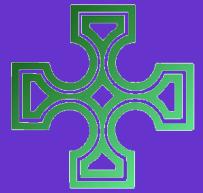


The Parish of Enniskillen - Saint Macartin's Cathedral



CATHEDRAL NEWS



December 2019/January 2020 - Vol 93

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!***



Forthill Park in Winter

Photograph by Cecil Carson

OUR VISION

**Saint Macartin's – At the heart of the Community
Strengthening Commitment, Outreach, Worship and Christian Love**

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DEAN: Very Rev Kenneth R J Hall, M Phil
St Macartin's Deanery, 13 Church Street, Enniskillen BT74 7DW
Tel: 6632 2465 email: krjhall@btinternet.com

DPA: Mr Will Stevenson Tel: 6632 8696

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Beth Rennick, Secretary (9.00am-12.00 noon)
Tel: 6632 2917 email: stmacartins@btopenworld.com

WEBSITE: www.enniskillencathedral.com

MESSY CHURCH: www.facebook.com/Stmacartinsmessychurch

The Dean Writes:

Dear Parishioners,

The Parish of Enniskillen has just had one of the most important events in 400 years – the production and launch of our new history book by Mr Samuel B Morrow OBE. We are grateful to Sam for his time and effort to put in print and picture all these years so that we are able to reflect on the past. If it were not for the faithful Christians of generations before us, we would have nothing to record or inherit. The challenge for each one of us is to make sure we hand on that rich Christian heritage, which we have received, to the generations that follow!

We are now beginning the season of Advent. The seasons of the church's year are important to us and we should value the annual cycle as we start a new Church year on the first Sunday in December - Advent Sunday. Advent is a time of reflective waiting and preparing for Christmas. The Liturgical colour for the Advent Season is purple, the mood is more sombre and no Gloria is sung in our services. In Advent, we are reminded of God's promise to his people that one would come to break into the darkness and bring light and hope to all. We hear the message delivered by the prophets, by John the Baptist, by the angel visiting Mary. This is a two-fold message of expectant waiting –for the birth of a Messiah and for the time when Christ will return to earth. As we wait, we are called to be ready and to prepare ourselves for the celebrations ahead and that time when Jesus returns as our judge. Our Sunday and Thursday services during Advent will help us in this time of preparation. Then on Christmas Eve we change to a beautifully decorated church, with joyful carols and white furnishings. This signals the excitement of the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The seasons in the church's year also remind us that life is never static, that it is always changing, but that underlying this there is one constant –that our God is never changing, ever faithful and always with us. It is this fact that sustains our church community in our life together through the inevitable changes that we face. As we watch the seasons come and go, as we move through the



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Advent season into Christmas, as we experience changes in our own lives, our church and our community, may we remember that we have a faithful God, who promises never to leave us or forsake us. For this is the hope that truly will sustain us, and it is this faith and hope that we need to pass on to the generations to follow. If the Christian message of faith and hope depended only on you and on me, would we pass it on? Or would it end abruptly with us? Each one of us has that responsibility to be faithful witnesses in the way we speak and act, not least in showing an example to others to be regular worshippers at church, and to make absolutely certain that St Macartin's Cathedral has hundreds more years of history yet to be written!

There are many opportunities for you to attend church during Advent and Christmas and truly worship our Heavenly King. As you draw close to Him may you experience that true Heavenly joy. Let His grace and forgiveness give you hope. Let His mercy bring you joy.

Wishing you every blessing,

Kenneth R J Hall

Christmas Greetings

**May the light of Christmas lead you,
the hope and joy surround you,
the precious love that Christ gives,
forever be around you.**

Kenny

The Dean

Colin

The Deacon

Will

D PA

Scott

Pastoral Assistant

Beth

Parish Secretary

Andy

Dean's Verger

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Parochial Registers

Holy Baptism

28th October – Everleigh Alex Maguire

2nd November – Pippa Amelia Clifford

"Go make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19



Christian Burial

25th October - Richard Herbert (Bertie) Elliott,
21 Breandrum Park, Enniskillen.

28th October – George David Jeffrey Lindsay
2 Corban Avenue, Enniskillen.

9th November - Wilfred Harold (Wilfie) Mahood,
Lettan, Tempo.



Burial of Ashes in Cathedral Garden of Remembrance

3rd November – Ivan Leslie McCutcheon
19 Hillview Park, Enniskillen.

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



Service of Holy Communion (30 minutes), followed by a cup of tea/coffee – with 30-40 attending each week.
We are encouraging parishioners who may be in Enniskillen shopping on Thursday mornings to drop in for this short service – a mid week pause and praise with God!
Please note there will be no Thursday Service on 26th December 2019 and 2nd January 2020.

