nourishment each week. We are quite correctly urged to maintain our well-being in appropriate ways in these days of crisis but we must not forget that the Bible teaches we are body, mind and spirit and that each needs to be kept healthy (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Learning from and about the Scriptures, as well as sharing in worship, is part of this spiritual nourishment and spiritual exercise. The passage of Scripture currently being studied is Matthew chapter 5, verses 1-11, the portion known as the Beatitudes.

From the registers

Christian Burial

- 28th March, Violet Elizabeth Jane Robinson (Derryvullen North)
- 31st March, Robert John (Jack) Anderson (Derryvullen North, burial in Templecarne)



Devenish & Boho



Diocesan Curate:
**The Revd
Sampson Ajuka**

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We are living in very strange times with all our churches closed due to the Coronavirus. At this time we think in particular of people living alone. There is considerable evidence of parishioners keeping in contact with each other by telephone, texting, Whats App and on line. It is also important to maintain contact with friends and neighbours, who have no church connections at this time. We also have more opportunities to meet our neighbours when walking in our beautiful countryside, always bearing in mind social distancing. While people are missing the fellowship of normal church services, many people have been blessed by the online services from across the Diocese and from further afield including renewing contact with former Rectors.

We wish to express our thanks to all the doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, care assistants and all other workers in National Health Services and in the private Health

sector. We also wish to thank other key workers including, Chemists, Police, all involved in food production, Transportation, Farmers and Council workers. Thank you to all the volunteers who help the vulnerable and who are making PPE for the Health service.

Message from Revd Sampson

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, as we go through these difficult times together, I just want to use this opportunity to encourage everybody to remain resolute and not to be overwhelmed by the sufferings caused by Covid-19, instead, we have to make use of this opportunity to draw closer and closer to God knowing that He alone understands what is going on in the world more than we do, and that He alone has the solution to the trouble we are in and possess the power to overcome this invisible enemy.

In this our time of isolation and trials, we need to develop more character worthy of the people of God. As Helen Keller who was an American educator and advocate for the blind and deaf said, "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

Therefore, as we go through this experience of trials and sufferings, we need to allow it to strengthen our soul, clear our vision, inspire our ambition and achieve for us a greater success; instead of allowing it to weigh us down, we should use this present suffering to create a better future for ourselves. As it is, understand that this moment of crisis will pass.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into

this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us (Romans 5:1-5).

I am praying for you and please do pray for me. May God bless us. Amen!

Mothers' Union

Dear Mothers' Union members, so much has happened recently as COVID-19 has been declared a pandemic and governments have advised for us to take precautions. It is now some months since we have been able to meet but I hope and pray that everyone is well and staying in during this time. These constraints are particularly testing especially when they have curtailed visits to family and friends. Let us take encouragement from this Mothers' Union prayer.

Loving Lord, we pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and for all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of virus.

We pray for misinformation to be curbed that fear may take no hold in hearts and minds.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness towards us. Amen

If anyone would like any form of support, don't hesitate to contact me.

Please keep safe and well until we meet again, Georgina.

Derrygonnelly and District Community Partnership

This group is providing help in the Derrygonnelly, Boho, Springfield, Churchill and Monea areas during Coronavirus pandemic.

Please pass on to those without access to social media.

If you or someone you know needs ESSENTIAL goods like groceries, food or prescriptions delivered, please contact;

Éadaoin Love 07799 148 196

Gillian Rutherford 07766 251 748

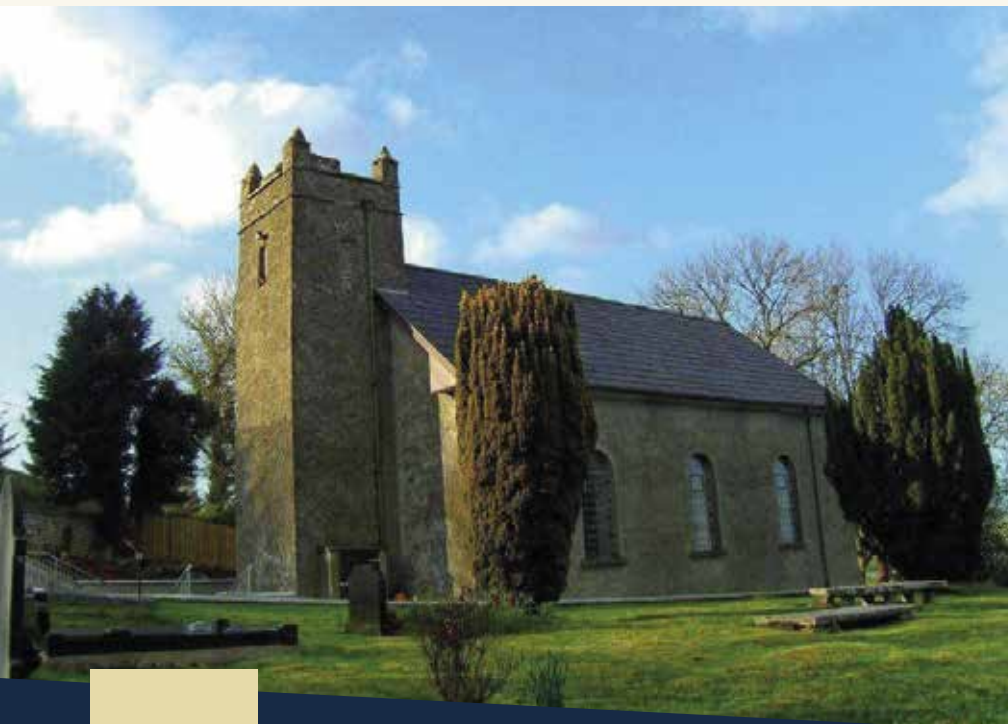
John McGovern 07764 615 695

Norma Ferguson 07895750448

Michelle McCauley 07713 351 687

David Bailey 07974 221 331

A list of 70 volunteers who are ready and willing to help. Thank you all.



Maunder Money

Congratulations to Trevor Smith who was a recipient of Maundy money from Her Majesty, the Queen marking his contribution to his church and community.

Trevor Smith, a member of Boho Parish Church, received his Maundy money by Royal Mail Special Delivery as the special service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, could not be held because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Trevor was nominated by the Bishop of Clogher for his Christian service.

The Queen has each year distributed special Maundy money to pensioners across the United Kingdom in a service to commemorate Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper following a tradition that dates back to 600 A.D.

This year, the Queen sent Maundy money to 94 men and 94 women, the number of each reflecting her age.

Trevor and all the other recipients were given two small leather purses, one red and one white. One of them contained a small amount of ordinary coins symbolising the Sovereign's gift for food and clothing and the second purse containing Maundy coins to the value of the Sovereign's age.

Trevor Smith was a member of the teaching



Trevor Smith

staff of Portora Royal School (now Enniskillen Royal Grammar School), for 47 years retiring as Vice-Principal in August 2019.

At Boho Parish Church, Trevor is a member of the Vestry and regularly helps out with practical tasks around the church to ensure it

is ready for worship each Sunday.

Congratulations

We congratulate and extend our good wishes to Bishop John on his appointment as Archbishop of Armagh and thank him for his work in the Diocese.

Donagh & Tyholland with Errigal Truagh



Part-Time
Stipendiary Minister:
**The Revd
Lorraine Capper**

The Rectory, 3 Castlebalfour Road,
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Calm in the Storm

None of us could ever have conceived of the days we now find ourselves living through. Many people are anxious at this time. We often have more questions than we have answers. There is a deep sense of foreboding at what lies ahead for us, and

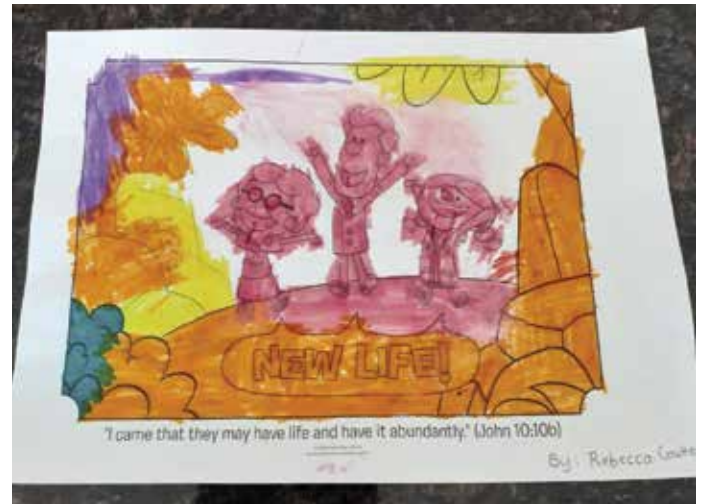
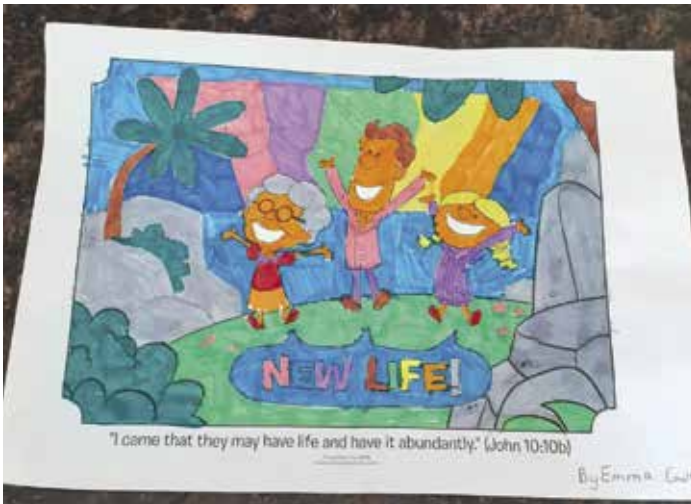
yet we are called to be a people of faith. God is the same God in these difficult and challenging times as He is in the good times. Jesus invites us: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' It is our choice to choose to come to Him or not. Jesus never forces us to do anything. When the weight of our cares seems too heavy to carry we need to lean more on God. He is able even when we are not. Just as the sun rises every morning, we can be assured that His mercies will never end. The best bit of all this? God's mercies aren't based on our goodness, but on His steadfast character. His compassion towards us is fresh every morning, and each day is a gift from His hand. We can trust and lean upon His love for us. Amen!

For me, I miss being out and about amongst you all. Being confined to home is difficult for some. We are having to rely more on the telephone, social media and email. With more time on our hands we have been taking on different jobs and projects. Some are tidying the attic, our offices and studies, sorting out paperwork, photos and general clutter; whilst others are baking, painting or gardening. It gives us all more opportunity to be more creative with our time. Just before this account of Jesus walking on the sea we read the story of the feeding of the 5000. And Jesus went up on the



Children from St. Salvator's Sunday School, Donagh, with their paintings.

mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Often in our busy lives we do not take time to sit down with Jesus. We say one day we will do it but unfortunately one day never comes. We are so busy doing that we have no time to spend sitting and being with Jesus. I think God is inviting us to sit down at this time. Later in John's account of this miracle of the feeding we read: Then Jesus



said, "Make the people sit down." (John 6:10). Jesus I think is telling us please will you sit down. We are after all called human beings but most of us spend our time doing. Not that I recommend being lazy but we need a work and life balance. Time spent with Christ is valued time. Christ in the Storm on the Sea of Galilee is just one of the many biblical scenes produced by Rembrandt. The painting shows the passage narrated in the Bible in which disciples are terrified in the face of a storm, which Jesus Christ calms down – and then he teaches the disciples the importance of faith. But look at the painting closely: would not you be desperate too? What Rembrandt portrays is precisely the moment of fear and terror of the disciples before the force of nature, in contrast with the tranquility of Christ. One of the masters of creating brilliant effects in the play

between light and dark, Rembrandt draws our attention to the left side of the painting, from where the great waves come and the disciples flock to save the small boat. In the struggle, nature seems to be winning. While five of the men stick to the sail of the boat, the others run to Jesus, distinguished from the others by a subtle halo. What it seems, if we did not know the story, is that everyone is going to drown. the work does not portray only a situation of anguish: it is the anguish itself. Perhaps, this is how we feel at the moment we are anxious. When the disciples are afraid we are told that it was dark. The darkness time is just before the dawn. In their darkness He came to them in an extraordinary movement, He walked on the water. He did not pass them by. He comes to you today where we are.

Jesus reassures His disciples with these words: But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going. (John 6:20-21). The disciples were willing to receive Jesus into their boat. Are you willing to receive

Jesus into your life to trust Him? Jesus is asking us "Do you want me?" You see John who recalls this story in his gospel knows that he is loved by Jesus. He is referred to as the beloved disciple. It is because John knows that he is loved that he can love God in return so it is no surprise that John has Jesus welcomed into the boat. In Mark's Gospel 4:35-41 Jesus asks the disciples Why are you afraid? The disciples that where traveling with Jesus were afraid to perish in the storm as they travelled to the other side The very things that oppose you, the boisterous sea, the buffeting winds, Jesus, the great I am, says, that I am in control of these, therefore there is no need to fear. Jesus never leaves our side no matter how rough it gets, no matter how many trials we endure there is good news that God is a good God who never leaves a child of His alone to face the storms by himself but that God is always there. God's presence is with us in every storm of life. We are in uncharted waters with this Coronavirus COVID-19. However, just as this storm passed for the disciples so will our storm come to an end - it will pass. At this difficult time may we know the peace of Christ as we face these challenging times with Him. What sinking



Children from St. Salvator's Sunday School, Donagh, with their paintings.

moments have you? When do we doubt God. Be assured that he loves you in the midst of all you face.

We can bring calm to others

Most of us benefit from regular contact with family and friends and, whilst we miss the physical presence and contact, we can benefit from IT and social media for keeping in contact. We all have a role to play in this. Stay in touch with one another by means of telephone. Think of the people you usually sit beside in church. Pick up the phone and call them. Use online opportunities if you can. I am ringing around as many of you as I can but with your help no-one will be left out. Of course, any of you can call me for a chat you have all my details on my pastoral letter that I sent out. Keep an eye on your neighbours in this way, especially those who are older, those who are more vulnerable and those who are lonely. Don't do anything that puts their health at risk or your own health at risk. Make sure they're okay. Phone calls and cards and letters can be especially important so let's do all we can to support one another as we hold to the conviction of the Psalmist, 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble.' (Psalm 46 verse 1)

These Days - With the Help of God we WILL get Through

A couple of weeks has changed so much. It is in tough times we, "Ask questions of God". At this time I urge you to share your fears and anxieties with God and ask Him for His strength and courage to get you through. We can be honest with God, He listens to us as we open our hearts to Him.

The coronavirus pandemic has sucked the joy, the familiar, the mundane out of life as we knew it, burdening many with ever-present anxiety. Unprecedented, unrelenting, surreal, scary, we are living through testing and challenging times. When the normal structures of daily life are no longer available, there is a challenge to be creative in how we offer Christian ministry to those who wish to access it. There is a need to develop new patterns and to be willing to adapt these. Getting up and dressed at a set time helps to reinforce these rhythms. Daylight communicates with our biological clocks and helps us become alert. So it is helpful to rise early and at the same time each day. Equally getting dressed is giving a message to ourselves that we are now ready to face the day.

Jesus went looking for those who felt most lost and distressed. That has to be our focus, yet not forgetting about ourselves. We are called to love others as ourselves so we need to tend our bodies, minds and spirit. Our bodies need a healthy daily pattern of exercise, diet and sleep. The temptation can be to respond to boredom or stress by drinking too little water and overindulging on food, caffeine and alcohol.

A crisis always makes us clarify the things are important and helps us to leave what is not essential. The Bible is full of stories where people of faith could look back on difficult times and believe that God was in the middle of the confusion, making sense of the senseless. God can make sense of all when often we can make no sense.

Faith does not mean that everything will work out alright. It means that, no matter how things work out, everything will be alright. The entire Holy Week set of ceremonies speaks of a God who suffers on the Cross with us. He is a with us God and be assured that He is with us at this at the challenging time.

This is a frightening and painful time. The peoples of Ireland both North and South have come through many distressing periods in their history. With faith in God and faith in people, we will come through this too. We can come through together.

Life is difficult. If we start with that assumption, then we can face the challenges as part of life. Challenges bring out the best in human beings. We have to respond to our confinement with all our creativity. We can either get depressed and alienated — through media that can take us out of our reality — or we can get creative.

This crisis is affecting us all, Every crisis contains both danger and opportunity. Let us decide with God on our side and God with us we will do all we can to get through it and leave it in His hands. His hands that were pierced showing His love for you and me. Jesus' love is shown in action, shown in the sacrifices we make and his love is practical. We are called to meet the needs of others in practical ways. We have seen over this time of COVID 19 so many communities coming together to care, support and meet the needs of others in whatever ways they can. The church is a community — a caring, compassionate community. Now, in the midst of crisis, we have an opportunity to show what real Christian community is all about: loving one another.

