



NOTICES



Congratulations!

Many Congratulations to Melanie Sloan on being selected for training for Ordination! We are delighted for you! All in Ballymena Parish are excited to see how your ministry journey continues to blossom and grow in the exciting season to come. Please join us in praying for Mel and all the Sloan family as she prepares to begin her training.

Please continue to pray for Andrea Cotter as she begins to look towards finishing her second year at CITI and beginning her dissertation work. Please uphold her in prayer as she starts her Deacon Intern year in September. We pray it will be an exciting, inspiring and blessed time for Andrea.

Christian Aid Week 10-16th May

This year we are doing things differently! We can't meet and have the usual lunch in the church halls.

BUT we can all be together – in our own homes! We are asking you to hold your own At Home Soup Lunch and to continue to donate the money you usually would donate online via our JustGiving page; by sending a cheque to our Treasurer with a note of explanation; or by or by lodging it to the Church account (these details can be found on our Facebook page).

And remember – it doesn't have to be this Sunday! It can be any day you like!

Praying for those families who have lost loved ones

Here in Ballymena Parish we are praying for families within our church community who have been bereaved in recent weeks and months. Please remember in your prayers the families of: Carolyn Barton, Elizabeth Leonard, Audrey Clarke, Robyn King, Alexander Penney, Ellen Duffy, Joan Holden and her daughter Ruth Spencer, Hugh Murphy and Maurice McQuitty. We also pray for all those close to us and those connected to our Parish who are grieving loved ones. We pray they would know God's comfort, peace and consolation at this time.

Keeping in Touch

Please keep an eye on our website and our Facebook pages (Ballymena Parish & Ballymena Parish Youth and Families) for all that is going on in Ballymena Parish. Remember that you can get in touch with Rev Mark and Rev Emma via email:

revmarkmccconnell@gmail.com

revemaycarson@gmail.com

Sunday Morning Worship

17th May 2020

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



*Please come with us on a journey of prayer, praise and worship this morning.
Join in with us at home by using this service sheet.*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." 1 Peter 1:3

Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Worship – This I Believe

Confession

*Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

Please join in with the response to 'Father, forgive us' -

Save us and help us.

For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed
to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

Absolution

Psalm 100

Affirmation of Faith

If you are able please stand as we affirm our faith:
We join together to say:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Bible Reading – Jeremiah 18:1-6

Sermon

Collect of the Day

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers and Intercessions

Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are the God of all hope and consolation. We are thankful that there is the hope for an end to the crisis we find ourselves in. We pray for those in the medical and research professions, in politics and government as they plan for the next stages of the Covid-19 response. Grant them the wisdom and understanding they will need. Give them patience, grace and courage as they lead us in the coming weeks and months.

We continue to pray for all NHS workers who are daily dealing with the pressures and trials of working in a time such as this. Grant them all resilience, discernment, and compassion as they care. We thank You for the researchers working towards a vaccine and for all those working in nursing and residential homes and in the community.

We pray for all those dealing with grief and distress. Comfort the broken-hearted, compassionately care for them Father, be their firm foundation in all the days to come. We also pray for those suffering stress and anxiety; for those who are at work and are working overtime. We pray for those families finding this a stressful time with schooling and childcare.

Father God, we pray for those self-isolating alone, for families, for couples – all of us living through these challenging days. We ask for patience and grace; strengthen our relationships with those we love and care about. Give us great anticipation for that time when we can be together again with those we miss. May that be a day we look forward to with joy and expectation.

Lord, Jesus we pray we would find things that give us joy and satisfaction during long days stuck at home. May we use this time wisely, doing those things that bring us joy, peace and contentment. We ask You to help us not put ourselves under pressure to be doing and achieving. May we see these circumstances as a time to connect with You through reading our Bibles, praying and worshipping.

So, draw close to us Father now as we bring our time of prayer to an end. Speak to us today, be present in our daily lives, inspire our hearts and renew our confidence. We ask all these things in the power of Your Son's name and by Your Spirit.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Wherever we are now, we use the words that our Lord and Saviour Himself taught us to pray. Let's say together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing Worship – Men of Faith (Shout to the North)

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Lord Jesus Christ,
you humbled yourself in taking the form of a servant,
and in obedience died on the cross for our salvation:
give us the courage to follow you
and to proclaim you as Lord and King,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