Thursdays at 11.00am

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Parish Donations

Cathedral Roof Repair Fund

£100 Donation from Mr & Mrs Samuel Coulter.

£200 Donation from Morning Bowling Club.

Fabric Fund

£30 Donation from The Maguire family, Craigavon.

£100 Donation from Victoria Masonic Lodge (acknowledgement for services of the Dean).

£100 Donation in loving memory of Jason Robert Wilson. From Jacqueline Wilson and family.

£50 Donation in memory of my dear wife Ann Gault, died 4th October 2005. From her husband Willie and family.

£55 Anonymous donation for Cathedral Tour.

Flower Fund

£240 Donation in loving memory of our parents. From the Hawthorne family.

Minibus Fund

£100 Donation from Mr & Mrs Samuel Coulter.

Donations Towards the Printing of the Cathedral History Book

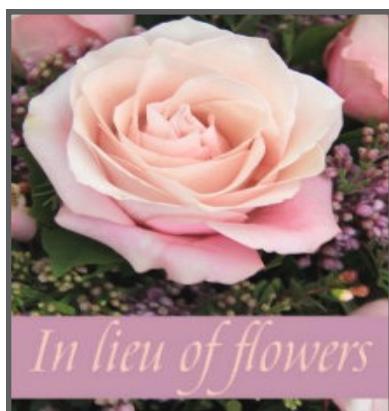
£2000 Anonymous donation.

£1000 Donation from Ivan and Avril Kee.

£10 Anonymous donation.

£30 Donation from Chris Wilson, Limavady.

£50 Donation from Derek Davis.



Donations in Lieu of Flowers

The Church can benefit greatly from donations made in lieu of flowers at the time of a death or the anniversary of a death. Please keep this in mind, and we acknowledge with grateful thanks all who have contributed in this way in the past.

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Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019



Parishioners Roger Allen and Charlie Webb who laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of 1st Inniskilling Scouts.



The Lord Lieutenant's Cadet Dominic Robertson is pictured with the Dean.



Photographs by William Holmes



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Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019



Photographs from the Service of Remembrance when special visitors The Secretary of State, The Rt Hon Julian Smith MP, An Taoiseach Mr Leo Varadkar TD, Mr Bryan Wockley, Deputy US Consul General, Mr Jerome Mullen, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland, The Former First Minister The Rt Hon Arlene Foster MLA and Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Fermanagh The Rt Hon Viscount Brookeborough, KG, KStJ were in attendance. Bishop John McDowell was the preacher.



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Home Holy Communions for Christmas

During the weeks before Christmas the Clergy will be celebrating Holy Communion with those who are unable to attend the Cathedral. If you, or someone known to you, would like to receive such a visit then please contact the Cathedral Office. Those who had Holy Communion at home at Easter will automatically be on the list.



SANDS NI Carol Service

SANDS NI support people who experience the tragedy of stillbirth or the death of an infant in the first weeks of life. SANDS is organising an ecumenical Christmas Carol Service for those who have been affected by the loss of a baby, in St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen on Friday 6th December at 7.30pm.

This will be a gentle, hope-filled service of carols, readings and prayers.

Those attending are asked to bring a gift-wrapped toy appropriate to the age that the child you lost would be today. These gifts will be placed under the Christmas tree and donated to local charities. Tea and light refreshments will be served after the service.



Christmas Services

Sunday 8th December 11.00am – Nativity Service

Bring a gift unwrapped or wrapped and labelled boy or girl and age group.

A special visitor may appear at the end of the service – I wonder who?

Tuesday 10th December 7.00-pm – Christmas Dinner & Party for 60+

(by special requests entertainment by the Cathedral Choir)

Wednesday 18th December – Enniskillen Royal Grammar School Carol Service

(ticket only – contact the school)

Sunday 22nd December 11.00am – Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December 11.00pm – Christmas Eve Service

Celebrant – The Bishop of Clogher

Wednesday 25th December 9.00am Christmas Day Service

Celebrant – The Dean (Holy Communion One)

10.30am Christmas Family Service (Holy Communion Two)

Young people are asked to bring a toy with them to church for the Dean's walk around!

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Sunday Lights & Sunday Lights Café

CHILDREN AND YOUTH
@ ENNISKILLEN CATHEDRAL

1st December Sunday Lights and Sunday Lights Café
8th December Nativity Service in the Cathedral



We begin at 11am each week in Church and leave for Sunday Lights and Sunday Lights Café during the service. Family Services are important and we encourage the whole family to come and worship together.

Photographs of Sunday Lights Café.



Photographs by
Laura Richmond

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Forming Faith at St Macartin's

Messy Church @ The Cathedral

A mess was made in the Cathedral hall once again when Messy Church returned on Thursday 17th October. We were joined by friends old and new for an afternoon filled with glitter, glue, food and fun and jam-packed with bible stories, songs and worship!