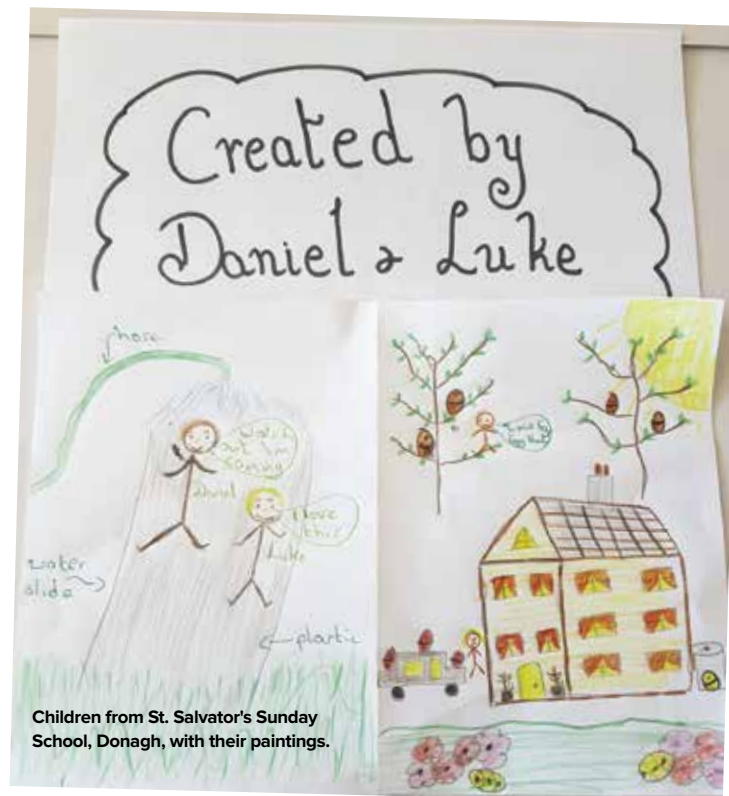
Facebook Services

Over recent days I have been learning new skills. How to make videos and editing them on my phone. You can access services on St. Salvator's Facebook Page. Thanks to all our musicians who have sent in videos to include in the service. Alexandra, Diane, Lynne, Marina and Kenneth. Also thanks to Matthew for uploading the videos to Facebook. At the time of writing, our church buildings remain closed until further notice from our Government. Just remember the church is not closed because we are members of the church of the living God. Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. In the same way, all of us, whether

Jews or Gentiles, whether slaves or free, have been baptised into the one body by the same Spirit, and we have all been given the one Spirit to drink. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). The church is called the body of Christ, as it is a living entity just as a body is. It is the body of Christ, as Christ is the head and founder of the Church, His Church. We are the Church of the Living God.

In Our Prayers

We pray and give thanks for all health professionals and people working in medical research. We remember those who are working so hard on the front from our own community and church family: Jane, Margaret, Sharon, Dr Katherine and Gareth.



Dromore



Rector:
**The Revd
Andrew Quill**

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www.holytrinitydromore.org

Sunday Services (May)

Sunday 3rd May

11.00am S o W, "I have come that they may have life..." (John 10:1-10)

Sunday 10th May

11.00am S o W, "Anyone who has faith in me..." (John 14:1-14)

Sunday 17th May

11.00am S o W, "If you love me..." (John 14:15-21)

Sunday 24th May

11.00am S o W, "...you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:6-14)

7.30pm Praise & Ministry Service

Sunday 31st May

11.00am S o W, '...as the Spirit enabled them.' (Acts 2:1-21)

S o W – Service of the Word

Corrie Ten Boom's Prison Miracle

During World War II Betsie ten Boom died in a Nazi prison camp. She and her sister, Corrie, had been sent there because they had been caught hiding Jews in their Dutch home. Years after the war, Corrie wrote about an answer to prayer regarding a seemingly insignificant item. Betsie's specific prayer and mustard-seed faith is still an inspiration.

In her words:

I will tell you something that happened when I was a prisoner in a concentration camp with my sister, Betsie. One morning I had a terrible cold, and I said to Betsie, "What can I do? I have no handkerchief." "Pray," she said. I smiled, but she prayed, "Father, Corrie has got a cold, and she has no handkerchief. Will you give her one in Jesus' name, Amen."

I could not help laughing, but as she said "Amen," I heard my name called. I went to the window, and there stood my friend who worked in the prison hospital.

"Quickly, quickly! Take this little package; it is a little present for you." I opened the package, and inside was a handkerchief.



GFS member, Kelly, making face masks.

"Why in the world did you bring me this? Did I ask you for it? Did you know that I have a cold?"

"No, but I was folding handkerchiefs in the hospital, and a voice in my heart said, 'Take one to Corrie ten Boom.'"

What a miracle! Can you understand what that handkerchief told me at that

moment? It told me that in heaven there is a loving Father who hears when one of his children on this very small planet asks for an impossible little thing--a handkerchief. And that heavenly Father tells one of his other children to take one to Corrie ten Boom.

God answers prayers, and God's promises are a greater reality than our problems.

'Miracles Happen When You Pray' by Quin Sherrer, 1997, pag. 26, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Especially at this difficult time, we need to be reminded that God is good and as Paul says in Ephesians 3:20: '...is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.'

Live Streamed Services

Since 22nd March we have been Live Streaming Services from The Rectory every Sunday, beginning with a 10-minute countdown timer at 10.50am for our



Service starting at 11.00am. This gives people a chance to get things setup (on the Smartphone, Tablet or Laptop) and say hello to other people tuning in as well as preparing their hearts for worship through Lorna's pre-recorded worship on the piano or other homegrown worship. (N.B. The Streaming Licence available to Churches – which we have purchased ourselves as a parish - only gives permission to play worship produced by ourselves and not those on sale by various artists.)

Since Gordon has been recording the Services over the years for distribution to the housebound, we have been going through a few hundred CDs to rip hymns and songs to the computer and then combining the audio with the text of the hymn or song to make a video, which can then be put into a PowerPoint and appear as if the congregation is in our living room. Lorna and Robert are also pre-recording certain songs and hymns as well (to fit in with the theme of the service) and various people within the parish are doing the reading each Sunday as well as

the prayers. A big thank you to all those who have helped in this way.

On Friday, we do a trial run of the service, recording it as an audio file only so that we can put it on to a CD for Gordon to copy to be distributed to about 19 homes of those who can't get access to Facebook or YouTube. A small team from the vestry are then delivering these, together with a small food parcel – encouraging those receiving the CDs to listen to it at 11.00am, giving them the sense that they are joining us in our service.

GFS and CLB

Our GFS/CLB groups had to finish their Monday meetings early due to the lockdown and so the leaders came up with the idea of 'Monday is Funday Challenges'. These are challenges we set for the girls at GFS on Mondays for them to do and send photos of what they have done on the Saturday. The boys from CLB have joined in too and have been doing some of their own challenges. These are some photos of what they have been doing. Miss Victoria Jackson, the Church Lad's and Church Girls' Brigade Development Officer has also been doing great weekly videos for the children, with challenges for them to respond to.

Scrubs and Bags for Scrubs

In response to the request for Scrubs for the front-line workers locally, Alison Jackson (GFS All-Ireland President) has made over 25 sets of scrubs for the local Omagh group of Scrubs NI to be used in the Omagh and Fermanagh area. Kelly, one of our GFS members has been using her skills and making face masks for use by front-line and key workers. Others within the parish are also hard at work, producing bags for scrubs, etc.

Keeping up to date

There are several ways that you can keep up to date with everything that is going on in the parish:

- Like our page 'Holy Trinity Dromore' on Facebook
- Watch our Live Streamed Services <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/>
- Subscribe to our YouTube Channel https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlQoq6W6h7_2AiYg/
- Watch uploaded Services on YouTube on a smart TV (normally within 1 hour of the Live Streamed Service ending on Facebook)
- Follow us on Twitter @HTDromore.
- Get a recording of the service on CD every week
- <http://holytrinitydromore.sermon.net> (to download and listen to sermons).



Drumkeeran, Muckross and Templecarne



Vacant;
Non-Stipendiary
Minister, Revd
Charles Eames

T: 07809159002
E: ceames@talktalk.net

As I write these notes I am of course aware that life has changed massively for all of us in recent weeks and while the future is still unclear I hope that by the time you read these words we will have more clarity as to what is going to happen in the days that lie ahead.

I realise that may seem a rather negative way to start my notes, so I want to use a verse of scripture to redress the balance. You mark out my journeys and my resting place and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, but you, O Lord, know it altogether. You encompass me behind and before and lay your hand up on me.

These words from psalm 139, the psalm set for 1 May remind us that God is with us as we journey through life and knows everything about us past, present, and future. As long as we continue to trust in Jesus Christ then we have nothing to fear and as the psalmist puts it, you encompass me behind and before and lay your hand up on me.

I have been continuing to minister in



different ways in recent weeks and as many of you hopefully know we now have a parish Facebook page which has attracted interest from a wide range of people which has been pleasing. I intend to continue this aspect of ministry when the current crisis has ended.

I have included a few photographs that I have taken over recent weeks and have previously shared on the Facebook page. While we have been unable to meet together as churches in the physical sense since 15 March I have continued to go to the churches as normal and have (with exception of the first Sunday due to my lack of technical skill) broadcast live at these times. I am learning new skills and I hope this continued worship which you can join me in provides some assurance at this time. I have been greatly encouraged by the likes and comments left on Facebook and having written these notes earlier today I was touched to receive a letter a little later from a fellow cleric elsewhere in Ireland encouraging me in my efforts and thanking me for what I was doing.

I think that this truly shows the power of the internet and how it can be used in a positive

sense.

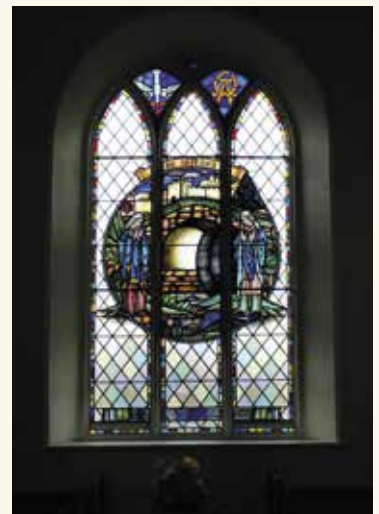
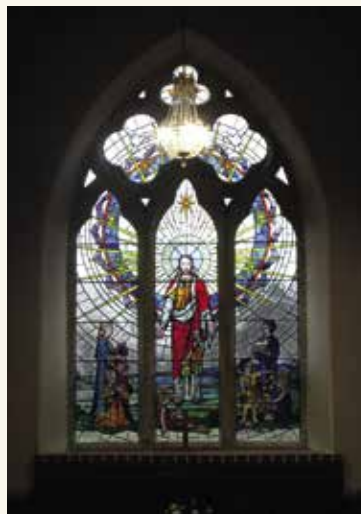
On that note it is our intention in Drumkeeran to look at ways to continue this aspect of sharing our worship going forward and we will consider that in due course.

I have tried to maintain contact with the older members of the congregation as well as those who live alone but if there is anyone that I have overlooked or who would like a chat please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I am thankful that at the time of writing these notes we have not had many people in hospital and that those who have been and of whom I have been made aware have been able to return home. I pray that this will continue.

I would also like to record my thanks to North Fermanagh Football Club, Kesh along with Anita Doonan, Sarah Jayne Parkinson and Jayne Thompson for organising the preparation and distribution of hampers to the elderly in the area.

I know this is something that was greatly appreciated by those who received them, and I would suggest it highlights one of the positive things to emerge from our current difficulties as people thought of others and





did something to brighten up their lives. We should have been celebrating Confirmation with our candidates in just a couple of days and obviously this had to be postponed along with other aspects of our daily lives. I would hope to reschedule this as soon as possible but at this stage I am unable to give any indication as to when this will take place.

As I think about confirmation I am also aware that our Bishop John McDowell has moved on during this time and has by now been translated to his new role as Archbishop of Armagh and as a group of parishes we would like to wish Archbishop John and his family every blessing in this

new aspect of their lives and ministry. As I said at the beginning I hope that by the time you read these words we will have a clearer picture of what is happening and that our politicians provide the leadership that is greatly need at this time. I hope that we will soon be back together on Sunday mornings worshipping God and I trust this is something that we will never take for granted again.

May 2020

Sunday 3 May

10.00 Morning Prayer Templecarne
11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid
7pm Dernasesk

Sunday 10 May

10.00 Holy Communion Muckcross
11.30 Holy Communion Tubrid

Sunday 17 May

10.00 Holy Communion Templecarne
11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid

Sunday 24 May

10.00 Morning Prayer Muckcross,
11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid

Sunday 31 May

10.00 Morning Prayer Templecarne,
11.30 Morning Prayer Tubrid

Obviously, these services will continue to be a solo effort with everyone else welcome to join me online until restrictions on worship are lifted.

Ematris with Rockcorry, Aghabog, Aughnamullen and Drum

Pastoral Cover:
Mr Walter Pringle, assisted by Canon Charles McCollum.

Chancellor Ian Berry is in charge.

Rockcorry and Dartrey Covid - 19

What extraordinary and uncertain times we are experiencing. The Coronavirus does not discriminate. It will leave its mark all around. Even though we cannot meet for corporate worship in our parish churches, we have been able to take steps to ensure that the "voice of prayer is never silent". The magic of modern technology has allowed us to

watch and connect with all kinds of worship. While staying at home we are saving lives and keeping in touch. We have been praying for each other and the wider community in particular for those in frontline of combatting this virus - doctors, nurses and hospital staff. With God's help and by following the advice offered by our Government we shall come through this together.

Happy Birthday

Congratulations to Daisy Wilkin who recently celebrated her 80th Birthday. Her family visited "from a distance" and lots of phone calls and well-deserved good wishes flowed in during the day.

Bereavements

Noel Carleton and Nan Browne were bereaved recently with the death of their brother-law, Victor Sodan, in England. Jim Fannin was also bereaved with the death of Sally Heaslip. To them and all bereaved we tender our deepest sympathy.

Rockcorry N.S.

We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and safe Easter Break. We wish we were back in the classrooms teaching and miss all our daily teaching, routines and interactions with the pupils, however due to Covid 19 that is still not possible. However, the teachers



and pupils are still very busy working. Both the Junior Room and the Senior Room have set up an online class. The Seniors are using Google Classroom and the Juniors are using Seesaw. The children are continuing to complete curriculum work online and gaining lots of valuable experience in ICT work. The children are able to submit work and talk to their classmates socially on an online forum. As much fun as this is, we hope that soon we will be able to return to the school. Stay safe from everyone in Rockcorry N.S.

Enniskillen Cathedral



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Christian Burial

- 7th April - Ronnie Kemp, 39 Tattymacall Road, Lisbellaw.
- 9th April - Emma Elizabeth Craig, 14 Old Station Park, Ballinamallard.
- 15th April - Robert Cyril Robinson, 3 Glebe Park, Enniskillen.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Live Link

We are now streamlining live every Sunday at 11.00am on the internet. We hope you can join in. Please inform other family members, other parishioners or neighbours who might like to join in? The 'Live link' can be found on the home page of the Cathedral website www.enniskillencathedral.com

Prayer Books

Some parishioners would like Prayer Books for use in their home.

- If you want to purchase a new copy (blue cover) you can do so by collecting one from the table in the porch of the Deanery (outside the front door). Cost £25, please put the money or a cheque in an envelope through the Deanery letter box.
- If you want to borrow one of the

Cathedral Prayer Books (green cover) just collect one from the porch of the Deanery. Please let the Dean know who has borrowed a book by putting your name on a piece of paper and putting it through the letter box.

Please note that due to the present lockdown you cannot drive for the specific purpose to collect any of these books. The only justified reason to pass by the Deanery is, if you are on your one exercise walk per day or in town by car doing necessary shopping and passing the Deanery by doing so. For specific reasons there will only ever be a maximum of four books in the porch at any one time.

Email addresses – urgent help!

We do not have email addresses for every family in the parish. Can you please help us? Ask your family members or parishioners you know if they are receiving an email from the Cathedral Office. If they are not, and would like our Pew News by email, ask them to contact the Cathedral Office by email (stmcartins@btopenworld.com) or you can connect us with their permission.

Children and Youth

Please make our children and youth aware of our Children and Youth Facebook page – Children and Youth at Enniskillen Cathedral.

Help or queries

Should you require anything please contact the Dean (028 66322465), or the Parish Secretary, Beth who is now working from home. The Cathedral Hall telephone number (028 66322917) has been diverted to Beth's home.



The Dean and Choir Member Jane McKinley pictured after the Easter Sunday Service.

FWO (Weekly envelopes)

Several parishioners have been asking what to do about their weekly envelopes. Please continue to fill them each week and if you are in town please drop them through The Deanery letterbox or the letter box at the Cathedral Hall. Please be aware of the travel restrictions as mentioned above. Unfortunately, even though the Cathedral is closed for services we still do have a considerable amount of running costs. Thank you for your contributions. If you wish to pay by standing order, this can be arranged through your bank. The account details are available from the Parish Secretary.



The South West Acute Hospital Chaplains are pictured meeting for a hospital blessing on Thursday 9th April. The Very Rev Kenny Hall (Church of Ireland), The Rev David Cupples (Presbyterian), The Rev Lorna Dreading (Methodist), and Rt Rev Monsignor Peter O'Reilly (Roman Catholic) prayed at the entrance to the hospital for all staff, patients, those bereaved and the community at this time of crisis due to the Corona Virus, Covet 19.

Hospital Blessing

The South West Acute Hospital Chaplains met for a hospital blessing on Thursday 9th April. The Very Rev Kenny Hall (Church of Ireland), The Rev David Cupples (Presbyterian), The Rev Lorna Dreading (Methodist) and Rt Rev Monsignor Peter O'Reilly (Roman Catholic) prayed at the entrance to the hospital for all staff, patients, those bereaved and the community at this time of crisis due to the Corona Virus, Covid-19.

Prayers

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy in this
time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and
fearful, and lift up all who are brought

low; that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience to all
who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a
cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be
restored to health; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,

and to care for those in need as if we were
caring for you.

