

News from the Parishes

Church of the Ascension, Annahilt



Magherahamlet Parish Church



May 2020



Rector: The Revd Canon Robert Howard
15 Ballykeel Road, Hillsborough
BT26 6NW
Tel: 028 9263 8218
E-mail: rjohert.howard@btinternet.com
Website: www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org



The Rector writes....

My dear Parishioners

I hope you are well as the lockdown continues. What a difficult and challenging time this is for many people.

It's hard being cut off from regular physical contact with family and friends. It's strange to see so many businesses and schools closed and everyone taken from the important routines we value so much. Going to church is one such activity and routine that is deeply important to so many of us. We feel the pain of not being able to worship together in the normal way. We miss seeing our fellow parishioners. Hearing an audio file has been a real comfort but it's not the same as gathering as a community. We miss seeing the beautiful flowers so lovingly arranged. We miss our organisations and the regular meetings we attend from which we receive so much. We miss the warm welcome we receive from our Church Wardens. In a time of enforced isolation, we are conscious that quite a proportion of our congregation may not have access to the internet where they can receive the audio files and services or get an electronic form of the Parish Magazine. For that reason, we have decided to produce another magazine which will be available to download on the internet. We are also going to physically post out some copies to parishioners who we know do not have access to the internet. This magazine primarily includes some further devotional resources for use at home at a time when we cannot physically worship together. You will find some Bible readings and prayers to offer strength and comfort in these troubled times.

I am very grateful to Colin Robinette and William Mathers who have been involved in the technology behind the scenes producing our online services and getting material onto the website. The Sunday School in Annahilt have been keeping in contact through Zoom calls. I'm very conscious also of how many people have been keeping in contact with each other by phone, text, WhatsApp, email and even postal mail throughout these difficult times. Those contacts are a source of great support and encouragement. I've also been moved to hear stories of people playing recordings of the online Services down the phone to others who don't have the internet and people sharing some of the services with those who are ill or housebound and don't normally go to church.

No-one knows at this point how long these restrictions will last but we hope this collection of Bible readings and prayers will bring you encouragement and hope in these days until we can worship together again. May I please ask you to pray in particular for one group of people at this time namely those who have been bereaved.

So far, there has not been a funeral in either of our Parishes since the outbreak of the present Health Crisis but I am sure we each may know of others who have died or have been bereaved. Families are having to arrange funerals in very difficult and restricted circumstances. Usually there is just a very short service at a graveside with an absolute maximum number of 10 mourners. It is a huge relief that the restrictions on access to graveyards have been now eased and that people may once again visit the graves of their loved ones.

Thank you to everyone for all the lovely messages and phone calls to me and for being so supportive. Thank you especially for the cards, e-cards and other greetings received on my recent 'significant' birthday. It's a great privilege to be part of the Church Family in this Group of Parishes.

I send you my love and prayers and look forward to the day when we can return to church together. In the meantime, do keep in mind some words from St Paul who wrote to the Thessalonians and said, "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". (*1 Thessalonians 5, Verses 16-18*).

Your sincere friend and Rector

Robert Howard

PRAYER REQUEST

Do you have a concern or problem and would like someone to pray for you? If so, contact the Rector who will be very willing to help. This is completely confidential and no details will be passed onto anyone else unless you want them to. Telephone: 028 9263 8218

Church Services in the Parishes of Annahilt and Magherahamlet

'I was glad when they said to me: "Let us go to the house of the Lord"'

Unfortunately, it is not possible to worship together in either the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt or Magherahamlet Parish Church during the present World-wide Medical Emergency. However, we do invite you to join in worship on-line.

Sunday 3 May **Easter IV**

10.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 10 May **Easter V**
VE Weekend

10.00 VE 75 Anniversary Service

Sunday 17 May **Easter VI (Rogation Sunday)**

10.00 Family Service

Thursday 21 May **Ascension Day**

7.30 pm Holy Communion

Sunday 24 May **Sunday after Ascension Day**

10.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 31 May **Pentecost**

10.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 7 June

Trinity Sunday

10.00

Holy Communion

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR THE CORONAVIRUS SITUATION

The following pages contain some prayers and Bible readings that may be of help at this time.