The first session of the year saw children getting to know each other as well as getting to know Jesus. Our crafts focused on the different miracles that Jesus performed throughout his life including raising the dead, feeding the 5000 and healing the sick. We even got to see one of our leaders turn water into wine before we had a feast of hot dogs and fruit provided by the lovely ladies of the Mothers' Union.

Messy Church is open to children of primary school age and of all denominations. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The rule is: **no child without an adult and no adult without a child.**

Join us for our next Messy Christmas Party on **Thursday 19th December** from 4.00- 6.00pm.



**2019-20
Dates**

19th December

(no Messy Church in January)

20th February

19th March

23rd April

21st May

4.00-6.00pm

FREE for ALL primary aged children
(All kids must be accompanied by
an adult!)



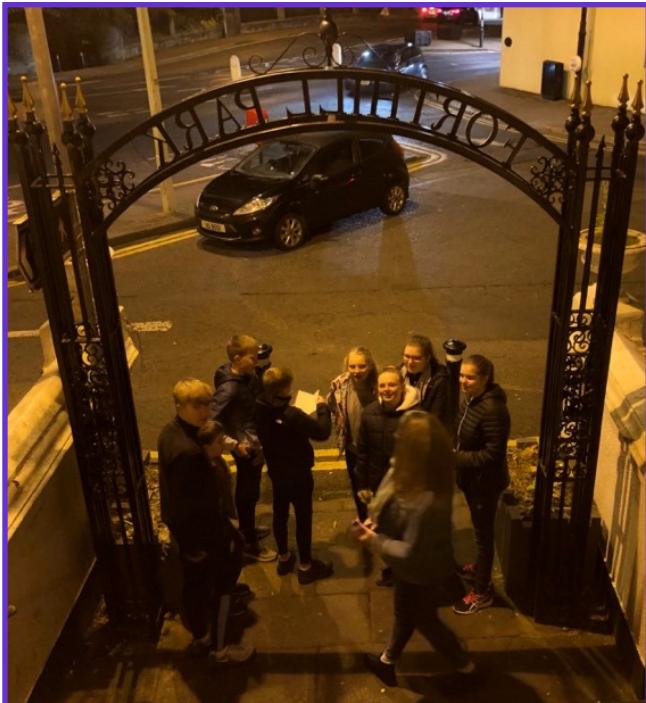
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Forming Faith at St Macartin's

Xplore



October's Xplore saw our youth enjoy a spooky scavenger hunt around Enniskillen with hot chocolate in hand! Beginning at the Cathedral Hall, the group visited some creepy spots around the town under the cover of darkness to find the clues and win some prizes. We ventured past the Buttermarket, walked up toward Cole's Monument, toured the outskirts of the castle and explored the Cathedral grounds while sharing some scary tales along the way. The evening finished with chocolate apples, face painting and spooky movies back at the hall. It was a great way to start our half term break!

Xplore is open to all young people who are of confirmation age or above. We meet once a month in the Upper Room of the Cathedral hall for food, fun and fellowship.

Our next meeting is **Monday 16th December from 7.30 – 9.00pm**. Come join us for some festive fun... and bring a friend!

If you are interested in helping out with any of our Youth or Children's Programmes, you can get in touch through our Social Media pages. Alternatively, you can call into the Cathedral Hall to ask how you can get involved!

Find us on Facebook or Instagram to keep up to date with the Youth and Children's Work going on at the Cathedral!



Children and Youth at Enniskillen



@ekncathedralyouth

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Launch of book detailing history of St Macartin's Cathedral

To mark the launch of Mr Sam Morrow's book a Rowan tree was planted beside the Garden of Remembrance by Sam after church on Sunday 3rd November. The Rowan Tree leaves and berries are symbolic of the name Macartin meaning 'Son of the Rowan Tree'.



Sam and his wife Marie are pictured left with the Dean and above right with his daughter and family, Angus, Mervyn, Hugh, Maria and Jane Elliott.



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La



Photographs by
Sammy Holmes

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Launch of book detailing history of St Macartin's Cathedral



The Wilson family from Limavady who are related to William Wilson who presented the Wilson lamp to the Cathedral in 1884.