In this time of anxiety, give us strength to
comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to
assure the isolated of our love, and your
love, for your name's sake.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in
isolation.

In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope; in their
darkness, be their light; through him who
suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with
you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Fivemiletown (including Kiltermon)



Rector:
**Revd Precentor
Kyle Hanlon**



Associate Minister:
**The Revd Canon
Dennis Robinson**
Lisbellaw

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Parish Office
10.00am-2pm Wednesday and Friday.
Secretary: Judith Anderson

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E: fivemiletown@clogher.anglican.org

New Ways

Who knew that many of us would need to
learn how to communicate in new ways?
I have taken to letter writing, sending
cards, pastoral calls by telephone, learning
the difference in a profile and a page on
facebook, and have even learned how to
use Zoom.

While it has been great to keep in contact, it
is very sobering to go alone to St John's on
a Sunday morning. I keep a routine of tolling
the bell three or four times each week,
usually when I'm there to record worship,
or each Sunday for the Morning Service. To
me, it's a as a reminder that God's people
carry on with their prayers. God is to be
adored, and that is something our restricted
lives cannot diminish.

Thank you also to everyone who still
contributes to parish life still. The social
card contacts are still available. The office is
still available by phone or email, the prayer
ministry still carries on, someone kindly
offers their musical skills, someone edits
the recordings before posting, a CD of the
service is still sent. Someone is preparing
an update on the Sunflower project for
Sunday School, a community project is
on its way from Knit Pray Love, and Mums
and Tots will share a craft project, and Spar
in Fivemiletown are making available the
Word For Today booklets which we usually
distribute.

There are so many ways to keep on
ministering, and I greatly appreciate
everyone who, even in small ways,
encourage us as we carry on.
I have included for you, a 'blog-sermon' I
wrote for a Facebook recording in St John's
at the end of April.
May God bless you until we meet again as
a church.

Precentor Hanlon

A Divided Heart

*'All will be well, and all will be well, and all
manner of things will be well.'*

Which picture interests you most? Either?
Or neither? (see right)

This week I've been noticing my divided
heart.

I've been sitting outside to read and prepare
a sermon on Jonah, for today's recording
and this blog.



Long tailed Tit, taken by Julie Packham



**The statue of Julian of Norwich
on the West Front of Norwich Cathedral,
made by the sculptor David Holgate in
2014**



But my heart and mind aren't settled.
I'm distracted by the glorious sunshine.
I'm distracted by the birdsong; the wren
that appears, the pair of nesting Blue Tits,
two Mapies squawking, four large Crows,
a Dunnock, one Swallow, two Chaffinch,
endless bees, a hornet, and then...one, no
two Goldfinch appear on the metal wire
fence in the field.
And sit, and stay, as if to pose for a moment,
and then are gone.

If you like birds you will know the joy.

And back to the books... and then a glimpse
of the family report from last week... Ireland's
smallest bird appeared again. This time, for
me to see.
A Goldcrest. Such joy.

The day was complete. Reading continued.
Lunch appeared. and was enjoyed. The
table emptied. And just before getting up to
leave, a flutter of wings, a longer than usual
tail, and another. And for a few seconds,
only the second time since moving to
Fivemiletown 14 years ago, I had the great
joy of seeing Long-tailed Tits here in this
very garden.

If you're still reading, you like birds.
I love them. I would and have, abandoned a
car to run after one for a sighting.

And on a day of sermon prep my heart is
divided. And divided further still.
Even in my quiet and prayerful moments,
as well as rejoicing in His Creation, my
thoughts steal away to another sight.

Unusually I couldn't sleep and got up on
Monday evening for a late coffee.
Yes, coffee. And much as I berate the
near absence of Christian faith reflected
positively in the media, there, 10 minutes

before midnight, I watched transfixed
'Dr Janina Ramirez telling the story of
Revelations of Divine Love, the first book
ever written in English by a woman - Julian
of Norwich, in 1373 - and kept hidden for
centuries.' It was amazing.

So what? Although it was presented as a
literary issue, focused on a manuscript, the
first believed to be in English by a woman
etc. etc., the Faith and the Hope and the
True Life couldn't help seep out and appear
in the interviewed lives of the Catholic
sisters of Stanbrook Abbey, or the pilgrims
to her home, or the clergy associated with
Norwich Anglican Cathedral.

Julian is famous for the little prayer adage,
'All will be well, and all will be well, and all
manner of things will be well.'
But the gripping part is that despite
voluntarily confining herself as an
Anchoress for upwards of thirty years in
one room, where she read and prayed
and encountered God, Julian discovered
again the Love of God, and His very great
Compassion.

This seems to be a theme running through
the history of the church, how God is able to
re-calibrate our understanding of Him, when
generally we are off kilter. To be reminded
again of God's heart, His eternal self, and
as St John knew, to learn again how 'God is
Love, and those who live in love live in God,
and God lives in them.'

If you're still reading, then you too must be
interested in the God of love who made
Himself known to us in Jesus. Sometimes
we forget, we go off kilter, and need to be
reminded.

This also happened to Jonah. A prophet of
God, who of all people should have known

God's heart. But he forgot, he went off kilter.
He became preoccupied with nationhood,
national boundaries, and refused to bring
God's word of judgement and compassion
to those Jonah had come to hate.

One of the great untold stories of the Bible,
is what happened to Jonah post whale.
Jonah was called, he refused, he ran, he
sailed, he was thrown overboard, he was
swallowed by that fish, he repented, was
vomited out and made his way to the city of
his enemies.

He preached, they repented, and Jonah
was furious with God.

"Isn't this what I said, Lord, when I was still
at home? That is what I tried to forestall by
fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a
gracious and compassionate God, slow to
anger and abounding in love, a God who
relents from sending calamity. '"

My favourite part, of him sitting under the
plant which God causes to grow up to
shade the sulking prophet, will have to wait
until next time.

But for now, we encounter a man with a
seriously divided heart; or perhaps not so
divided.

Jonah's heart doesn't seem to be for God.

It seems that God will not share us.
We either love the Lord our God with all our
heart and soul and mind and strength, or we
don't.

Jonah didn't want the love which God had
shown to Him, to be extended beyond His
own self and people.

He wasn't on God's agenda at all. He would
rather run away from it.

It might seem odd to us today, that an
ordinary woman might set aside her life, in
such a particular way, for the things of God.

To a society usually preoccupied with itself,
the things of God are hidden in a literary
review, ten minutes to midnight.

But the living God has a way of being heard.
His work can be seen in the moments
of beauty in His creation, in the faces of
the sisters whose order kept alive the
words written by one of their own some
six hundred years before, and by His own
insistence, that a reluctant prophet, with a
very divided heart, would learn that God's
love will be shown to those on whom God
had chosen to have mercy.

As we live on through this very odd time,
may we use the days God gives to us, to fix
our hearts more steadily upon Him.

*'All will be well, and all will be well, and all
manner of things will be well.'*

Galloon, Sallaghy and Drummully

Vacant

In Charge: Chancellor Ian Berry

Pastoral Care:

Mr Roy Crowe (DPA) and Dean Raymond Ferguson

Strange Times

These are strange and difficult times that we are living in. When we should have been celebrating Easter, attending church regularly and carrying out Church business

associated with Easter such as the Annual Easter Vestry and moving towards the close of the year for youth organisations, we are following the government advice to stay at home where possible. However, we know there are many parishioners who are essential workers in many different roles or who run their own business who have to adapt even more to the new "normal" as they go about their work. There are also those who may have lost jobs or some of their income. Everyone is dealing with this pandemic in their own way within government advice. We need to continue to support each other in whatever way we can and pray for each other and for those who provide leadership in our parishes, the Diocese and the wider church. We also need to pray for those who lead our countries, those who are fighting against this pandemic and that it will all be over

soon. Stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives.

Drummully

Sympathy

We would like to sympathise with the family and friends of George Moore who was buried in Drummully on 4th of April. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there were only 10 people allowed at the graveside. The short graveside service was conducted by Chancellor Ian Berry and the roadside was lined with mourners who wanted to pay their respects whilst still keeping a safe distance as per Government guidelines. When the restrictions are lifted, it is intended that we hold a commemoration service for George. George was a dedicated member of our Church family and will be sorely missed.

Inishmacsaint

Vacant

In Charge: Archdeacon Brian Harper.

Pastoral Care: Canon Ngozi Njoku and Miss Isobel Stewart (DPA)

Mothers' Union

Church Hill Methodist Church hosted this year's World Day of Prayer. There were representatives from the surrounding churches attending. The service was prepared by the women of Zimbabwe and was led Mrs Jan Corrie from

Belleek on the theme 'Rise -Take Your Mat and Walk'. Several of our Mothers' Union members took part in the service and so thanks are extended to Dorothy, Eileen, Gillian, Barbara and Olive. A delicious supper concluded the evening. Next year DV the service will be held in Inishmacsaint Church.

As we have no branch meetings due to current restrictions, we have been able to forward thoughts and reflections for Holy Week and Easter to each of our members. These brought comfort and inspiration to many of the members and were much appreciated.

These were written by MU All-Ireland President, June Butler; Diocesan President, Irene Boyd; All Ireland Faith and Policy Co-ordinator, Beth; Revd Charlie Eames, Diocesan MU Chaplain, Diocesan Faith and

Policy Coordinator, Barbara Clarke and Dr. Elliott, MU Prayer Correspondent.

Members were encouraged to keep in regular contact with each other, to provide companionship and encouragement especially to older members who had no close family living near.

Some of our members have also been active in other local community groups providing practical help as coordinators and volunteers.



Kilskeery and Trillick



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It's Been Interesting

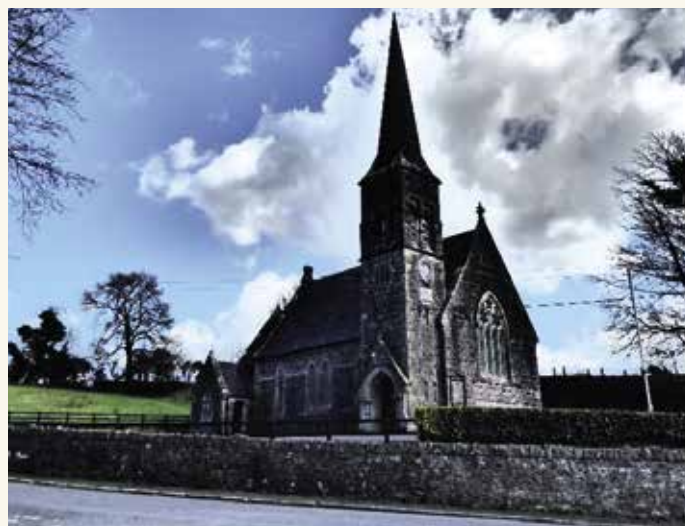
It's been different! It's been unusual! It's been like nothing we've ever experienced! It's been just over one month into the use of our new vocabulary of lockdown, self-isolation, PPE, social-distancing, Zoom and others while new habits of switching on the news in the late evening for the latest death toll from various nations of the world; and watching the numbers climb and stay in the hundreds per day, has become part of the new normal. It is a time of challenge and economic uncertainty with talk of the UK economy decreasing by a third. It is a time when we're hearing stories and seeing pictures of wildlife and some not so wild making their way into the quiet wildernesses of our main streets and city centres. It has been heart-breaking to witness a few scattered mourners standing tearstained and physically-distanced, at or at least within sight of their loved one's grave. For those having lost family and friends – the heartbreak of not being able to say goodbye or a faith-filled au revoir. We've watched

people not listening and disregarding government instructions and thought for others - as they lazily congregated in local parks and beaches. But we've also watched community care and concern with neighbours looking out for one another by doing shopping and window rapping to check if all is OK. Virtual visiting has caught on with those with the technology to connect in. Musical and artistic talents have turned the entertainment scene upside down with balconies turning into stages and staying in for the latest "watch party," the new going out to the club or pub. There has been a welcomed round of applause for those who care for the vulnerable and the ill in hospitals and in our communities. A welcomed recognition and valuing of those who are there serving us, on the frontline - helping us with our physical health and mental well-being. Many have turned to gardening and DIY to while away those lockdown hours as others, those desperately missing school, have to navigate their way around Google classroom and their classwork folders, often under the frustrated parent's constant reminder that this is not a holiday. You know what I'm talking about – life in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Rainbow

We are all facing an opponent that can take the wind out of us without us seeing the blow coming in our direction. It has given the world a common enemy that puts us all on the one side. But a symbol has interestingly appeared on lamp-posts, sellotaped behind house windows, been painted on to flags and waved as our medical staff and carers go about their everyday business; and of course, it is the rainbow. The symbol that we hear about first appearing in the sky over a world that had just come through the watery judgement of God. A symbol that reminds us that it matters to God that we treat each

other well and live well together with justice and in peace, honouring one another and honouring Him; for the abandonment of such things brought the waters down to wash away the hatred and murder, the selfishness and Godless indifference. The flood arose because of the sorrow of God over a world that had rejected His lovingly rule and accepted something much, much less. Isn't it interesting that a rainbow happens when two things come together – water and light? Water from the rain clouds and light from the sun. Water that quenches our thirst and refreshes and makes plants grow and the sunlight that brings warmth to our bodies and light to our paths and food for our plants. Both elements have their purpose but what is the purpose of the rainbow? Is it anything more than a beautiful visual display of colour painted across the sky? At times of distress and worry and heartache and loss – when so much can make our tears flow – and tears are good because they let out and are part of the emotional release of our inner pain and turmoil - we can find ourselves feeling down, feeling low. But then the sun shines – the Light of the world stands before us. The light of the Son that can transform our tear-stained rain-shower into a beautiful visual display of colour – painted across our horizons – reminding us that even in our deepest sorrow and in the midst of many tears – God can still create something beautiful. This is the sentiment of Isaiah 61:3, that even when difficulties come our way and press in upon us – the Lord God can turn it all upside down bringing comfort to those who mourn, beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. And so the flag that flies is a symbol of hope. The bright colours of a brighter future. The overarching hopefulness of better days ahead and a bridging of the gaps of friendship and the physical touch of family and friends once more.



The Church Of Ireland Parishes Of Kilskeery And Trillick - Facebook Page

The Church of Ireland Parishes of Kilskeery and Trillick Facebook page has been our new means of communication and connection since our buildings have closed. Although not everyone has a Facebook account many parishioners got one to be able to connect in to the parish one. Many have enjoyed seeing pictures of inside the churches as reminders of what is still there and of what, hopefully in the not so distant future, we will be going back to. It has been a time-consuming endeavour to not only put together a sermon or a service but to record it and put it through a computer programme to edit and then publish it to then post it on Facebook. A hope would be that the new accessibility to our services might give those on the periphery an opportunity to get a sneak peak at what we're about and perhaps find a welcoming and safe place among us when we can physically meet again.

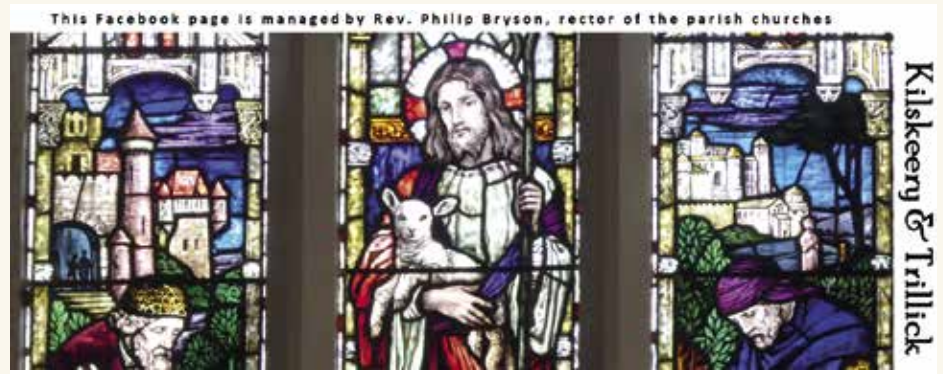
A Call To Pray

On Palm Sunday afternoon, 5th April we invited people to join in the "Call to Pray". This resource was made available through our Facebook page and we hope that many benefited in the use of it. It guided participants through the material provided by Call to Pray Northern Ireland and lasted the designated hour. At a time like this prayer should be a real part of our response.

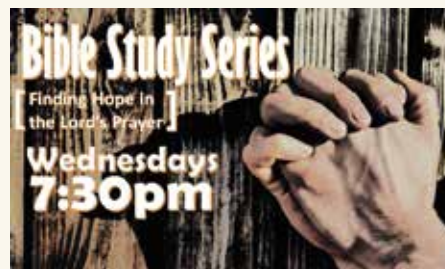


Holy Week

Holy Week was an interesting experience this year from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. We celebrated via services posted on Facebook on both Sundays plus the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday we had Easter Prayers and



Reflections, Maundy Thursday, a service of Holy Communion in Christ Church, Trillick and Good Friday, a Tenebrae service in Kilskeery. It has been great that so many from both congregations, and further afield, have been able to get connected to our joint Facebook page and hopefully still feel connected together. On Easter Sunday when we celebrated an empty tomb and a Jesus who couldn't be kept inside it – we ironically couldn't get out and meet to celebrate our freedom in Christ but, again via Facebook we thought about the cross and the resurrection of Jesus and our need to respond to God's gift of love to us.