PRAYERS FROM THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

For hospitals & infirmaries

Almighty God, whose blessed Son went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness; Continue we beseech thee, this his gracious work among us, especially in the hospitals and infirmaries of our land; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and send down thy blessing on all who labour to relieve suffering and to forward thy purposes of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those in affliction or distress

Almighty Father, be present, we beseech thee, with those who are in sorrow, in suffering, in sickness, or in distress; and be thou their abiding stay and succour; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Sick and Suffering

Heavenly Father, we pray for the sick and suffering. Help them to know your love that they may seek strength from you, and find peace and healing in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For The Bereaved

Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved, the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience, not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of thy great goodness in past years, and in the sure expectation of a joyful reunion in the heavenly places; and this we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For Absent Friends

O God, who art present in every place; Mercifully hear our prayers for those whom we love, now absent from us; watch over them, we beseech thee, and protect them in all

anxiety, danger, and temptation; teach us and them to know that thou art always near, and that we are one in thee for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS ABOUT THE OUTBREAK

Almighty and All-loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, We pray to You through Christ the Healer for those who suffer from the Coronavirus Covid-19 in our land and across the world. We pray too for all who reach out to those who mourn the loss of each and every person who has died as a result of contracting the disease. Give wisdom to policymakers, skill to healthcare professionals and researchers. Give comfort to everyone in distress and a sense of calm to us all in these days of uncertainty and distress. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who showed compassion to the outcast, acceptance to the rejected and love to those to whom no love was shown. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

For those who are ill

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For hospital staff and medical researchers

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. **Amen.**

For one who is ill or isolated

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs For as long as it takes wherever you call us. **Amen.**

PRAYERS WITH CHILDREN

A prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. **Amen.**

A prayer at bedtime

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

Tonight, we pray especially for (*names family or friends who are affected by Coronavirus*) and the people of (*country or place which is affected by Coronavirus*). Please give skill and wisdom to all who are caring for them.

Amen.

A prayer remembering God is with us

Lord God, you are always with me. You are with me in the day and in the night. You are with me when I'm happy and when I'm sad. You are with me when I'm healthy and when I am ill. You are with me when I am peaceful and when I am worried. Today I am feeling (name how you are feeling) because (reasons you are feeling this way). Help me to remember that you love me and are with me in everything today. **Amen.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCES - FOR USE AT HOME

Useful Website List

Flame Creative Ministries (<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/>)

Mina Muns has created a wealth of resources from Playdough mats, reflective colouring pages, talk ideas and crafts – a one stop shop for ideas and inspiration.

Crafting the Word of God (<https://craftingthewordofgod.com/>)

Crafts from both the New Testament and the Old Testament. Most simply need printed out onto card. With scissors, glue and colouring pencils you will be all set to go. Crafts are all free downloads.

Children's Ministry Network (<http://www.cm.ireland.anglican.org/>)

On the Church of Ireland Children's Ministry website there are lots of ideas and resources as well as annual Newsletters which have lots of seasonal ideas. There are also some training videos available.

Helpful Bible Readings

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Psalm 55:22

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.

Psalm 91:2

I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'

The Most Revd John McDowell has just taken up office as Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. He has written the following article to be shared with the Church of Ireland throughout the island.

“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 martial 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 evangelisation: 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-Christendom, 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

VE Day 2020: We'll Meet Again doorstep singalong and a reading from HRH The Prince of Wales announced

Two-minute silence and address by HM The Queen will be part of re-shaped commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May



A projection wishing singer and war time sweetheart Vera Lynn a happy birthday is displayed on the cliffs at Dover

A [nationwide doorstep rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again*](#) and a [reading by Prince Charles](#) from his grandfather's wartime diary will be among the centrepieces of re-shaped celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

The "VE 75" commemorations of the end of the Second World War in Europe on 8 May will be led by an address to the nation from the Queen after plans for events including street parties and a parade of veterans down the Mall in central London were [cancelled because of the coronavirus outbreak](#).

Instead, the Government is asking people to observe social distancing rules and safeguard remaining veterans by marking the event next Friday from their homes.



At 103 Dame Vera Lynn is still singing, and released a duet with Katherine Jenkins

Two-minute silence

At the core of plans will be a two-minute silence at 11am followed in the evening by a national sing-along to wartime favourite *We'll Meet Again* following the Queen's address at 9.00 pm.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: "Whilst we now need to celebrate VE 75 in our homes and on our doorsteps, rather than in parades and street parties, I know the nation will come together to mark this historic occasion."

"In these difficult times, acts of remembrance are even more poignant and I am sure that millions will want to join me to remember and give thanks to those who gave so much to secure peace, freedom and prosperity in Europe."

Video calls

The re-shaped celebrations will include members of the Royal Family, Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Mr Dowden making video calls to veterans and those who served on the Home Front.

Prince Charles will also read an extract from the diary of King George VI's recounting VE Day on 8 May 1945, including the Royal Family's appearances on the balcony of Buckingham Palace.

The BBC will broadcast two special programmes which will include extracts from Sir Winston Churchill's victory speech delivered at 3pm on VE Day as well as pre-recorded events which the public will be asked to not travel to witness.