The Main Hall was packed to capacity on the evening of the launch of my book 'St Macartin's Cathedral - a history over 400 years'. Mr Samuel Morrissey, Bishop Emeritus, Mr John Johnston and Mr Michael McNamee were present. There were outdoor plants for sale and a gesture of thanks for the price will be £2 per plant. Many former members or former

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Launch of book detailing history of St Macartin's Cathedral



was full to capacity. An evening of 13th November for the Launch of our new history of Saint Macartin's Cathedral – At the Heart of the Community spanning 125 years. Drinks and canapies were served to all attending. Author, Sam McFarrow gave a brief outline of the subject of the book before the Rt Rev John McDowell endorsed it. The Dean, Mr Jack O' Reilly and Monsignor Peter O'Reilly also spoke. Sam and his wife Marie were presented with a painting of their dog, Meg and a ceramic pot of tulip and bulb plants, by the Dean on behalf of the parish as a small token of thanks for all Sam's hard work and Marie's support. The Book is available from the Cathedral Office at the launch price of £20.00 (Retail £25.00). Buy now – ideal Christmas present for family members and parishioner!

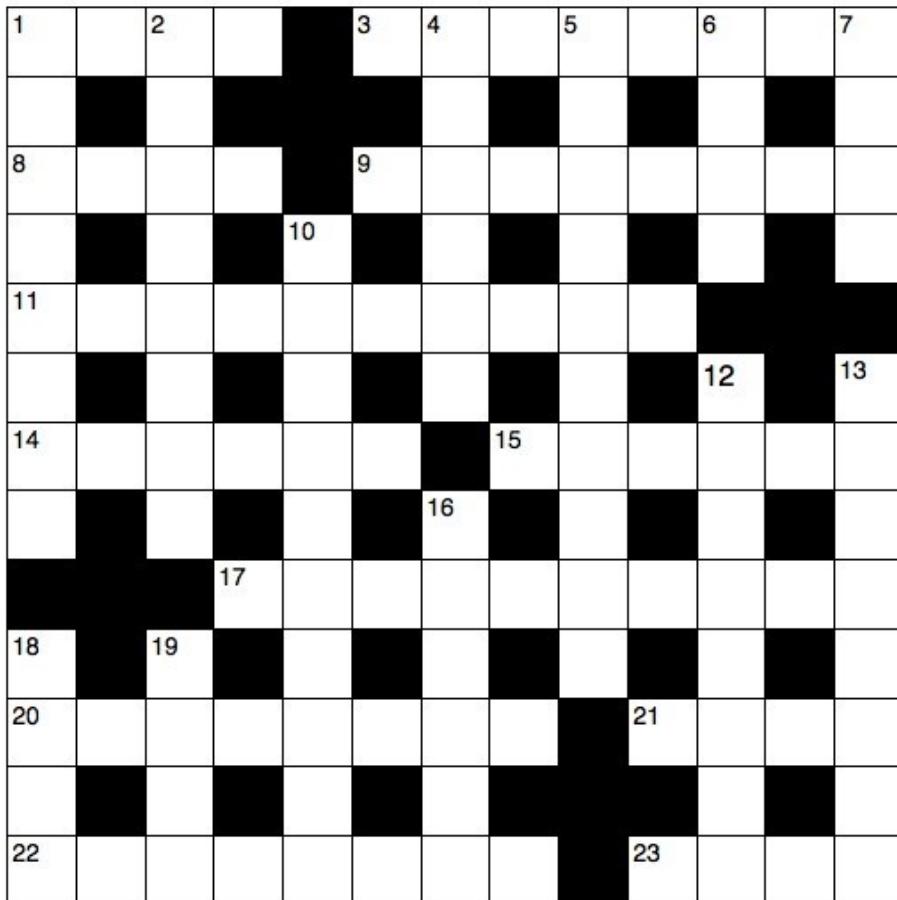
Photographs
by William Holmes

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Crossword



Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

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- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)
- 19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

Free Will Offering Envelopes for 2020

Every family is receiving a set of blue 2020 envelopes with this magazine. Please do not use these 2020 envelopes until January.

We would encourage you to use the FWO envelopes instead of putting cash on the collection plate. By doing so, the church may be able to claim an additional 25% as Gift Aid and your giving to the church would be increased at no additional expense to yourselves. This also applies to other gifts to the church.

A growing number of parishioners contribute by Standing Order and they also receive envelopes. Your envelope number is unique to you, therefore these envelopes cannot be used by anyone else. If you wish to make other contributions eg at Harvest this is the number you use. Your offerings will be listed anonymously if that is your wish.

Thank you for your co-operation and your continued support for the parish.

Renewal of Car Park Fobs

We wish to remind parishioners who use the car park that their fobs need to be renewed now. Fobs cost £25 per year. Thank you for using the car park responsibly.

Confirmation

This year's confirmation candidates are beginning preparation for their big step forward in their Christian journey in 2020. There will be a special all-age service on 24th November, meeting as a class for the first time on Monday 25th, and then again before Christmas on:

Monday 2nd and Monday 9th December from 6.30 – 7.30 pm in the Upper Room, Cathedral Hall. If you are in Year 9 or above it is not too late to register for Confirmation on Sunday 15th March – just get a form from the Cathedral Office or speak to the Dean. In the New Year, classes start back on 13th January.