BIBLE STUDY SERIES - "Finding Hope in the Lord's Prayer"

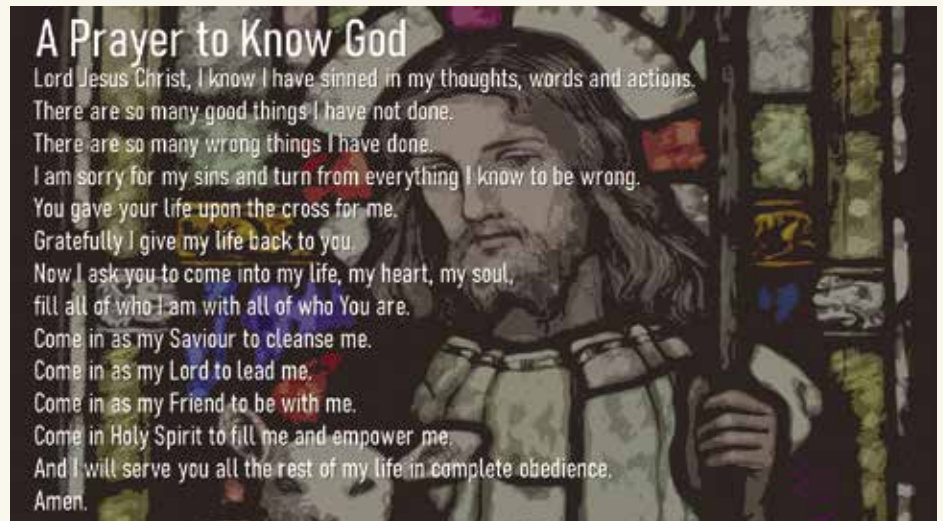
This started on Wednesday 22nd of April, a Bible study series looking at the Lord's Prayer and applying it to our current circumstances.

Thy Kingdom Come Initiative From Ascension (22nd)– Pentecost (31st) May

As we make our way towards Ascension (22nd) and Pentecost (31st) it has been a great blessing in the past few years to take the time that exists between each to follow the example of the disciples who waited in Jerusalem until they received that power from on high that led to the greatest explosion of the Kingdom of God breaking in that the world had ever witnessed. It is the plan to engage with the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Thy Kingdom Come" Initiative in some form which will become clear – one aspect of it being via our Facebook page – inviting us to pray and wait and seek Him and more of His Holy Spirit.

Looking Forward

We may be in lockdown – separated – closed in – and out of physical contact with one another – but the Holy Spirit of the living God is not under any such restrictions and so we continue to trust and to pray that He will be active in our world and in our communities and in our families drawing people to Himself. And so we look for opportunities to share the Gospel and pray and act kindly to even believe for the impossible and let people know that He is there and that they can know Him.



Lisbellaw with Coolbuck



Rector:
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Many thanks to all those who have been working so hard to keep the parish connected during this time of lock down during Covid-19.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jean McElroy who was chosen by the Bishop to travel to Windsor to receive Maundy money from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Sadly, due to the current restrictions resulting from COVID-19, Jean was unable to go but received the money through the post. Jean is a worthy recipient of this honour. Those of us in Lisbellaw know of her tireless involvement and work in Mothers' Union,



Baptism for the Black family.

Wednesday Club, Women's Institute and the Catering Committee amongst other things. She co-ordinates the flower rota and often produces flower arrangements at the request of others who wish to mark a particular anniversary. She provides a delicious afternoon tea twice a year for those who meet for Holy Communion in the Parish Centre at Christmas and Easter. Characteristically, Jean has been busy baking bread, buns and cakes which has been distributed to parishioners during this time of lock down.

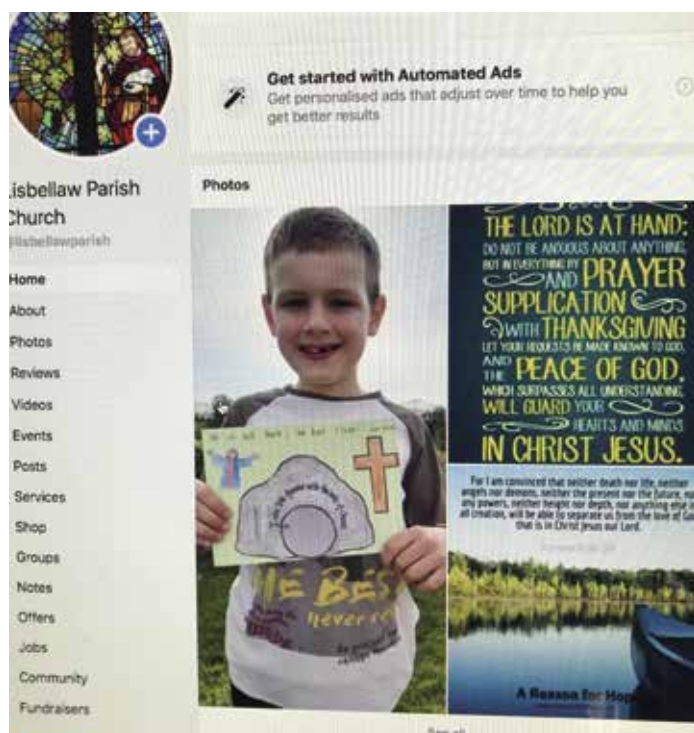
Sympathy

The parish extends its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of

the late Ronnie Little, formerly of Gola Road, Lisbellaw; the late Harry Graham, formerly of Cloon, Lisbellaw; the late Barbara McIlwaine, formerly of Co Tyrone; the late Margaret Gault, formerly of Fivemiletown; the late Ronald Kemp, formerly of Lisbellaw; the late Yvonne Marshall, formerly of Portadown and the late Florence Wylie, formerly of Castleblayney.

Burial

- 27th March 2020
Ronald Dunlop (Ronnie) Little, Gola Road, Lisbellaw.
- 19th April 2020
Richard Henry (Harry) Graham, Cloon, Lisbellaw.



A young parishioner produces artwork for the parish Facebook page.



Frances keeps the Facebook page up to date and interesting.



Jean Hunter wearing one of the scrubs she is making for the NHS using material from NI Scrubs.



One of our most senior parishioners, Melvin Whitley celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday 17th April. Unable to celebrate with family and friends in the usual manner, Melvin and his wife Meta spent the day enjoying the sunshine and eating birthday cake whilst sitting on his new garden seat. This was a gift from his children made for him by a local talented carpenter and close family friend. Through technology and use of the wonderful world of Skype and FaceTime, Melvin was able to share his special day and spend time chatting with all his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Harriett Kirkpatrick busy making many scrubs for the NHS via NI Scrubs.



These sisters were very industrious in making letters, cards and pictures to be distributed to those without internet access by the rector.



Jean McElroy has been making cakes, buns and bread to be distributed to people around the parish including those who are carers in the community and those who are working in the NHS.



A young parishioner has made beautiful encouraging cards with words of Scripture to be distributed in the parish by the rector.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union has made a general grant application for the provision of shopping vouchers for families who receive free school meals in our local primary school. If successful, these will be anonymously distributed by Mr Kilfedder, the Principal.



This brother and sister wrote letters to older parishioners.

Lisnaskea



Rector:
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What do you think upon?

In these days most of us have plenty of TIME on our hands.
And yet, it is the same amount of time as usual.
The difference is that we find ourselves in "Lockdown".
And having our freedom and movement restricted
Gives us the impression of having plenty of TIME.

But what do we occupy ourselves with?
And more importantly, what do we think about?
The human brain is ALWAYS working
And our thoughts are always ACTIVE
Even when doing things...
Or talking to people...
Our minds can be elsewhere
Dreaming...wishing the conversation to end...

Those of you from Holy Trinity Church,
Lisnaskea
Will be familiar with my next comment...
You get to choose what you think upon

Each of us does exactly that
Many times a day
We choose what we think upon
And the wonderful truth is...
ONLY we know about our thoughts
(Unless, of course, we open our mouths and speak them)

But what I just said there
Is not exactly TRUE
Since God also knows what our thoughts are
And before anyone adds in the devil.

He does not know what our thoughts are
Because he is not omniscient
For he is not God

Now the devil may try to influence our thoughts
And help us to remember and think upon things we shouldn't
But as I have been saying - WE have a choice
We get to receive his thoughts or reject them

So what are you going to choose to think upon?

Will you fill yourself with thoughts of dread, panic and fear?
Put like that - most people would say: "No way"
And yet how many of us spend many hours listening to the News?
Keeping up with what is happening
Counting the number of deaths, each day...

Now don't misunderstand me
We are living through terrible times
And it is horrendous that people are losing their lives
To an invisible virus

But the Bible tells us that:
"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
(2 Timothy 1:7)

You might say: "But how can we not be afraid?"
Again looking to the Bible:
"You will keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,

Because he trusts in You."
(Isaiah 26:3)

So we get to choose...
Death and fear or Life and Peace
Easy answer - choose Life and Peace
(Which sounds very similar to Deuteronomy 30:19)

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."
(Romans 8:5 - 6)

Old Testament and New Testament
Encourage us to choose Life and Peace
But it is a choice
And we KNOW which choice
Or choices we make

The apostle Paul challenges us
To chose to set our minds on heavenly things
"Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."
(Colossians 3:2)

"do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind"
(Romans 12:2)

So finally and in conclusion
We get to choose what we think upon
My prayer is that we will all choose wisely
And indeed choose the things of God
Choose to think on Him
Read and meditate on the Bible

Magheracross



Rector:
**Archdeacon
Brian Harper**

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New forms of ministry

As in all parishes, April has been a very unusual month as we try to find new ways to minister to one another. With the help of Facebook, we were able to continue our Wednesday Lent midweek services and Sunday morning services. It was fascinating to see that we were being joined by former parishioners, family connections overseas and people who can't usually get to church due to other work or family commitments. CD's and church notices have been copied and placed in Beatty's Spar for those who don't have Facebook access.

Community initiatives

There have also been several community initiatives. Our Spar, Centra and Village Pharmacy have been delivering goods and medicines and the Football Club have been delivering food packages and also ensuring that the Seniors Club, which usually meets in the Archdale Hall for Friday lunch, continues to receive hot meals at home each Friday.

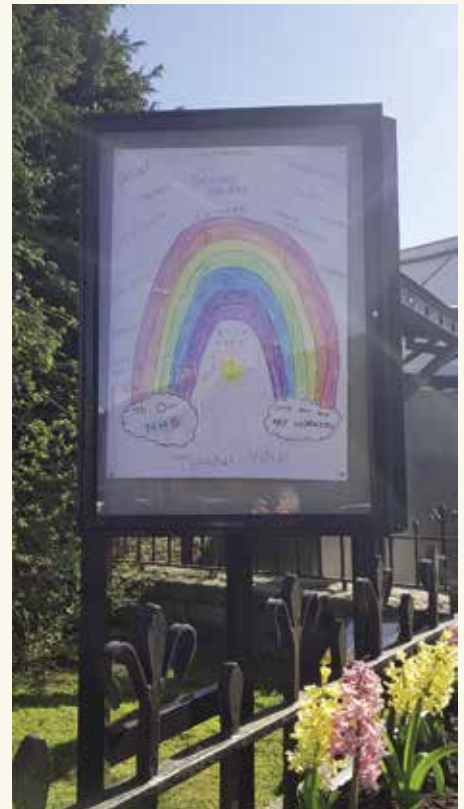
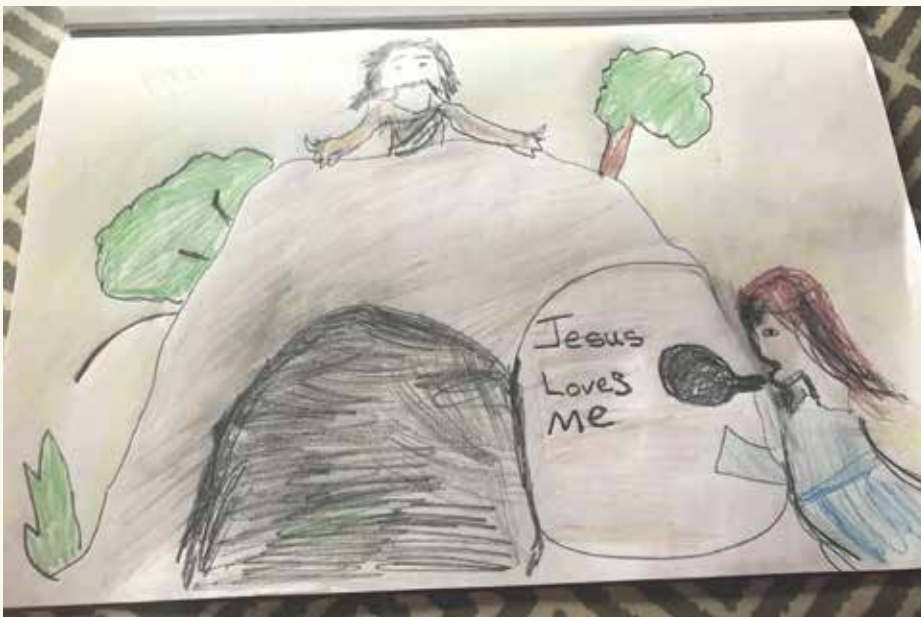


Archdeacon Brian Harper's place of worship over Easter.



Sunday School

Some of our Sunday School children produced posters and craft for Easter (see photos) and Lexie Clarke made a rainbow for display on the church notice board to acknowledge our key workers who drive through the village daily to carry out their duties in homes, hospitals and wherever they need to be.



Monaghan, Tydavnet and Kilmore



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Diocesan Pastoral
Assistant: Mr Walter
Pringle

So there are some things that we haven't done since our current restrictions came into force.

We haven't met together physically on Sunday mornings. We had one Sunday of services with social distancing whilst this was still permitted for gatherings of under 100 people. Both services were very different from usual. It was a smaller congregation sitting further apart in St Patrick's but all there wanted to be there because there was a sense that we didn't know when we would be able to meet again - how right we were. In Kilmore it was a service of Holy Baptism as we welcomed Jessica (daughter of Rebecca and Nigel) into the fellowship of the church, again having to sit further apart and we've had to think about how to keep our congregational promises in different ways. We haven't been able to have our Easter General Vestry, even though the accounts are all ready we can't meet to adopt them, to elect people to various offices and to hear what our organisations had been doing in the previous year.

We haven't been able to get a website up yet. This has just proved to be a little beyond our grasp of how to do and maintain easily. Facebook has filled this gap. We haven't been able to sympathise with those who mourn in our usual ways. We do pass on our condolences and prayerful sympathy to the Wilkinson family circle on the death of Myrtle who was our oldest parishioner.

But there are some things that we have been able to do.

We have been able to carry on worshipping on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. We've done this using Facebook live on our Facebook page. It has been a learning curve with Facebook. Many have signed up for the first time just to be able to join in the worship. We've had to work out how to set up in church for the service. You can

see from the photographs what my view on a Sunday now looks like. We are managing with an iPhone, a €5 tripod, some gaffer and masking tape and one of the flower stands! It does work though it is a very different experience looking at the back of a phone instead of people.

We've had to learn what looks okay on the screen and what doesn't work well. We also learnt how to have people reading via videos recorded during the week. Thank-you to Brian Donaldson our Diocesan Communications Officer who organised some training on how to do this.

We've also worked out how to copy the audio of the Facebook livestream to CDs to deliver to those who aren't on Facebook. We have been able to have Bible Study from my study on Wednesday nights at 8pm, again on Facebook live. We've looked at the Psalms of Ascent (121-134) and next we're going to look at the I am statements of Jesus.

There is something about joining together even by tuning in to the Facebook livestream that has helped to keep a bit of a sense of normality to what is happening. We have been able as a community to learn and worship together.

We were still able to join together with the Presbyterian, Methodist and Elim congregations in the town for our Holy Week Services. Thank you to Rev. Stephen, George and Craig for their help in setting this up. It was different, but it was still good to do what we would normally be doing in Holy Week. We also managed to record and put

together some readings for our usual dawn service.

We have been able to keep a sense of connection with Bishop John and the Diocese via the Diocesan Facebook page and website. It has been good to see and hear Bishop John as well as see what other churches are doing (and to borrow some of their ideas!).

We have been able to keep in touch. Text, WhatsApp, phonecalls have kept groups and people in the parish in touch with each other and even allowed Vortex to do some challenges for Easter.

We have been able to use resources to help us to pray during this pandemic, to read and study the Bible, to worship. We are thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world who have helped us in this and made us feel a greater sense of belonging to the church in the world.

We have kept in touch as well with that oldest of methods, letters. An Post is working wonderfully well and so we have sent out some packs (to those addresses we were allowed to with GDPR) both to adults and children to explain how church is working during these restrictions and to give some activities to do, prayers to use, Bible study to engage with.

In all that we haven't been able to do and in all that we have there has been the constant certainty of God's presence with us, as one cartoon put it, the building is closed but the church is open.