VE Day Commemoration events

- **11am** — Two-minute national silence to remember the declaration of victory and the end of the Second World War in Europe.
 - **2.45pm - 3.45pm** — The first of two special BBC One to mark VE75, including extract from Sir Winston Churchill's victory speech delivered at 3pm on VE Day.
 - **Afternoon** — We are encouraged to hold 1940s-style afternoon tea parties at home rather than street parties, including homemade bunting and recipes from the era.
 - **9pm** — Address by the Queen followed by national doorstep rendition of Dame Vera Lynn's *We'll Meet Again*.
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Sacrifices of others

As well as the 11.00 am Silence, the culmination of the commemorations will be an address by HM The Queen followed by the latest call to gather on our front doorsteps to show our appreciation of the sacrifices of others, in this case by singing '*We'll Meet Again*'.

The Royal British Legion has expressed the hope that the public will still participate in the occasion wholeheartedly. Bob Gamble, assistant director of commemorative events, said: "We are calling on people across the UK to mark the anniversary from home and take part in these national moments of remembrance and thanksgiving.

"There is no right or wrong way to take part in the silence at 11am, some people may wish to stand at their windows or step outside their front door, but we hope that

individuals and families across the UK will embrace the opportunity to share in a national moment of reflection.”

On Sunday 10 May, a special Service to observe VE 75 will be transmitted online via our Parish website from 10.00 am www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

LISBURN FOODBANK

The Foodbank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis in the Lisburn area.

During the present government ordered restrictions it is not possible to leave items for the Foodbank at Church. However, if parishioners would like to continue to donate at this time, and it is hoped that many will, they may wish to know that the collection points at the two supermarkets, Tesco and Sainsbury's, are permanent points and will allow people to continue to remember those who rely on the Foodbank in a very practical way.

A particular request from the Foodbank is for items listed below:

Toiletries
Small boxes of washing powder
Cleaning Supplies
Toilet rolls (2 or 4)
Baby wipes
Nappies
Diluted juice
Coffee

The Lisburn Foodbank is providing an essential service to those within our community who are experiencing difficult times, often due to circumstances beyond their control.

YOUR HELP WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.



10 Days of Prayer planned for Ascension to Pentecost

For the ten days from Ascension to Pentecost, Bishop David is calling the churches of Down and Dromore to a renewed focus on prayer for a spiritual harvest.

He invites us to personal prayer and to join with others around the diocese in using the resources that we will make available each day.

The 10 Days of Prayer initiative was introduced on St Patrick's Day but of course the original programme has had to be adapted to the new reality of lockdown and social distancing.

Each of the days following Ascension will have a different prayer focus. Here's a taste of the events to come, all of them happening online with, where appropriate, accompanying printable resources.

- Thursday 21 May: Ascension Day Services in the parishes
- Friday 22 May: Prayer focus on young adults with Bishop David and Tim Burns
- Saturday 23 May: Prayer focus on women with Hilary McClay
- Sunday 24 May: Parish worship with special prayers from church leaders
- Monday 25 May: Worship Rooms online
- Tuesday 26 May: Prayer focus on select vestries with Bishop David

- Wednesday 27 May: Praying the Litany
- Thursday 28 May: Parish prayer meetings online
- Friday 29 May: Prayer focus on civic leaders with Bishop David
- Saturday 30 May: Prayer focus on men with Bishop David
- Sunday 31 May: Bishop David will address the diocese on Pentecost Sunday

Please look out for further details in the diocesan website www.downanddromore.org/news/2020/04/10-days-of-prayer

Donations by Standing Order

In last month's magazine the Rector referred to the uncertain nature of the parish finances through the current Covid-19 crisis and suggested that setting up a Standing Order would be very helpful. Some parishioners have responded to this request and we sincerely thank them.

For those who have thought about setting up a Standing Order or direct transfer online and just haven't got around to it yet, please contact Patricia (Annahilt) or Hillary (Magherahamlet). They will advise you of the necessary information you will require to set up a standing order or direct transfer and also give you guidance if necessary. Alternatively, giving by cheque is another option. Any cheques will be gratefully received by Patricia or Hillary.

Annahilt – Miss Patricia Halliday Email patriciaapc@btinternet.com Telephone 028 9266 5310 Mobile 07713 257691

Magherahamlet – Hillary Edgar Email: hillary.edgar01@btinternet.com Telephone 028 4481 1361

Parish Magazine

Any contribution for the June edition of the Parish Magazine should be left with the Rector or Roger Maxwell (magazine@annahiltandmagherahamlet.org) by Sunday 24 May 2020.



www.annahiltandmagherahamlet.org

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