The Beatitudes – a new series

Matthew 5: 1-12

'Blessed are those who mourn'

The Beatitudes, at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12), present the values of the kingdom of God. In 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted' (5:4), Jesus appears to be saying 'Happy are the unhappy'!

It's not wrong for Christians to be sad or grieve, as we can still experience God's blessing ('blessed'). Jesus promises God's comfort for our loss, mourning, pain and hurt. This is the work of the Holy Spirit into our lives. He is described as the 'Comforter' (John 14:16) ie 'the one who comes alongside us to help'. He assures us of Jesus' presence to share our sadness, make us aware of His love and strengthen us in our sorrows. Jesus has been in this place Himself, when He shed tears at the tomb of His close friend Lazarus (John 11:35).

There is also a godly grief which the Spirit brings into our lives, as we reflect on our messy lives. Peter wept bitterly after denying that he knew Jesus (Matthew 26:75). He makes us aware of our spiritual poverty, including our failures and shortcomings when it comes to loving and serving God. The Holy Spirit is also alongside to assure us of God's forgiveness and cleansing as God's children (Romans 8:16).

The Spirit also helps us to share the Father's broken heart for our suffering world and for the communities of which we are part. Jesus Himself wept over Jerusalem, because its inhabitants failed to see what was happening in their midst (Luke 19:41).

We can live under God's blessing in sadness, as He is able to turn our tears to joy, even though our comfort will only truly be complete in heaven. 'God comforts the disturbed and disturbs the comfortable.'

Meaning:

Being blessed, or at least feeling blessed, is often linked to beatitude. Beatitude inherited its blessedness from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning both "happy" and "blessed." In the Bible, the Beatitudes are a series of eight blessings, such as "Blessed are those poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Next month we will look at the third Beatitude.....

'Blessed are the meek'



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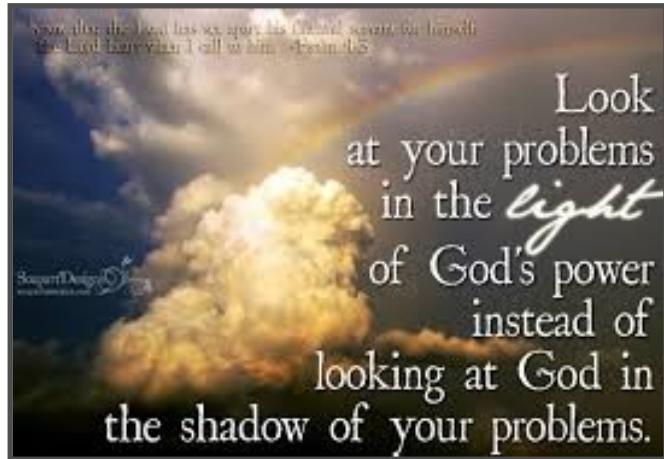
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Psalm

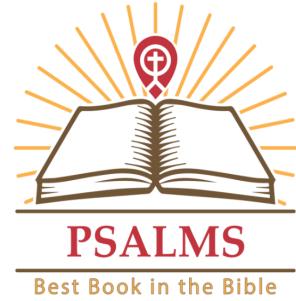
Psalm 4

This evening psalm, often used in Night Prayer, gives us reassuring words to say as we entrust ourselves to sleep. It forms a pair with Psalm 3 and speaks of the betrayal and insult experienced by the psalmist and the foolishness of those who 'seek after falsehood'

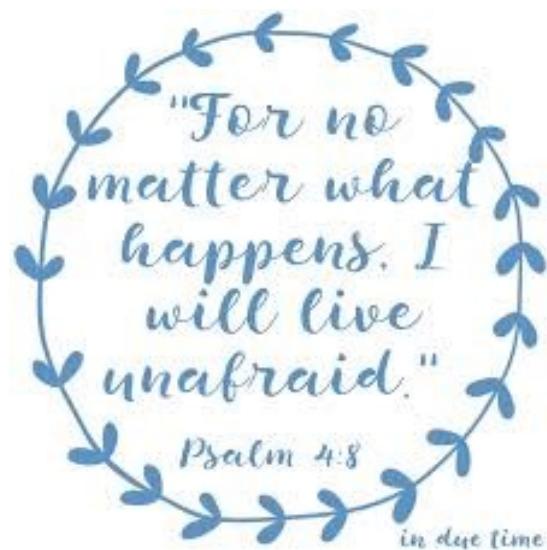


The test of faith comes when Saul seems to be winning, when sin seems to be paying, when emptiness seems to fill its supplicants with what they need — 'when their corn and wine and oil increase' (v.7). It is in those moments that we are called upon to exercise the strength of faith, believing that God can be trusted to 'lift up the light of [his] countenance upon us' (v.6).