Rossorry



Rector:
**The Revd Canon
Dr Ian Ellis**

Rossorry Rectory, Kinarla, Enniskillen,
Co. Fermanagh. BT74 5PX

T: 028 66 320239

E: rossorry@clogher.anglican.org

Parish Office: T: 028 66 329889

Diocesan Pastoral Assistants:

Mrs Sue Hogg & Mrs Joan Nelson

A note from the Rector

'It's the strangest of times we're living in' – this has been the constant refrain from many of us as we try to cope with impact of the Coronavirus pandemic upon our individual and societal life. Across the world so many have contracted the virus, and many have sadly died as a result of Covid-19. Here in NI, thankfully the death rate is low compared to the other parts of the UK, and, please God, we may have been shielded from the worst effects of this virus. However, this has been in large part due to the diligence of the public who largely kept to the social distancing and isolating guidance from the government. There is however a long way to go before anything like normal life resumes. We have in our prayers kept the NHS and Care workers in our thoughts along with key workers who have ensured that food and other essential supplies and services are maintained. The regular Thursday evening ritual of applause for these workers is heart-warming and encouraging. Some of our parishioners have been ill during this time and we continue to remember them in our prayers through their recovery. We have had to make many adjustments to church life – not least in providing online worship opportunities. I hope that if you have internet access, you have enjoyed what we provide. It may be that we will not be able to meet together in church for some time to come – so we may settle down to online services continuing and hope we can rise to the challenge of using this channel of communication as imaginatively as we can. Some have requested a CD of these services and we have set up a regular postal service



to just over 20 parishioners who have no way of accessing the Parish Facebook page. If any others would like a CD sent to them, please do contact the office – where you can ring if you think we can help in any other way. We were delighted that MU members were able to put together an Easter Pack, for its members and some others who were self-isolating including some men who live alone. In other ways too through telephone calls, volunteers are keeping in contact with some of our isolated parishioners. The Select Vestry has also made a financial donation to the Enniskillen Foodbank to support its vital work of providing food parcels to needy families. There are lots of resources in the community to help us all through this period and the office is still providing a Sunday Newsheet with details of shops and delivery services along with other services available to support mental well-being. We have helped in thinking about our mental health by useful articles by Raymond Farrell a local mental health counsellor. We were sorry to hear that Raymond's father has died in recent days and we offer him our condolences and prayers. It has been a

challenging time and will continue to be so. Let us remember that we are in this together and to look after ourselves and our communities. All will be well again, perhaps not quite the same way as before, but the God of hope will meet our needs in this and every time of crisis and bring us to his loving future. May you find the peace and courage you need in God - our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46

A PRAYER:

Almighty God, you know our anxieties and fears.
Help us to cast all our cares on you, and to know that you love us.
Give us peace of mind, and a sure trust in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Your friend and Rector,
Revd Canon Dr IW Ellis*

How is the Parish keeping its work going?

The current emergency has changed the way we work - indeed the way we must work. In spite of this we are managing to keep the work of the Parish moving, as best we can. Below are details of the various methods we have devised to provide some level of services and pastoral support to you, the parishioners.
Online services
During lent and Holy Week, the Rector recorded and placed on Facebook (Rossorry Parish Church) a series of Lenten Services and Sunday Services, which have been widely viewed



Dear Parishioners and friends, just a few notes on what is happening in the Parish during this difficult time, to help us maintain contact and the running of parish business.

Rossorry Graveyard closed until further notice

Following introduction of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020, we have been required to close our burial grounds to members of the public until further notice. Access is only permitted for funerals/burials.



CHURCH SERVICES

As we cannot meet together in Church, we are providing services by other means. The Website (www.rossorryparish.com) will continue to provide the text and audio recordings of services, mainly Compline, a shorter version of Morning Prayer and a shortened service of Holy Communion for use on Wednesdays, Sundays and Maundy Thursday. The Rector is currently providing recordings of services (Compline, Morning Prayer and Holy Communion) on Facebook ([Rossorry Parish Church](https://www.facebook.com/RossorryParishChurch)) which you can follow at the time or at a time which is more suited to you or your family.

DONT FEEL ALONE. WE ARE HERE TO TALK!

CONNECT FERMANAGH

028 66 320 230
7 days a week 9.30am-2pm

A friendly chat
Information and help to link you to the right support and services in your area

Are you over 18 and living in Fermanagh?
Are you feeling lonely or anxious?
or
Are you home alone with your children and missing an adult to chat to?
or
Are you worried about someone and think they could benefit from a weekly check-in to see if they are ok?

Phone **Connect Fermanagh** and we can provide:
Answer machines outside these times.
Please leave your name and number.

and well received. These services will continue to be prepared and placed online for Sundays into the foreseeable future.

He will, also, continue to provide occasional short 'Reflections' aimed at the children of the Parish and he encourages families to allow their children to view these, as they are surely missing Sunday School!

Parish Website. (rossorryparish.com)

The website is still up and running and will contain the Rossorry Weekly Newsheet and usually the printed text for upcoming Services which will appear on Facebook.

Rossorry Weekly News

The weekly Newsheet is still being produced. It will contain useful information on Parish life and how we are trying to keep things ticking over. It also contains useful contact information for goods and services, as well as some useful advice and guidance on keeping well.

CDs for Parishioners

CDs of prepared online services are being prepared and posted out to parishioners



who live alone or unable to receive the online postings. These have been well received and are a source of solace for the parishioners who feel isolated and a bit cut off from our Parish life.

Parish Self-Help Volunteer Group

Our plans to set up a self-help group of volunteers to keep in touch with the elderly and house bound, maybe help with



Latest News

ROSSORRY WEEKLY NEWS - Sunday 12th April 2020 - Easter Day and the Service of Holy Communion for Easter

SERVICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY - 10th April 2020

HOLY COMMUNION for Maundy Thursday - 9th April 2020

ROSSORRY WEEKLY NEWS - Sunday 5th April 2020 - Palm Sunday

A Service for Wednesday in Lent - Wed. 1st April 2020



Welcome to the website for the Church of Ireland parish of Rossorry, in the diocese of Clogher. The Church of Ireland is part of the worldwide family of Anglican churches.

Rossorry parish is situated on the west side of Enniskillen close to the shores of Lough Erne in Co Fermanagh in Northern Ireland. In 2016 we celebrated the 175th anniversary of the foundation of the present church. Rossorry today is a vibrant parish with over 400 families who live either in the county town of Enniskillen or in the countryside surrounding it.

I hope you enjoy visiting our website and that you gain an insight into our worship and parish activities. We also have a Facebook page - where you

groceries or medication etc. have been curtailed by the change in 'lockdown' regulations. However a good number of volunteers came forward wishing to help out - so we have been able to consult with the elderly/housebound and each volunteer has been allocated a number of Parishioners who they keep in touch with, by telephone, in a befriending service.

This is going well - but if we have missed anyone - let Gerry know in the Parish Office



(02866 329889) and they can be added in and allocated to a friendly volunteer.

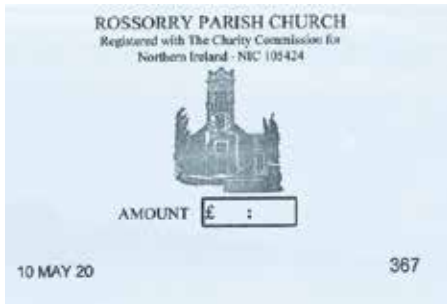
Freewill Offerings

Since we cannot meet at Church at present, we ask that you hold onto your Freewill Offering envelopes until we meet again. Alternatively, you can send in a cheque with

a note of your envelope number and it can be lodged.

You may wish to consider setting up a Standing Order and you can do this online with your Bank if you have online banking. The details you need are attached below, for information.

Account name:- 'Rossorry Parochial Christian Stewardship'
ULSTER BANK Ltd.
Sort code 98 06 50
Account number 47986357



The Parish Office

The Office is still working, (9am-1pm, Monday to Friday) keeping the day to day machinery moving.

Please don't visit.

But I will be delighted to chat on the 'phone, take emails or a note through the door or in the post, etc—if there is anything I can do to help.

Tel:- 02866 329889

Email :- rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

The End of year Parish Accounts and The Select Vestry

The accounts have been completed with the Auditors and sent out by email or post to Members of the Select Vestry for approval.

You would normally expect to receive a copy of the accounts about this time of year. However, we cannot ask our Admin Team to meet or the volunteers to go around doing deliveries. It will be later in the year before we can send you a copy for your own information.

Equally, the Select Vestry is unable to meet in person and we have not been able to hold our Easter General Vestry. In accordance with the advice we have received from the Bishop, the Select Vestry will remain in post until matters are resolved and will meet by using a 'ZOOM' video conference, should it be required.



Rossorry Mothers' Union

Meetings in the Hall are currently cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns and you will be notified when these can restart.

Mothers' Union have prepared and delivered a 'Resources Pack' for Easter with some useful items for their members. The pack contains hand cream, lip balm, honey, prayer leaflets, messages from Mothers' Union and a series of Crossword puzzles and Wordsearches, as well as some useful telephone numbers and advice.

These have also been delivered to some of our 'gentlemen' who are alone or isolated.

Well done to the Mothers' union for their thoughtfulness! These have been much appreciated by the recipients.

One parishioner said: "Thank you all for your lovely Easter gift. So many various





items to bring pleasure to, for many, a lonely weekend. I Hope you all enjoyed the weekend and I'm sure would join in praying for a speedy end to our troubles." Other MU members have been busy with their sewing machines, making essential face masks as part of the effort to provide PPE to carers.

SERVICES for May 2020

The Rector continues to prepare and upload video Services for Sundays and short Reflections for the children. Text of the services- you will find on our Website (rossorryparish.com)
Video of the services – you will find on our

Facebook page (Rossorry Parish Church)

Please keep a look out on Social Media / Website for any changes to our scheduled Services

Parish Register Bereavement

Condolences
Sadly, since the last Magazine, one of our dearly beloved and faithful members of our Parish passed away. Deepest condolences to Mary and the family and friends of John. RICHARDSON, John Eric, of 'The Narrows', Willoughby Place, Enniskillen, who died on 1st April 2020, peacefully, at his home. His funeral service (limited by current restrictions) was held along with interment on Friday 3rd April 2020 at Rossorry

Churchyard.

We extend our deepest sympathy to John's wife Mary and their family at this time of great loss and assure them of the prayers of his fellow parishioners. John's long and fulfilled life has been shaped chiefly by his family, Rossorry Church and this beloved county of Fermanagh. In his working life he has contributed greatly to the wider community and business life of this town. Within the Church of Ireland he will be remembered as one who gave dedicated service not only to Rossorry Parish, as a Vestry Member, but also the Diocese of Clogher and the wider Church of Ireland. His private funeral service was held on Friday 3rd April 2020.

Sympathy

Over this past number of weeks, one of our parishioners has lost a member of their family and an 'old friend' of Rossorry. We extend our sincere sympathies and assure them of our prayer at this difficult time.

KINGSTON, Sarah, (in her 101st year) of 'The Tilery' Nursing Home, Florencecourt, who died (peacefully) on 12th April 2020. Her funeral service (limited by current restrictions) was held, along with interment, in Swanlinbar Parish Churchyard in her family plot.

Whilst Mrs Kingston was not a parishioner of Rossorry, she is fondly remembered as a friend of many in the Parish. She formerly lived in the parish but was attached to Cleenish Parish Church. Since she moved to The Tilery she has been visited regularly by the Diocesan Pastoral Assistants on our behalf.

On 13th January this year, in a happier time, Mrs Kingston celebrated her 100th Birthday. The Bishop, Canon Bridle, Canon Ellis and her son Trevor joined with Sarah in a celebration of Holy Communion.

Mrs Kingston is the widow of Revd George Kingston, former Rector of Swanlinbar Parish.

Contact Us...

Website: rossorryparish.com

Facebook: Rossorry Parish Church

We update regularly events in the church as well as weddings and christenings.

E-mail at rossorryoffice@btinternet.com

Telephone at 02866 329889.



Rossorry Parish Office.

Tempo and Clabby



Rector:
**The Revd Canon
Maurice Armstrong**

403 Inver, Tempo Road,
Tempo BT94 3GQ
Tel 028 89541232.
E: clabby@clogher.anglican.org
W: www.parishesoftempoandclabby.com

These days have been strange, unusual and different for all of us. In particular Holy Week, Good Friday and Easter.

We all had to resort to the various means of social media to use the opportunities to present the message this week conveys and relate it to the present time. God present in the midst of suffering, the victory of Christ on the cross and from the grave. I have been reminded of a few things. First that we can thank God that our freedom to pray and read the Bible has not been removed. Prayer can be said anywhere, perhaps in lockdown and social isolation. Matthew Chapter 6 v6 seems appropriate "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret will reward you."

Second whilst we can't meet as a gathered Church and have had to resort to various

social media to have regular Sunday worship and perhaps shared meditations or devotional throughout the week, we can pray that God would use and bless these means as it reaches a wider number of people outside our own parish. Paul said in Colossians Chapter 4 v 2-6.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful and pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in Chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should". See also a similar reference in Ephesians Chapter 6 v 19-20 Paul was in prison, but he never lost the opportunity to share the gospel, even among prison guards and to those who visited him. He did say that God's word is never chained. He used the time of social isolation to write to the various Churches and individuals to encourage them, to teach them, even rebuke and correct them and last but not least pray for them.

We can pray for various matters with regard to the corona pandemic, but at the centre of this crisis more than ever we have been brought face to face with the issues of life and death, our mortality, the suddenness of death especially from the virus and the fact that like disease or death it is no discriminator. The words of Jesus to Martha are relevant and appropriate; 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die'. (John chapter 11 v 25-26)

Could I share a site for anyone wishing to use for their prayers; The Gospel coalition tgc.org/pray which they made available for

their day of prayer on 4th April.

Christian Medical Association.

During the pandemic the frontline NHS staff have become the pastors to those who are ill and especially the dying. We need to pray for all Christian doctors, nurses and carers who are in this position, that God will use them to minister to the Spiritual needs of people under their care.

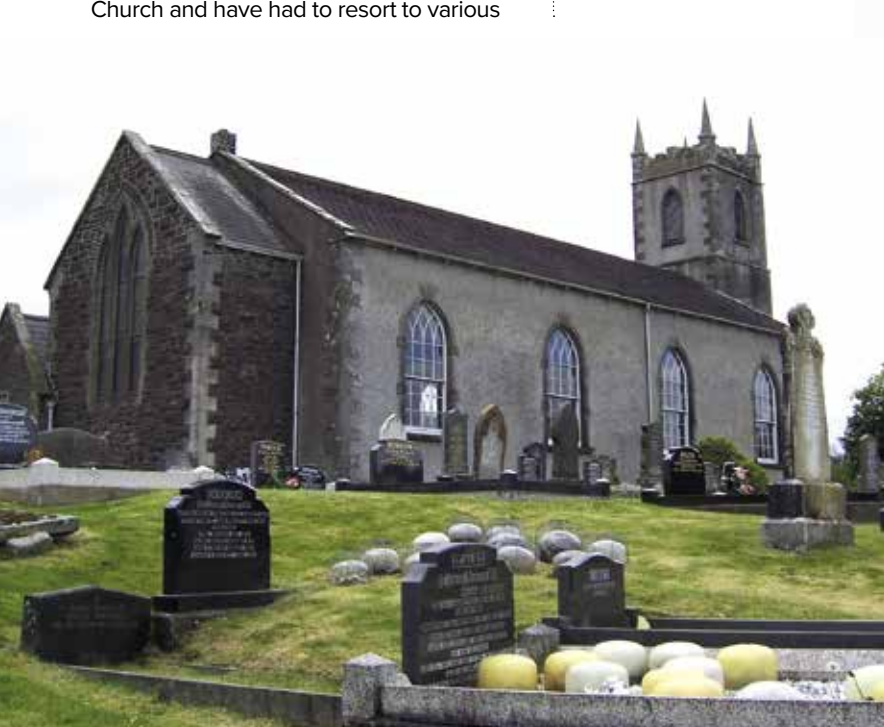
Thank you

Thank you to the members of our Scout Group who drew pictures or wrote letters to our elderly housebound from the Rector's private communion list and our parishioners in care homes. These were distributed along with a letter and card from the Group Scout Leader to their homes and to the care homes, with the social distancing regulations being observed. These were greatly appreciated due to the number of calls received.

Funeral

21/03/20, Violet Emily Armstrong, Gardiners Cross Road, Tempo.

Emily died in Omagh Hospital after a prolonged period of illness, (not from Coronavirus). Thankfully her family were present, being prior to stricter regulations over hospital access for everyone. Her funeral was conducted in Tempo Parish Church observing at that stage 100 maximum numbers and social distancing. Our prayers and sympathy to her husband Norman, sons Trevor and Ian, daughter Pearl and all the family circle at this difficult time as they grieve her loss.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

May 2020

- Sunday 3rd May – **Live streaming of services from Holy Trinity Church, Dromore** with Revd Andrew Quill from 10.50am for 11am start on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitydromore/live/> and on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwj585CXlqOq6W6h7_2AiYg/
- Sunday 3rd May – **Online Sunday worship from Carrickmacross Group of Parishes** with Revd Colin McConaghie at 11am.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Live streaming of Sunday worship from St. Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen** with Dean Kenneth Hall from 11am.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Online Sunday Service from Magheracross Parish Church, Ballinamallard** at 11am with Archdeacon Brian Harper.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Sunday Service broadcast online from Rossorry Parish Church** at 11am with Canon Ian Ellis featuring an address and music.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Online Sunday Service from Drumkeeran Group of Parishes** featuring Templecarne Church today at 10am and Drumkeeran Church at 11.30am with Revd Charles Eames.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Facebook Live streaming of Sunday Service from St. Patrick's Church, Monaghan** with Chancellor Ian Berry from 10.30am.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Morning Prayer online on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Clogh parishes** each Sunday featuring Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links; Aghadrumsee <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1533241273555876> and Clogh <https://www.facebook.com/clogh.church?ref=bookmarks>
- Sunday 3rd May – **Online services from Colebrooke Parish** each Sunday available from 10.30am on both www.facebook.com/colebrooke and www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services
- Sunday 3rd May – **Cleenish and Mullaghduin weekly online service** available each Sunday on the Cleenish website; <http://cleenishparish.weebly.com>.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Sunday Service online from Clogher Group of Parishes** with Revd Olivia Downey at 11am available on the Clogher Diocese Facebook page and the Clogher Cathedral Official Facebook Page.
- Sunday 3rd May – **Service of Morning Prayer from Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale Parishes** led by Canon Paul Thompson each Sunday and to include musicians from both parishes as well as people reading the Bible too. Uploaded to Facebook page; "Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale."
- Sunday 3rd May – **Sunday service from**

Donagh Group of Parishes led by Revd Lorraine Capper accessed on St. Salvator's Facebook Page.