The first dawn of God's light is gladness of heart (v. 7), a deep inner joy that overrides outward difficulties. The fullness of God's light upon us and our world, though, is the promised shalom, the peace of God that penetrates every dimension of human life, putting right that which is wrong and proving that it is the Lord, only, who secures life for humanity.



It fits David's time as a fugitive hounded by the 'nobles' who turned from him in favour of Saul. It chimes with the life of believers today as we see so much love of 'vain things' - an obsession with that which is empty — in our world. We are surrounded by false promises of satisfaction from sources that cannot deliver.



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Parochial Organisations

Mothers' Union

The Dean opened the meeting in the Hilliard Room on Monday 11th November with a reading and prayer. Branch Leader Stephanie gave a warm welcome to our guest speaker Rev. Olivia Downey rector of the Clogher group of parishes and former curate of the Cathedral. Rev Olie as we know her gave an inspirational presentation on her long and sometimes difficult journey from 'The Ward to the Pulpit.' She grew up in the parish of Aghadrumsee the youngest of four children, School wasn't the happiest of times but she studied and became a senior cardiac nurse in the south of England. Whilst these were very happy times the calling to the Ministry was very much in her thoughts but she kept thinking it wasn't possible but from one of her many and often humorous quotes: 'God doesn't call the qualified but qualifies the called'. Olie decided to apply and to her surprise she was accepted to study in Dublin. So the journey commenced, she quotes "I left a good job for a great job." We all enjoyed her story and wish her good health and happiness in her future ministry. Stephanie then brought the meeting to a close with the Mothers' Union prayer. Some members attended the Autumn Council meeting which was held in Aghavea Parish Hall on Thursday October 24th at 7.30 pm. It would be appreciated if all outstanding dues could be paid to the Treasurer Jenifer Johnston before Christmas. Our next meeting on 3rd December is a night at the Ardhownen Theatre to see The Adams Family. Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. The first meeting of the New Year is a Service of Holy Communion celebrated by the Dean on Monday 13th January.

Tuesday Club

The Dean opened the October meeting with a reading from Psalm 27 and prayers. Eleanor asked that Joan Elliott, who has been bereaved and Chris Wilson who is convalescing be remembered in our prayers.

By request Jack Spratt and Norma Ferguson returned with Bocce. Bocce is a game that tests both health and fitness. Before starting the game Norma, while demonstrating gentle armchair exercises, encouraged members to join in. The players then divided into two competing teams. The aim of the games is for each player to roll a ball to land close to the target white ball. Play commenced and the game was enjoyed by all. Tea was then served bringing a competitive afternoon to a close. The next meeting is on 26th November at 2.00pm in the Enniskeen Room, when there will be a General Knowledge Quiz. The 60+ Christmas Party is on Tuesday 10th December at 7.00pm in the Main Hall. All members are invited for Christmas dinner after which you will be entertained by our Choir. This is another chance to hear our very talented choir, who can do much more than sing! Please telephone the office to book.

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Bellringers



Bellringers: Jim Lucy, Emma Semple, Sandra Richmond Jenny Rogers, Chris Rogers and Derek Allen.



A note from the Bellringers:

Mr Chris Rogers and his wife Jenny from Guildford, Surrey, rang with us on Sunday 11th August. Chris was a principal ringer at Westminster Abbey until very recently when he retired at the age of 75!! It was an honour and privilege to have him as a ringer in our tower.

Our bellringers Jim Lucy, Emma Semple, Sandra Richmond and Derek Allen are pictured above with Mr & Mr Rogers.

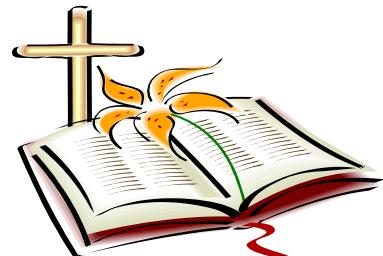
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Our Daily Bread – Bible reading notes

Each Sunday all three readings from the Revised Common Lectionary are printed on a Parish Bulletin. The Psalm and Collect are also listed. Make sure you get this sheet each week (If for some reason you are not out – get someone to take one for you). Please keep it and use one of the readings or psalm each day throughout the week with your private prayers.



Copies of Our Daily Bread (Bible Reading Notes) are available free of charge at the back of the church. Please take one and you will find an order form included so that you can order them and have them sent directly by post to your own home. These will make the reading of the Bible easy, enjoyable, interesting and relevant to every day life.



Hospital Visiting

If you or a member of your family are admitted to any hospital including the South West Acute Hospital, and you would like a visit please inform the Cathedral Office or a member of the clergy. Do not rely on the hospital system to inform the clergy as this may not happen. The clergy may well be on the same ward visiting other parishioners and not be aware of a parishioner in another room!

Parish Visiting

Can you help us? The Clergy and Diocesan Pastoral Assistant are always around the Parish making visits but they might not be in the right place at the right time. If you are unwell, feeling neglected or just lonely please ring the Cathedral Office and one of the clergy will be delighted to call. If you know someone who would value a Clerical visit or if a parishioner has had a close bereavement please also inform the office. It is not recommended that you tell one of the clergy at the Cathedral door on a Sunday morning as there is every chance they could forget in the midst of shaking hands with 300 people! A written note handed to them is a safer option.

HOME VISITS



Answers to Crossword on page 16

16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.

.

10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered.

DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date.

Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand.

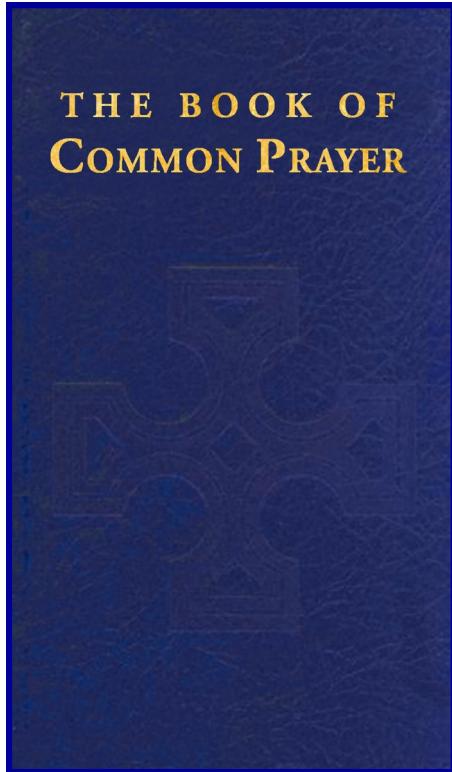
ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14,

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Prayer Books



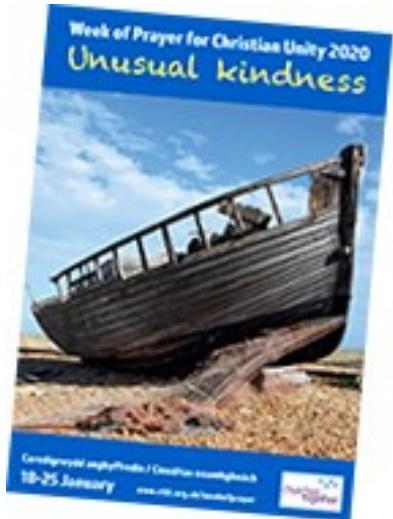
Do you have a Prayer book in your home? If not you should have! We are a Prayer Book church and the Prayer Book should not just be on those shelves at the back of the church for use on Sunday, but there should be a copy of a Prayer Book in every home. Everything in it is biblically based and it is a vital tool to everyday living, for daily prayer, and for nourishment and for enriching our daily walk with God. As you leaf through the Prayer Book you will find services and prayers for daily use, and for every situation and worry in life. It is a marvellous resource so use it. Copies are available from the Cathedral Office for £20.00 and would make an ideal Christmas gift!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Service in Enniskillen Presbyterian Church at 8.00pm on Thursday 23rd January 2020.

On 10th February many Christians in Malta celebrate the Feast of the Shipwreck of St Paul, marking and giving thanks for the arrival of Christian faith on these islands. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles used for the feast is the text chosen for this year's Week of Prayer.

Hospitality is a much needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God's will for his Church and all people comes to fulfilment. As Paul will proclaim in Rome, this salvation of God has been sent to all peoples (see Acts 28:28). All are welcome to this service



Happy New Year

The Christian faith teaches that a new start is endlessly possible. It is provided by a personal encounter with the risen and living Jesus Christ. He offers us the opportunity and the resources to make a new start, despite all our circumstances or failings.

The Bible records many encouraging examples of people who were able to start again after encountering Jesus. These include a woman caught in adultery who was facing execution by an outraged community, a hated tax collector named Zacchaeus who had been collaborating with the enemy, and Peter, the close friend of Jesus who publicly disowned him. God's provision of a new start liberates people from the powerful hold that guilt, fear and memories of failure can have over a human. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have made a way for humans to find



God's forgiveness. A Christian is someone who has accepted God's forgiveness and now has the freedom to reject the old habits of bitterness, anger or revenge, like disposing of a 'shabby old coat'. Many Christians experience this as such a new beginning that they describe it as feeling like a different kind of life.