- Sunday 3rd May – **Online Sunday Services from Parishes of Kilskeery and Trillick** on the Facebook Page led by Revd Philip Bryson.
- Wednesday 6th May – **Aghavea Parish online Service of Wholeness and Healing**, from The Book of Common Prayer, each Wednesday led by Revd Johnny McLoughlin.
- Sunday 10th May – **Online Sunday Service from Drumkeeran Group of Parishes** featuring Muckross today at 10am and Drumkeeran Church at 11.30am with Revd. Charles Eames.
- Sunday 10th May – **Morning Prayer online on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Clogh Parishes** each Sunday featuring Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links; Aghadrumsee <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1533241273555876> and Clogh <https://www.facebook.com/clogh.church?ref=bookmarks>
- Sunday 10th May – **Online services from Colebrooke Parish** each Sunday available from 10.30am on both www.facebook.com/colebrooke and www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services
- Sunday 10th May – **Cleenish and Mullaghduin group online service** available each Sunday on the Cleenish website; <http://cleenishparish.weebly.com>.
- Sunday 10th May – **Sunday Service online from Clogher Cathedral Group of Parishes** with Revd Olivia Downey on Sunday mornings at 11am available on the Clogher Diocese Facebook page and the Clogher Cathedral Official Facebook Page.
- Sunday 10th May – **Sunday service from Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale Parishes** led by Canon Paul Thompson each Sunday and to include musicians from both parishes as well as people reading the Bible too. Uploaded to Facebook page; "Paul Thompson, Rector of Derryvullen North and Castle Archdale."
- Sunday 10th May – **Sunday services from Donagh Group of Parishes** led by Revd Lorraine Capper accessed on St. Salvator's Facebook Page.
- Sunday 10th May – **Live streaming of services from Dromore Parish Rectory** every Sunday led by Revd Andrew Quill, beginning with a 10-minute countdown timer at 10.50am for our Service starting at 11.00am.
- Sunday 10th May – **Sunday Service broadcast online from Rossorry Parish Church** at 11am with Canon Ian Ellis featuring an address and music.
- Wednesday 13th May – **Aghavea Parish online Service of Wholeness and Healing**, from The Book of Common Prayer each Wednesday evening.

- Sunday 17th May – **Online Sunday Service from Drumkeeran Group of Parishes** featuring Templecarne Church today at 10am and Drumkeeran Church at 11.30am with Revd Charles Eames.
- Sunday 17th May – **Morning Prayer each Sunday online on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Clogh parishes** each Sunday featuring Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links; Aghadrumsee <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1533241273555876> and Clogh <https://www.facebook.com/clogh.church?ref=bookmarks>
- Sunday 17th May – **Online services from Colebrooke Parish** each Sunday available from 10.30am on both www.facebook.com/colebrooke and www.colebrookeparish.org/online-services
- Sunday 17th May – **Cleenish and Mullaghduin Group online service** available each Sunday on the Cleenish website; <http://cleenishparish.weebly.com>.
- Friday 22nd May – **Clogher Diocesan Magazine deadline for submissions** for the June edition.
- Sunday 24th May – **Online Sunday Service from Drumkeeran Parish Church** featuring Muckross Church today at 10am and Drumkeeran Church at 11.30am with Revd Charles Eames.
- Sunday 24th May – **Morning Prayer online on Facebook from Aghadrumsee and Clogh parishes** each Sunday featuring Captain David Hamilton and Dean Raymond Ferguson. Click on the following links; Aghadrumsee <https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Aghadrumsee-1533241273555876> and Clogh <https://www.facebook.com/clogh.church?ref=bookmarks>
- Sunday 31st May – **Online Sunday Service from Drumkeeran Group of Parishes** featuring Templecarne Church today at 10am and Drumkeeran Church at 11.30am with Revd. Charles Eames.

June 2020

- Monday 22nd June – **Clogher Diocesan Magazine deadline for submissions** for the July/August edition.

July 2020

- Saturday 18th July – **UNDER REVIEW - Bible Activity Day** in Colaghty Parish Hall from 9.30am - 1pm.
- Saturday 25th July – **UNDER REVIEW - Colaghty Parish Barbecue** in Colaghty Hall.

November 2020

- Monday 9th November – **Talk on the Fisher Foundation with Kenny Fisher** and music from The Silver Tones Choir at 8.00pm in St Macartin's Cathedral Hall, Enniskillen, hosted by St. Macartin's Mothers' Union. Supper will be served. All are very welcome.

MOTHERS' UNION



Masks for carers and Easter gift packs for the elderly and isolated members produced by members of Mothers' Union branches in Clogher Diocese.

Mothers' Union members fulfilling the aim of MU - 'Christian Care for Families'

Matthew 25 v 40 –

Jesus said; 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren. Ye have done it unto me.'

The Clogher Diocesan Mothers' Union members have been demonstrating their many talents and using their time to show Christian love to their fellow members, their parish families and the wider community and in obedience to the strict lockdown regulations. In these days of the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, the following activities have been undertaken by many members throughout the Diocese:

- Contacting members regularly by telephone, text and email
- Circulating prayers and thoughts prepared by members of the Trustee Board



- Praying regularly for the frontline workers in hospitals, the community, essential service workers and anyone involved in helping make daily life more manageable for those isolating. They are also upholding those bereaved at a time when normal support is impossible and prayers, letters and phone calls are all that is permitted.

- Using talents to sew items for health care workers – scrubs, bags and masks as well as continuing the usual craft activities which will be needed in the future

- Practically supporting those isolating with supplying and delivering food as well as assisting with delivery of health care supplies. Some have also delivered CD and DVDs of Church services.

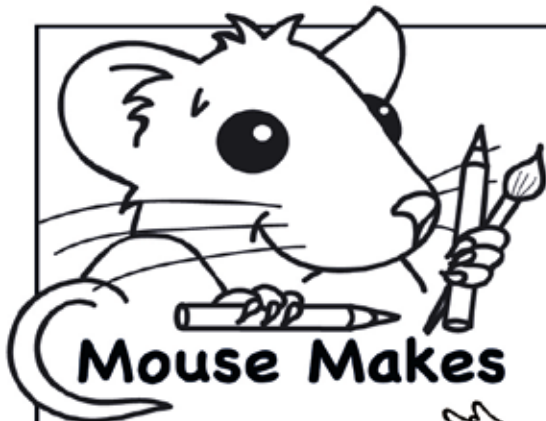
- Providing funds to purchase and deliver toiletries for health care workers (in Cavan General Hospital and the SWAH), who are requiring to shower many times each day.

- Some branches have been working along with other parish organizations to meet the needs in their community.

The President and all of the Trustee Board wish to convey their most sincere thanks to everyone who is going the extra mile (and many miles) to help at this time of need. The members are certainly fulfilling this year's theme 'Building Hope and Confidence.'



CHILDREN'S SECTION



"The fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness
gentleness and self control.



If we live by the Spirit, let us also
behave in accordance with the Spirit"



Read
Galatians
5:13-26

How many
other words can you find
using the letters from:

**FRUIT OF
THE SPIRIT?**



U O
N T R V
G R A C E G O D
B T H E L P E A C E
T P A T I E N C E I
J G T R U S T R J
C R L O R D L E E S
A K I N D N E S S
L O V E H O N T U
M J E R O D E K S
G O O D N E S S
C A Y M O E L S
O B L E S S I S
N F R U I T G P
D T Y H O L Y H I
A S E L F C O N T R O L P S E R V E V
A U C O N S I D E R A T E O A R T M I E V E R
E B N I N T E G R I T Y O D Y C A R E S N E
B I C O M P A S S I O N E A C Y A N H T
A T O L E R A N C E S I E L O E I T H
Y G E N E R O S I T Y D T R R N S
F A I T H F U L N E S S Y D Y T
G O O D W I L L P

Which
symbol goes
with which fruit?



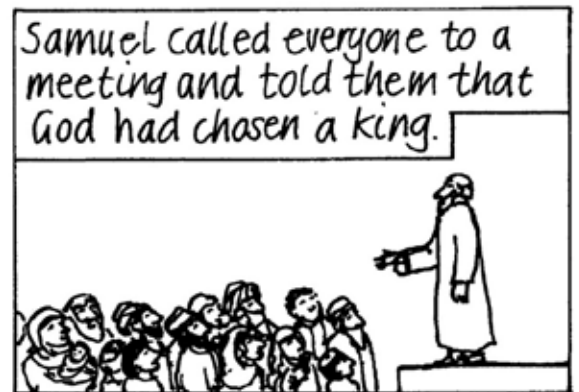
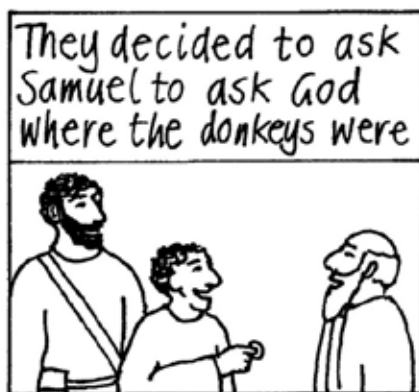
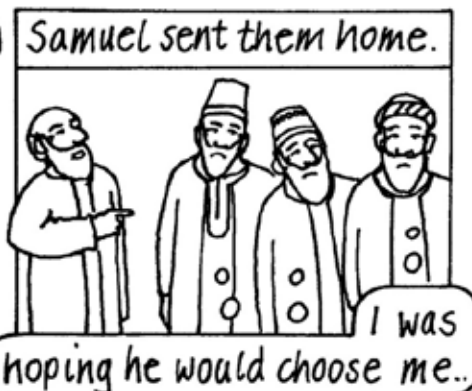
LOVE • CARE • CHERISH • JOY • DELIGHT • PEACE • ACCORD
AGREEMENT • UNITY • CALM • CONTENTMENT • REST
PATIENCE • TOLERANCE • KINDNESS • COMPASSION • HELP
GOODWILL • GENEROSITY • GOODNESS • HONESTY • INTEGRITY
FAITHFULNESS • LOYALTY • TRUST • GENTLENESS • CONSIDERATE
SELF CONTROL • RESTRAINT • FRUIT • SPIRIT • LIVE • SERVE

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Samuel 8:1-10:1, 17-24

Samuel had been a good leader of Israel
but he was now old. The leaders of the
twelve tribes came to talk to him...



Colour...

The fruit of The Spirit is...



love



joy



peace



kindness



goodness



patience



faithfulness



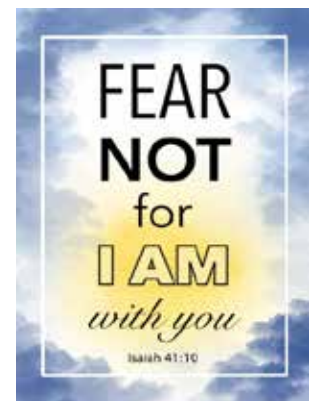
gentleness



Read Galatians 5:22-26



self-control



PUZZLE PAGE FOR ADULTS

G	E	N	N	T	F	N	E	L	W	E	E	A
I	A	F	L	A	M	E	C	M	O	O	R	R
L	E	T	N	K	R	R	E	Y	A	R	P	S
R	N	D	O	E	Y	L	O	H	E	T	E	T
I	O	E	I	N	A	H	M	T	R	R	T	I
T	I	Y	S	S	G	O	T	I	P	I	Y	S
E	S	O	U	P	C	U	N	R	R	U	S	B
S	N	R	F	W	R	I	E	I	A	N	L	T
T	E	R	N	A	T	N	P	S	I	E	N	P
J	C	J	O	Y	T	S	O	L	S	O	E	K
T	S	K	C	S	I	H	W	S	E	T	L	O
L	A	N	G	U	A	G	E	S	E	S	I	T
R	T	E	W	B	W	D	R	R	O	P	F	L

WORDSEARCH

This month the Church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus, the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the fact that our God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus was seen on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He encouraged his disciples, and said that He was sending them to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven; his work on earth was done. The disciples returned to Jerusalem, and on the morning of Pentecost, there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. That morning the Church was born.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| ASCENSION | ROOM | TRINITY |
| BLESSED | DISCIPLES | FATHER |
| TAKEN | CONFUSION | SON |
| JERUSALEM | LANGUAGES | TRIUINE |
| WAIT | EARTH | TONGUES |
| PRAYER | PETER | FLAME |
| POWER | HOLY | JOY |
| ONE | SPIRIT | PRAISE |

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)

1		2		3	4		5		6		7
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											13
14		15						16			
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22						23					
24									25		

- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

Wordsearch & Crossword Puzzle solutions on page 61

DIOCESAN NEWS

QUEEN HONOURS LOCAL PEOPLE WITH MAUNDY MONEY

Two active members of parishes in Clogher Diocese were recipients of Maundy money from Her Majesty, The Queen this week, marking their contribution to their churches and communities.

Jean McElroy, a member of Lisbellaw Parish Church and Trevor Smith, a member of Boho Parish Church, received their Maundy money by Royal Mail Special Delivery as the special service at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, could not be held because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Both were nominated by the Bishop of Clogher for their Christian service.

The Queen has each year distributed special Maundy money to pensioners across the United Kingdom in a service to commemorate Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles at the Last Supper following a tradition that dates back to 600 A.D.

This year, the Queen sent Maundy money to 94 men and 94 women, the number of each reflecting her age.

Both Jean and Trevor and all the other recipients were given two small leather purses, one red and one white. One of them contained a small amount of ordinary coins symbolising the Sovereign's gift for food and clothing and the second purse containing Maundy coins to the value of the Sovereign's age.

Jean McElroy had been looking forward to visiting St. George's Chapel, Windsor, with her husband Jimmy, since her nomination some months ago as she is an avid follower of the Royal family. And while disappointed at not being able to receive the money in person, she was overwhelmed to be nominated.

Married for 50 years, a mother of three and a grandmother of six, Jean is a retired school cook but is now actively involved in Lisbellaw Parish Church, working mostly behind the scenes. She is a valued member of the parish catering team, acting as its treasurer. She is former treasurer of Lisbellaw Mothers' Union and is at present, Secretary of Lisbellaw Womens' Institute and Secretary of their senior citizens' club.



Jean McElroy.

But her work does not end there.

Jean is a prolific baker and flower arranger and also actively supports the elderly in the community. On Maundy Thursday, Jean was busy making several cakes and scones which were being distributed by Rector, Revd. Stephanie Woods, to older members of the parish isolated in their homes.

Jean and her husband, Jimmy and their family; son, Ian (Lisbellaw) and daughters Linda (Armagh) and Adele (Kesh) however will not be able to have a family get together to mark her achievement until restrictions from the Coronavirus are relaxed.

Trevor Smith, a member of Boho Parish Church, is well known throughout Fermanagh as a member of the teaching staff of Portora Royal School (now Enniskillen Royal Grammar School), for 47 years retiring as Vice-Principal in August 2019.

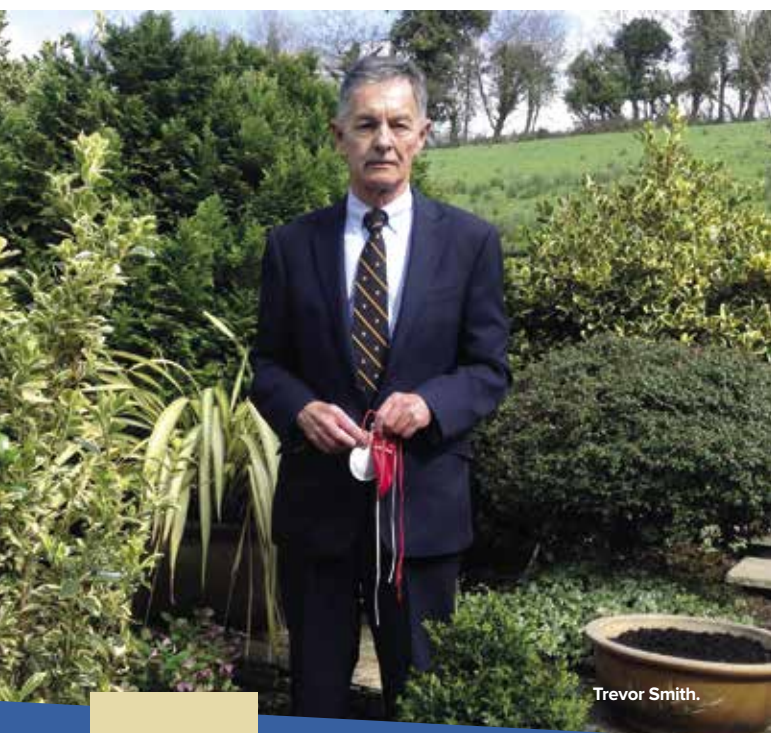
Trevor explained how he had been involved in many aspects of extra-curricular activity at the school including sport as well as his leadership in the technology department. He had also been involved in aspects of the school's provision of the boarding department in the earlier years of his career.

He had said that his best highlight from his time at the school was seeing pupils reach their potential.

At Boho Parish Church, Trevor Smith is a member of the Vestry and regularly helps out with practical tasks around the church to ensure it is ready for worship each Sunday.

Regarding his nomination to receive Maundy money, Trevor said; "It's a great honour to be nominated. There are lots of other people doing a lot of work but one of the qualifications must be that you are over 70."

Trevor and his wife, Jean live in Enniskillen, close to Enniskillen Royal Grammar School.



Trevor Smith.



Paul Burchmore with his food and drinks.



Paul with members of his family who supported him.

Ultramarathon runner covers 50-mile run in a field beside home

An endurance athlete from the Diocese of Clogher has raised more than £5,000 for charity by completing a gruelling 12-hour run around a field neighbouring his home in County Fermanagh. Paul Burchmore, from Ardess Parish, had booked last Friday off work in order to travel to Scotland to take part in the 53-mile long West Highland Way ultramarathon. Like many other sporting events, however, the ultramarathon fell victim to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recognising that many charities were struggling with funding in the current climate, Paul decided to use his day off work to do something worthwhile.

Paul's nephew – who has been battling leukaemia for a number of years – suggested Leukaemia UK as a worthwhile cause so, last Friday morning, with only sheep, hens and the family dogs for company, Paul set off on his challenge.

A course was marked out around a rough field beside Paul's home, with proper County Fermanagh rushes and a nasty gradient on one side providing a true cross-country test. The ground was firmer than usual because of the recent dry spell but Paul still had no idea how he would fare. He knew, though, that he could count on the support of his family and was buoyed by generous donations and encouragement that came in from far and wide.

After a 9 am change of footwear it was relatively plain sailing, with Paul sticking to a conservative pace and downing regular food and water supplies provided by his dedicated support team. The Fermanagh man stopped for only 25 minutes during the entire 12 hours, to change footwear and shirts and answer a call of nature. In all he managed to cover around 51 miles – including around 4,000 feet of elevation change – and by the day's end had raised £5,195 for Leukaemia UK.

Donations are still welcome and the link to the JustGiving page for Paul's challenge is https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/paul-4-a-cause-3?utm_id=124



Paul during the ultramarathon.



Easter Day sermon by Bishop of Clogher and Archbishop-Elect of Armagh

The following is the sermon by the Bishop of Clogher and Archbishop-Elect of Armagh at the Service of Holy Communion from Kiltermon Church, Fivemiletown for Easter Sunday and broadcast online on Clogher Diocese Facebook page.

The audio version of the service was broadcast on Easter Sunday at 9pm on Northern Sound 96.8 FM and Shannonside 104.1 FM.

The video version can be seen at the following link;

<https://www.facebook.com/clogher.diocese/videos/246492139830439/>

"Early in the morning on the first day of the week.." John 20:1

One of the differences between the Gospels and more modern writings, like biographies, is that the Gospel writers had no interest in the psychology of the people they were writing about; what was going on in their heads.

If someone was writing a modern biography of Jesus, or John or Mary they would be interested in their thought processes or what their childhood had been like. As you know, our childhood experiences are the source of much of what we dread or love as adults. 'The child is father to the man,' as the poet said.

But that is not what ancient writers were

interested in, so they don't provide ready answers to satisfy our curiosity. However, we can't help wondering, can we? What were the Twelve and that group of women who had been so close to him during his lifetime, thinking and feeling? One man and three women had stood nearby the foot of the Cross until the very end. Until it was finished. What were they thinking and feeling?

Most people reading this will know that grief is a very exhausting emotion. Bereavement is tough. It drains a person and often disorients them. Bereavement counsellors tell people not to make any important decisions for at least six months following the death of a loved one. Especially where that death has been traumatic; as Jesus

violent death was.

Mary Magdalene must have been exhausted with grief. With Jesus, every hope had died. Who knows what she thought she was doing when she went to the garden where the tomb they had borrowed to bury him was situated? Who knows why we do lots of things when we are worn out by life?

Mary's reaction represents the reaction of so many in our world too. Those tens of thousands of people who live in the presence of overwhelming cruelty and who see the finality of death very close at hand every day. Those in Ireland who have suffered inexplicable and traumatic loss in the most difficult of circumstances due to the horrors of the coronavirus.

It appears that all hope is gone. But... 'Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark...' everything changes. The one whose body had been a corpse, lifeless on a stone slab in a borrowed tomb, now stands before Mary, speaking her name. Just as he spoke your name through his Church, at your baptism, and made you, by his gift, a daughter or a son of the Resurrection.

When Mary heard her name spoken, we read, she "turned towards Jesus", and

everything changed. Death, which is the mother and father of all fears, had met its match. And more than it's match. Fear and grief withered. Hope was restored. Love was, after all, the victor.

Although men tried to finish off Jesus 2000 years ago, and often we too try to finish him off by pretending he is still dead or might as well not exist; we find that we cannot expel God God or the life go God from this world or from our lives. Jesus is Risen and he is alive. And he is active through the Spirit. Where there was once weeping, there is now joy

And joy in the face of difficulties is our witness to the Resurrection. Today it seems that almost the whole world is suffering from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. Billions of people are still trapped in the cave of isolation. Tens of thousands of people around the world can't even sit by the hospital beds of dying loved ones and are waiting by a phone for an unwanted call. All those who are struggling for life. The many healthcare workers who are tending to them. Churches fallen silent and empty. But if online views are anything to go by there will be more people worshipping the Risen Lord than for many years. Our hope and our joy. And I say "joy" not unremitting "happiness". Joy is a gift from God; a gift of his Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Joy can live where happiness can't. It can live alongside fear, depression, bereavement, illness and depression because the joy of Christ comes from knowing that no one but God has the last word.

And God's last word is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead in which he said "Yes" to the world he had created and recreated in the image of his Son. Truly he rose on the third day with a new Kingdom in his hand.

The proclamation that Jesus is alive changes everything. Not instantly and simplistically. But it changes us. That joy in the huge life of Jesus is present in food banks, in community projects, in every voluntary down to earth initiative that the Church is involved in throughout the world. But Jesus isn't finished with Mary Magdalene yet. Her encounter with her Risen Lord isn't simply a personal experience, although it certainly was that. Mary becomes the first apostle, the first witness to the Resurrection who is sent out by the command of Jesus to tell her "brothers". In all four Gospels the first witness to the Resurrection is a woman. So Mary becomes the apostle to the apostles. Through the Mary's of this world Jesus comes to find us all. And Jesus never leaves us empty handed. He gives us a vocation; a job to do. The meaning of our existence



“The proclamation that Jesus is alive changes everything. Not instantly and simplistically. But it changes us. That joy in the huge life of Jesus is present in food banks, in community projects, in every voluntary down to earth initiative that the Church is involved in throughout the world.”

is to be witnesses to the Resurrection- to the new life of love that is offered in Jesus. The persecuted Church bears witness to the Resurrection in its courage, its joy overcoming fear, and in worship in the midst of war or in dehumanising refugee camps. Perhaps our distinctive witness to the Resurrection is to let the dry bones of our old ways find new life as we are forced

to become a deeply praying community once again as we see just how feeble and fragile the apparatus of civilisation can be. When we show that money isn't our ruler, that self promotion isn't our king, that a life of pleasure is a bitter sorrow and that the survival of the fittest means only that some people die later than others. The new life of Christ has broken into our world in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It cannot be contained; it cannot be restricted; it cannot be managed. And the Church exists to show by its life and work the irresistible power that has been set free in the world. And the name of that power is Love. And that Love calls our attention, controls our lives, heals our brokenness and sends us out with purpose, hope and joy.

PRAYER

Jesus, Good Shepherd, who gave your life for the sheep
And who lives to tend your flock
Comfort the bereaved
Recover the straggler
Bind up the injured
Strengthen the sick
And lead the healthy and strong to new pastures
By your great Name

AMEN



Kiltormon Church, near Fivemiletown.

Clergy adapt quickly to lead online services



A selection those from Clogher Diocese taking part in the Zoom video making course with Aileen O'Meara (top centre).

A number of clergy from Clogher Diocese have completed an online video training course on making the most of their smartphones. The course was made possible by Aileen O'Meara who runs a multimedia business in the Republic of Ireland. She is a former producer with RTE.

The 15 people from the Diocese who took part in the first number of courses were the first group of participants to be trained by Aileen through live Zoom calls and online video lessons via her teachable platform.

She called the course, "Mobile Video Made Easy."

Clergy in Clogher Diocese and elsewhere had to change the way they conducted services and give reflections as churches were closed due to the restrictions from the Coronavirus pandemic.

Some of these online broadcasts, mostly through Facebook, have been receiving thousands of views each week.

Aileen advises her participants on the basic equipment to use, how to set it up, making the best use of lighting, backgrounds, sound, etc.

She also advises on the best way to edit their recordings and to make them more appealing to the viewers.

The course was delivered over several days and involved participants undertaking practical exercises.

One participant said; "This is an area I had no experience in until the past few weeks and I found the training to be very clear, helpful and easily applicable. It was all much appreciated."

There have been many online videos produced with clergy adapting quickly to the changing circumstances. Some have used the empty churches as a background for their broadcasts, while others have used their rectories or gardens.

For Easter Sunday, some clergy held Dawn services. Archdeacon

Aileen O'Meara who led the course on video making made easy.



Brian Harper, Rector of Magheracross, held his Dawn Service from the garden of his rectory.

St. Macartin's Cathedral Parish, Enniskillen, has taken a lead in the diocese by establishing a live streaming of Sunday worship at 11am on their website. This will continue each Sunday even after normal church services resume.

A list of online services are now posted on the Clogher Diocesan website diary and on the individual parishes websites and Facebook pages.

Beware of scam involving Freewill Offering envelopes

Church authorities have warned of a scam that involves the fraudulent doorstep collection of Freewill Offering envelopes. If anyone calls to your house asking for weekly church envelopes, please do not give anything to them. Tell them you will check with your minister. Please also make sure to report anything suspicious to the police.

Older, vulnerable people are particularly susceptible to scams as well as those who are very trusting and easily persuaded to take a risk.

Please keep an eye on your elderly relatives and gently enquire about the phone calls they have been receiving and any strangers

arriving at their door.

What is a scam?

Scams are when criminals use lies and deceit to fool you into parting with your cash. You usually get nothing in return and lose your money. As scams are getting more sophisticated and difficult to spot, it's important to know what to look for.

Please be aware and make others aware. The Church of Ireland website highlights how parishes across the island of Ireland can tackle scams and encourage people to report them if they have been affected. Click on; <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/574/scamwise-ni-resources-for-parishes>



Archdeacon Brian Harper, the Archbishop's Commissary.

Archdeacon appointed Archbishop's Commissary

The Most Revd John McDowell took up his new post as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland on Tuesday, 28th April.

However he will continue to have the oversight of the Diocese of Clogher during the period of episcopal vacancy. The Archbishop has appointed Archdeacon Brian Harper as his Commissary for the Diocese during the vacancy.

When restrictions are eased and normal procedures resume, a meeting of the Clogher Electoral College will be convened to elect a new Bishop.

If you can
spot a scam,
you can
stop a scam

Use the scam test

Seems too good to be true

Contacted out of the blue

Asks for personal details

Money is requested

GENERAL SYNOD CANCELLED FOR MAY 2020

The holding of the Church of Ireland General Synod from 7th–9th May 2020 in the Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin, has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The move to do so was proposed by the Honorary Secretaries of the General Synod and passed unanimously

by resolution of the Standing Committee. The booking with Croke Park Conference Centre has been transferred to 5th–7th May 2022 (the General Synod of 2021 will, as mentioned in the General Synod Book of Reports in 2019, be held in the Armagh City Hotel).

The Honorary Secretaries and the Standing Committee are considering a possible rescheduling of the General Synod to take place later in 2020 and will be guided by the latest advice from public health authorities, with the safety of Synod members as their priority.

CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

Article by the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Revd John McDowell, on taking up his post on Tuesday, 28 April 2020.

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures for ever” (Psalm 118:1)

From my point of view at least, it could hardly have been more appropriate that Psalm 118 is set for today's Morning Office. Many of its phrases are well known and a surprising number have found their way into our liturgies, ranging from the Marriage Service to the Liturgy of Committal. It describes itself as a Song of Victory, and there are undoubtedly marital overtones in some of the verses. But as I read it, the overwhelming impression that it leaves on my mind is as an expression of gratitude, dependence and optimism.

And those are the sentiments uppermost in my own mind and heart today as I take up the office of Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Gratitude to God for calling me to ordained ministry and for the knowledge that his love and forgiveness are always moving ahead of me. Gratitude to my fellow bishops for their encouragement and support. Thankfulness to the hundreds of people from every corner of Ireland who have written, emailed, messaged or in some other way communicated their congratulations, good wishes and the assurance of their prayers. Since the day of my election on 11 March I have felt buoyed up by wave upon wave of goodwill – a silver surfer. I am hoping people will hold onto that goodwill even as I make my first mistakes. Along with goodwill goes a strong sense of unworthiness and dependence. I almost said, “an overwhelming sense”, and so it would be were it not for the expressions of goodwill I have already mentioned. And, like the psalmist, a sense of dependence on the dependability of God.

I am conscious too of the long line of very distinguished predecessors who have held the office of Primate of All Ireland, and whose scholarship, dedication and spirituality have been an inspiration to me. Most especially I would wish to mention my immediate predecessor the Rt Revd Richard Clarke, from whom I learned so much and whose friendship I value enormously.



If that phrase, “John, by Divine Providence, Archbishop of Armagh” has an air of grandiloquence about it, it also has a promise that his making hand will always be on you and me and on the Church we serve, moulding the clay of our vocation to meet the needs of the day. And perhaps, in cases where the clay has hardened with age, to break it and start again.

But I also hold a great degree of optimism, because of the role which God, through the processes of history, has opened out for us – the Church of Ireland – to take in the years to come. In more normal times I would have had an enthronement sermon and a first Presidential Address at the General Synod to have shared some thoughts about our Church and the societies in which we live. You may be relieved to hear that I'm not going to roll them into one diatribe now; but I do want to say a couple of things to do with our distinctiveness and our role in Ireland today.

As a Church we have the potential to model (and in some instances to create) a witness of deep-seated unity that transcends

political, social and generational categories. But we can only do so by being true to ourselves, so that we may more fully “become what we are”. We need to become what Our Lord most certainly was. Someone who listened with supernatural patience. And I'm not necessarily talking about formal indaba type conferring, but simply in our own everyday encounters, both formal and informal.

There's a fair bit of truth in the observation that, in Ireland, we listen to others (especially to those with whom we differ) in order to gather ammunition for criticism. We do not listen to hear. Had the plans for the General Synod gone ahead we would have been presented, as a Church, with many opportunities to explain and to listen; to speak and to hear.

Some of those opportunities would have been, on the face of it, very ordinary. I am thinking here of the opportunity to consider the final pieces of legislation in relation to the amalgamation of the Dioceses of Limerick and Killaloe and Tuam, Killala and Achonry, where the General Synod made space for careful listening and a deepening of communion (koinonia) between those who would be most immediately affected by the transition. A period of true dialogue and listening (adroitly led by the two bishops concerned) and leading to the building of trust and to positive outcomes with warm feelings likely to germinate seeds for the future.

In this category I'm thinking also of the final stages of the Bill on Diocesan Representation on the General Synod. This was where a group of people from every diocese in Ireland listened patiently to the “whys and wherefores” of equitable (rather than strictly proportionate) representation. In so doing, they had to acknowledge that the voice of Jesus is at least as likely to be heard where we are numerically weak as in places where we are strong. To be both the Church of Christ and the Church of Ireland, we need to respect all its people and to sideline none. In such inclusion, we may become more truly ourselves by being an all-island church which incorporates the characteristics of all its regions proudly, rather than being seen as primarily a

“Northern” or a “Southern” church. It is appropriate to recall this seminal statement from the Lambeth Conference of 1948: “The positive nature of the authority which binds the Anglican Communion together is...moral and spiritual, resting on the truth of the Gospel, and on a charity which is patient, and willing to defer to the common mind”.

If a meeting of the General Synod had been possible this year, we would also have had some quite extraordinary opportunities to speak and to listen provided by the chances of history. Here I am thinking, first, of the fact that it was to be held in the venue of Croke Park. This would have offered an opportunity to acknowledge the role which the GAA plays in every corner of this island – surely the most remarkable and influential cultural and sporting organisation in Ireland today. Also perhaps it would have been appropriate in the setting of Croke Park, and given the current Decade of Centenaries, to have reflected on the tragic loss of life which was occurring all over Ireland in 1920; to have listened and spoken about the acknowledgements needed and the lessons learned.

And, also historically significant: the dates of the General Synod were to have coincided with the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. This would have provided the right sort of space to listen to some balanced words on both the end of that particular phase of the war against Fascism and on the rationale behind Neutrality in that time. As a Christian alternative to a rush to judgement, the Synod might have accommodated a ‘listening to hear’, rather than a listening to judge.

We are a Church that has traditionally cast its mission in the form of pastoral care. Of course that pastoral care needs to take the form not only of feeding and caring for the sheep but also of finding them. I know many parishes fulfill this role by being deeply involved in their local communities and contributing to the common good. And to be true to ourselves, ours must always be a pastoral evangelization: caring, patient, even perhaps quiet; drawing people to Jesus by the beauty of his person and the depth of his Sacrifice, not by the notion of a competition for souls.

And as we reflect on the Sacrifice of Christ, I want to pause for just a moment to notice and give heartfelt thanks for those people, especially those working in hospitals and care homes, who have put the saving of the lives of others above the protection of their own lives. Some have already paid the ultimate price for their bravery and their compassion.