Forgiveness, however, is not the same as perfection. Although many Christians can look back to a specific time at which they made a decision to make a new start as a follower of the way of Jesus Christ, living up to a new way of being is an ongoing struggle. There is a frequent need to revisit and remember the new start. Church services almost always include a point at which worshippers are encouraged to think about recent failures, confess them, and ask for the mercy of God in absolute certainty that He will forgive. The Bible describes God's promises of mercy as 'new every morning'. It is in the gracious nature of God that mistakes and failures are not a stick to be beaten with, but an opportunity to change into something better.

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Children's Page

Mouse Makes

Where did Mary lay her baby and why?
Read Luke 2:7

Where was Mary's baby born?
Why were Joseph and Mary there?
Read Luke 2:1-6

Good news!

What did Mary dress her baby in?
Read Luke 2:6

Why were the shepherds afraid?
Read Luke 2:8

Glory to God

What good news did the angel tell?
Read Luke 2:10-11

What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's baby and why?
Read Matthew 1:21

A Saviour is born

Who appeared praising God and what did they say?
Read Luke 2:13-14

What did the shepherds do after they had seen the baby?
Read Luke 2:16

Colour a star each day until Christmas

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December Lessons and Readers

The First Sunday of Advent - 1st December

The First Reading - Isaiah 2: 1-5 - Wendy Graham

The Psalm - Psalm 122

The Second Reading - Romans 13: 11-14 - Billy Dixon

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 24: 36-44 - The Dean

The Second Sunday of Advent - 8th December

Family Nativity Service

The Third Sunday of Advent - 15th December

The First Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-10 - Brendan McCann

The Psalm - Psalm 146: 4-10

The Second Reading - James 5: 7-10 - Gwen Saunders

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 11: 2-11 - Scott Elliott

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - 22nd December

Carol Service

The First Sunday after Christmas - 29th December

The First Reading - Isaiah 63: 7-19 - Jeanette Wilson

The Psalm - Psalm 148

The Second Reading - Hebrews 2: 10-18 - Selena Fawcett

The Gospel Reading - Matthew 2: 13-23 - Scott Elliott

**There will be no evening services on
Sunday 22nd and 29th December 2019.**

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to all who took part in the Shoebox Appeal. Almost 200 shoe-boxes were sent off from the Cathedral to destitute children in Eastern Europe. These simple items/toys will transform the lives of many and probably be the only Christmas present they receive. Thank you to Dr Willie Holmes for purchasing the specially designed empty shoeboxes (for filling).



Welcome Team December 2019

01 Doris and Gordon Jackson

08 Adele and Andrew Kerr

15 Jenifer and Noel Johnston

22 Marie and Sam Morrow

29 Eileen and Jim Nixon

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9.00am - Holy Communion
- 11.00am - Holy Communion (first and third Sundays)
 - Morning Prayer (second and fifth Sundays)
 - Morning Prayer/Family Service (fourth Sundays)
- 11.00am - Sunday School - Begins in church and children leave for classes.
 - On fourth Sundays they remain in church with their families.
- 7.00pm - Evening Prayer (first, second and third Sundays)
 - Holy Communion (fourth Sundays)
 - A Celebration of Wholeness and Healing (fifth Sundays)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

- 11.00am - Holy Communion (each Thursday)
- 1.05pm - Healing Service (fourth Thursday)
- 4.00pm - Messy Church (Thursday once per month as arranged)
- 7.30pm - Lent (each Wednesday)
- 7.30pm - Holy Week (each evening)

PAROCHIAL ORGANISATIONS

MONDAY

- Beavers - 6.30pm - 7.45pm
- Cubs - 6.30pm - 7.45pm
- Confirmation Classes - 6.30pm - 7.30pm (November - April)
- Xplore - 7.00pm - 9.00pm (as arranged)
- Finance Committee Meeting - 7.30pm - 8.00pm (first Mondays)
- Select Vestry Meeting - 8.00pm - 9.30pm (first Mondays)
- Mothers' Union - 8.00pm - 10.00pm (second Mondays)

TUESDAY

- Tuesday Club - 2.00pm - 4.00pm (last Tuesdays)
- Rainbows - 6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Brownies - 6.30pm - 7.45pm
- Guides - 6.30pm - 7.45pm
- Pilgrim - 7.30pm - 9.00pm (as arranged)

WEDNESDAY

- Bowling Club - 10.30am - 12.00 noon
- Bowling Club - 7.30pm - 10.00pm
- Choir Practice - 7.30pm - 8.30pm

THURSDAY

- Messy Church - 4.00pm - 6.00pm (as arranged)
- Scouts - 6.30pm - 8.00pm
- Bell Ringing Practice - 7.00pm - 8.00pm

FRIDAY

- Xplore Movies - 7.00pm - 9.00pm (as arranged)

**New members are
always welcome
at any of our
organisations!**