So, if you are reading this, perhaps you would now stop for a moment and say a

‘thank you’ for all they have done for us. Almost exactly 100 years ago, another postponed Lambeth Conference took place. It had been due to meet in 1918 but had been deferred due to the Great War. One of the main themes the Conference considered was the relationships between Churches, many of which had worked closely together during the appalling suffering of the war years. As the Conference met, an exhausted Europe (still conscious in some sense of being “Christendom”) was beginning to recover. The fatalities were infinitely greater and the period of suffering much longer, but the sense of dislocation which the whole world is experiencing at the minute due to the Covid-19 emergency may be comparable to the trauma of the First World War. In some senses, it is even more destabilising. Although the 1920 Lambeth Conference was unable to make much progress on the matter of formal church unity, it famously issued *The Appeal to All Christian People*. Rather than addressing itself to formal church structures, the appeal was made to the consciences of individual believers. It ended with these words, hinting at a different form of reconciliation:

“We do not ask that any one Communion should consent to be absorbed in another. We do ask that all should unite in a new and great endeavour: to recover and to manifest to the world the unity of the Body of Christ for which he prayed”.

We are now most certainly a post-Christian, if never quite a post-Christian, society. Perhaps it is for us, a church of a northern majority but insisting on and valuing the voices of southern brothers and sisters in all the councils of our Church, to work towards a coherent understanding and a living-out of reconciliation. Perhaps it is time to allow us, with credibility, to be in our pastoral mission a living Appeal to All People, and to find in that reconciliation both the work of the Spirit and an enduring public good.

Reconciliation is one of the big words of the Gospel. In one sense it was completed with nothing left to do when Our Lord uttered the words, “It is finished”; and found those words vindicated on Easter Day. In another sense, reconciliation is always unfinished, with a need to begin anew every day. And this beginning involves acknowledging the prejudices and faults which have failed to make us One, as he and the Father are One, as a Church, let alone as Churches. Reconciliation is the great work (of heart, of brain, and of practicalities) which is crying out for our commitment as children of “the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep”. Those who are the agents of

reconciliation will always have some kind of destructive energy to absorb; they will always have something to bear that is not, strictly speaking, their own. Without wishing to be too dramatic, the scars of suffering are the tokens of peacemaking, at the very least peacemakers risk bearing the emotional scars of being ridiculed.

Just as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminded European Christianity about the costliness of grace, those of us who talk about and plead the urgency of a deepened sense of reconciliation need to make no bones about the cost. And the price to be paid is in no small part the demonstration of the process itself.

Not long before the Second World War, the children’s writer A A Milne wrote a book called *Peace with Honour*. By then a pacifist, he made a plea that was shared by many who did not agree with his political views: “Tell us what to do, not what to think. We have done our thinking; we are all of one mind as to what we want – Peace; and now the problem in front of us is how to obtain it”.

And just in case anyone is smiling at the thought of the creator of Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin and Tigger having anything serious to tell the world about reconciliation and peace, we would do well to remember the simple pictorial language of the parables and to think about the child whom “Jesus set in the midst of them”. Sometimes the most challenging and important questions are the most simple. We all want peace, how do we obtain it? If someone was to ask me that same question about Ireland, or about the world that will emerge from the profound insecurity caused by the coronavirus, I’m not sure I would have the answer.

A great sifting process is going on in the world at present. We are at the end of an epoch never mind an era. Old social systems and ways of life are being unmade and new systems and habits and attitudes will have to be brought together to replace them. On top of our historical and social divisions in Ireland, we are being caught in the down draught of a global wind. New animosities will evolve and old ones may survive.

How blessed we would be if we as a Church, amid such unprecedented times of flux, can show ourselves worthy of our calling as peacemakers and reconcilers – even if it is costly – because we rest in his steadfast love which “endures for ever”. Only then might we be able to stand and answer the plea that calls across generations, not least here in Ireland: “We want peace ... tell us what to do”.

+John Armagh 28 April 2020

A welcome to Archbishop John from Archbishop Michael



The Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd Michael Jackson (pictured left), has welcomed Archbishop John McDowell to the historic role of Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

"I offer Archbishop McDowell the prayerful support of members of the Church of Ireland in the hope that the Church will grow and flourish in his time. He brings many diverse gifts to this office. He has in the past been President of the Irish Council of Churches and has represented the Church of Ireland on the Irish Inter Church Meeting. In recent years, there has been a warm friendship between the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Archbishops of Armagh and we all look forward to the continuation of that relationship.

"I recognise that the new Archbishop takes up his role in the time of coronavirus, a time of great strain and sadness for everyone across Ireland and around the world. The months ahead will be challenging for the Church of Ireland as its clergy and people work to find new ways of remaining connected as church communities. While there is much grief at this time for families and friends who have lost loved ones and for church members who feel marooned by the loss of the rhythm of parish life, there is also significant Christian compassion being shown.

'I have every confidence that people throughout the Church of Ireland will work with the Archbishop of Armagh as we seek to offer support to our own people and to wider society in these difficult times for Ireland North and South.'

Ministers send best wishes to new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland

The First Minister Arlene Foster and deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill (pictured right) have sent their best wishes to the Anglican Archbishop John McDowell as he takes up his role as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland.

The First Minister Arlene Foster said: "I send my congratulations to Archbishop John McDowell as he takes up his new role. I have known John for many years in his role as Bishop of Clogher. He is a man of immense wisdom, intellect and deep spirituality.

"I welcome his words of encouragement on working together for the common good, which are so relevant during these difficult times. I look forward to engaging with him and all Church leaders in the time to come."

The deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill said: "I offer my warmest wishes to Archbishop John McDowell as he takes up the office of Primate of All-Ireland.

"I was really encouraged by the Archbishop's recent message where he spoke about reconciliation, saying that 'reconciliation is always unfinished'. I think this is an important and timely message to us all; and something we should all be mindful of as we seek to build an inclusive and peaceful society for all by working together."



We forgot we were part of the natural world until a microbe reminded us

This article was first published in The Irish Times on Tuesday, 28th April 2020 as the Archbishop of Armagh took up his new role.

By **Archbishop John McDowell**

[Christ] was the first person to conceive the divided races as a unity. (Oscar Wilde. De Profundis)

Although we in the Churches of the post-Christian West may have forgotten that humankind is a unity, the coronavirus did not. In an eerie dress rehearsal for the shape of the post-pathogen world, for decades we mistook the exchange of virtual cash for goods and services to be “globalisation” when in fact it was an elaborate form of social distancing. We stood near to nobody but pretended that we were hyper-connected. We declared war on the natural world, forgetting we were part of it – until one of its tiniest constituents, a microbe, reminded us.

But if we had dug a down little further into the foundations of our society we would have discovered the strawberry runners of a much deeper connection which would assert itself sooner or later: our solidarity in the fundamental matter of being human. These runners make their presence felt on the surface of our world most fruitfully in institutions of global cooperation, expertise and governance. For instance, this connectivity is evident in The World Health Organization, whose clear advice is a global public good. This institution enables us to make informed judgements about how effectively governments around the world have fulfilled the vocation to protect their citizens.

“Institutional” is now used most often as a pejorative term. But healthy institutions, es-

pecially worldwide ones, are the means by which wisdom is passed across generations and nations.

And it was in the context of the growth of world empires and the power politics of the Middle East that the writing prophets began to conceive the rule of God internationally. His imageless worship defined the relationship between nations and directed them towards peace. No single political entity could encompass this complexity. Not even Israel, whose prophetic witness was that the appropriate unifying element in international order is law rather than government, because it embodies an impartiality beyond the reach of any individual nation. As we witness again the rebuilding of borders and the strengthening of the nation state, the world seems to be moving in a different direction.

No matter how fine or worthy it is, a healthy social order cannot be based on a single principle. Our social order, pre-pathogen, was based on the principle of material consumption. If there are no countervailing or balancing principles allowed, it becomes an ideology; in religious terms, an idol. As the Moral Theologian Enda McDonagh pointed out in his book *The Gracing of Society*, political life needs to be organised around the principles of justice, freedom, peace and truth. Each one of these principles is an empty slogan unless allowed to give content to the other three, to provide a constantly revised balancing of interests which alone can provide lasting stability.

It may seem strange to some (perhaps to many) that on the day on which I take up

office as the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland, I have said these few words about politics and society rather than about what might be thought of as “religion”. But to contribute to the common good through analysis and comment from a religious perspective is part of the Church’s prophetic vocation. That is not the same as speaking in the back stairwells of the powerful. Or pouring poison or honey secretly into the ears of those who have influence. It is to speak openly and accountably, responsibly and civilly. We need to be always revising our thoughts in light of the wisdom which God scatters so generously around his creation, including through scientific endeavour and in light of the love and sacrifice which has been given by those who we now realise were undervalued “essential” workers from health service workers to lorry drivers. In the Ireland of today, our prophetic vocation is to strain every sinew in the name of “the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep,” to prevent the perverse energy of a divided island and divided societies from pulling on a rope of suspicion until the knot is so tight that it cannot be untied.

The Church of Ireland, although part of an international communion, is not a great cosmopolitan body. Our parishes are usually small groups of people who gather around his Scriptures and his Table to watch Jesus. To learn from him and to follow him, through whom the whole world was made and in whom it is held together by his law of love. That is the vocation of the Church: to watch and follow Christ, who alone remains the foundation of the eternal unity of human society.

Transferor Representative Council meets Education Minister

A delegation from the Transferor Representatives’ Council (TRC) recently met with Peter Weir, Minister of Education, at Stormont before the Coronavirus restrictions.

The delegation brought the views from the three transferor Churches – Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist – on a range of issues across education.

Issues raised included support for governors, the teaching of RE, and collective worship. They also talked about the pressures that principals and teachers are facing daily.

The TRC’s chair, Rosemary Rainey OBE, said: “We welcome the opportunity to speak personally to the Minister about education and the specific issues that concern the Churches. We appreciate how attentive he was to our issues and we welcomed the opportunity for the exchange and debate. He has already followed up on some of the issues we raised and we value his support.”

Dr Peter Hamill, the TRC secretary and Church of Ireland representative, said on behalf of the TRC: “Since our meeting, the



Pictured (from left) are the Revd Dr Fred Munce, Dr Peter Hamill, Mr Peter Weir, Minister of Education; Miss Rosemary Rainey OBE, Chair of TRC and Ms Karen Jardine.

world has changed dramatically and we wish to thank all the staff in schools and colleges for their amazing response in such difficult circumstances. We look forward to a time when things can return to normal and our children and young people feel safe and secure in their learning.”

Bishops' Appeal supports global emergency responses during Covid-19 pandemic

In the light of the global Covid-19 pandemic, Bishops' Appeal – the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme – is releasing a total of €50,000 to five key partner mission and development agencies to support their efforts among the world's most vulnerable people.

The five agencies are Christian Aid, Tearfund Ireland, CMS Ireland, USPG, and Motivation.

The emergency responses include distributing essential supplies such as food, soap, medicine and information to people whose markets have shut down and who have no access to supplies, people who live in informal settlements and in refugee camps, and people who are living with a disability.

The Rt Revd Patrick Rooke, Chair of Bishops' Appeal, said: 'Aware of the financial pressures parishes are currently experiencing, the Church of Ireland is not launching its own major appeal but asking dioceses, parishes and individuals to give what they can to the appeals launched by our partner agencies, with Bishops' Appeal acting as a conduit. In the midst of our own sufferings and fears at this time, it is vital that we remember those in countries with fewer



Photo by Christian Aid.

resources and expertise.' Further donations can be sent to Bishops' Appeal through its website at www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give

[bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give](http://www.bishopsappeal.ireland.anglican.org/give)



IT'S STILL OPEN

The buildings may be closed but Church is still open.

A number of sample signs are available for displaying at the front of church buildings during the time in which they continue to be closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The design can be adapted for your parish with space for a church logo, details for your website and/or social media channel, and a contact number to help the community to get in touch with you.

Please visit this page <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/parish-resources/622/covid19-its-still-open-template> in Parish Resources to find out more.

A message from Ken Dobbin at Kind Fund

I trust you are all well and that you are finding time for the important things in life as Covid 19 causes us all to reassess our priorities.

In the absence of our regular prayer letter as a result of Covid 19 I anticipate keeping most of you up to date online.

Some of you who are on Social Media may be aware of the three articles on our website, www.kindfund.com since January. In any case you can read them in the News Section of the website. Two of them are from Lea, our student from Austria who was at Kindfund in December and January and the most recent I have posted because of the serious implications of the Government's action in Kenya to control the spread of Covid 19 which has caused hardship particularly at Ndikir where our third home is based in the far North.

I am in the process of preparing a more general update which I hope to post shortly. It will cover the period from end November when Pamela travelled to Kenya to be with the children at Christmas through to the present.

A lot has happened and we have been busy as you can imagine. I returned in mid-March flying the day the first Covid case was discovered in Kenya and leaving Gillian who just arrived on 4th March to carry on not realising we would be bringing her home on the last flight out just before the



Pamela and Ken Dobbin.

lockdown on 24th March. A miracle which we will write about later.

We the Kindfund Team pray for you all that you will be protected as this pandemic runs its course and that your eyes will be turned to look at the cross as an expression of God's love keeping your mind at peace and your heart steadfast.

Love in Christ
Ken Dobbin



Across the Hedgerow

We provide older, vulnerable or isolated members of the farming community with listening support and companionship via telephone calls during this unsettling time.

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More information is available at www.ruralsupport.org.uk; www.facebook.com/ruralsupport
Twitter: [@ruralsupport](https://twitter.com/ruralsupport)

Helpline is available Mon-Fri from 9am-9pm with voicemail and support options available at all other times.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Coronavirus crisis hits world's poorest

Rich countries have struggled. Poor countries will be devastated. But Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of Ebola and we can slow the spread of coronavirus too. Your gift today will save lives tomorrow. Coronavirus is having a huge impact on the rich countries of the world. Our health systems are stretched and struggling. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost and the death toll grows with each passing day. But in the world's poorest countries, perhaps just three weeks behind the UK and Ireland, a catastrophe is unfolding. The infection has reached every one of the countries in which Christian Aid works, with the highest numbers of reported cases being in Brazil, India and the Dominican Republic. As ever, a lack of testing masks the true scale of the pandemic. Aid agencies are warning that coronavirus will devastate poor countries, and here's why:

Handwashing - without soap and water?

Three billion people, 40% of the world's population, do not have access to soap and water. In sub-Saharan Africa, home to 645 million people, three-quarters of the population have no facilities at home to wash their hands with soap and water.

Physical distancing - in a crowded slum or refugee camp?

Physical distancing is impossible for the one billion people who live in overcrowded refugee camps, slums and shanty towns. And you can't isolate those with coronavirus symptoms if your entire family live in one room.

Poor people = poor health

Many people living in extreme poverty, in refugee camps, or battling drought, hunger, malaria and HIV, are already in poor health and lack the resilience to withstand a new infection.

Fragile health systems

The world's poorest countries, many dealing with conflict and humanitarian crises, can barely handle their everyday caseloads, let alone a pandemic. Poor countries have few, if any, ventilators or intensive care beds. South Sudan, for example, has no intensive care beds and only two ventilators for a population of 12 million.

Fragile social welfare systems

The governments of poor countries lack the social welfare systems to help those who lose their jobs due to lockdown. For the newly unemployed in these countries, there



will be no government bail-out or guaranteed 80% of their salaries to help ensure they are still able to feed their families. Many people will have no choice but to go to work, spreading the infection. The poorest people work in jobs that are insecure and cash-in-hand, leaving them with just enough money to get by each day. Even a single day of lockdown would cause hardship.

But there is hope. Working with local partners and faith leaders, Christian Aid helped reduce the spread of the deadly Ebola virus and we are already working to slow the spread of coronavirus.

- ▶ In Afghanistan, our local partner has given hygiene kits containing soap to 1,400 people.
- ▶ In Afghanistan and Bangladesh, we are sharing vital health information via religious leaders.

- ▶ In Bangladesh and Myanmar, we are bringing food and soap to families facing hardship after losing their jobs due to the lockdown.
- ▶ In Myanmar, our local partners have given soap to more than 30,000 people and distributed 2,000 surgical masks.
- ▶ In the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, we are setting up isolation areas in health facilities to treat people with symptoms. There, and in north-east Nigeria, we are working to prevent the spread of fake news.
- ▶ In Angola, El Salvador, Gaza and Guatemala we are helping women at risk of domestic violence during lockdown.
- ▶ In South Africa, our local partners are campaigning to ban evictions during the pandemic so that shanty town dwellers don't face an even greater risk of infection.

**Love unites, love protects, love never fails.
Even in the darkest moments, love brings hope.**

- £27/€31 could help provide food for someone in quarantine, so they don't have to leave their home and risk spreading the virus.
- £50/€57 could help pay for a community toilet and handwashing block.
- £120/€137 could help provide areas within health facilities to isolate anyone with symptoms.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO SAVE LIVES.

Visit caid.ie/coronavirus or call 028 9064 8133 (Belfast) or 01 496 4070 (Dublin).

WORDSEARCH SOLUTION from page 47



CROSSWORD ANSWERS from page 47

ACROSS: 1, Stop. 3, Call upon. 9, Regular. 10, Octet. 11, Inner. 12, Hudson. 14, Holy Communion. 17, Myself. 19, See to. 22, About. 23, Iterate. 24, Monarchy. 25, Stet.
DOWN: 1, Straight. 2, Organ. 4, Abraham's faith. 5, Lloyd. 6, Puteoli. 7, Note. 8, Cleric. 13, Innocent. 15, Lay down. 16, Ussher. 18, Enter. 20, Enact. 21, Balm.

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