

**THE GROUPED PARISHES OF  
ANNAHILT AND MAGHERAHAMLET**

**A CELEBRATION OF  
THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**ON ASCENSION DAY 13 MAY 2021**

**THE GREETING**

*The Rector introduces the Service and greets the congregation with the following words:*

Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to the faith we profess.

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PENITENCE**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself

On these two commandments depend all the law  
and the prophets.

*Matthew 22: 37-39*

**Lord, have mercy on us,  
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace:

*Silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may walk in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The Rector pronounces the Absolution:*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (SUNG)**

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Grant, we pray, Almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens;  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

### THE EPISTLE

The Epistle is from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 1  
beginning at verse 1

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and  
taught from the beginning<sup>2</sup> until the day when he was taken up to  
heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the  
apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> After his suffering he presented  
himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to  
them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom  
of God.<sup>4</sup> While staying<sup>\*</sup> with them, he ordered them not to leave  
Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he  
said, 'is what you have heard from me;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with  
water, but you will be baptized with<sup>\*</sup> the Holy Spirit not many days  
from now.'

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this  
the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'<sup>7</sup> He replied,  
'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set  
by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy  
Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in  
Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the  
earth.'<sup>9</sup> When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted  
up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> While he was going  
and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in  
white robes stood by them.<sup>11</sup> They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do  
you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been  
taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you  
saw him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## THE GRADUAL HYMN CH 260

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love drowned in death shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine;  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

## THE GOSPEL READING

*The Gospel Reading is introduced by the following words:*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint Luke  
Chapter 24 beginning at verse 44

*All sing: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ***

44 Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you  
while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the  
law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be  
fulfilled.'<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the  
scriptures,<sup>46</sup> and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the  
Messiah<sup>\*</sup> is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third  
day,<sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be  
proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from  
Jerusalem.<sup>48</sup> You are witnesses<sup>\*</sup> of these things.<sup>49</sup> And see, I am  
sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city  
until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and <sup>53</sup>returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.-

This is the Gospel of the Lord

*All sing: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### **THE SERMON**

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
you promised through your Son Jesus Christ  
to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith.

Lord of your people: As we join with all Christian people in giving praise for the Ascension of your Son Jesus Christ, we pray for the Church that he left to continue his work on earth. Faithful to her calling, may she witness to his glory by declaring and practising his saving love, especially at this time of international crisis. We pray this diocese and for David our Bishop. We pray for this Group of Parishes; also the Titanic Quarter, Belfast and the Church Plant leader, Ross Munroe.

As your people God, may we be giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs, for as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord of creation:  
Look with favour on the world you have made which feels strange right now.  
Keep India, Myanmar, Kenya, the Horn of Africa, Yemen, and all nations under the shadow of your mercy in this time of pandemic, natural disaster and conflict..

Bless Elizabeth our Queen, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnston and the Government, all Peers and Members of Parliament in this new Session; for the First Minister, Arlene Foster, the Deputy First Minister, Michelle O'Neill and Executive and all MLAs; also President Michael D Higgins, the Taoiseach Micheal Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Government and TF's and Senators in the Republic.

Give them wisdom to make right decisions, courage to fulfil them and perseverance to continue their efforts to promote the welfare of humanity.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord of our relationships:  
comfort and sustain the communities in which we live. Help us to  
put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Help us to love our neighbours as ourselves, especially those who  
are isolated. Support those who are anxious about family and  
friends and help them find peace.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Lord of all healing:  
Be close to those who are ill or fearful. We pray for all who are  
convalescing from illness, in particular Isaac Harrison and Canon  
Eric Kingston. We pray as well for all who suffer from  
Coronavirus.

Give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick  
and administering the vaccine roll out.

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord of eternity,  
bind us together by your Holy Spirit,  
in communion with and all who, having confessed the Faith,  
have died in the peace of Christ,  
that we may entrust ourselves, and one another,  
and our whole life to you, Lord God,  
and come with all your saints to the joys of your eternal kingdom.  
**Amen**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to  
pray:

**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.**

#### **THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**We do not presume to come to this your table,  
merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under  
your table.  
But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE**

*The Rector introduces the Peace with these words:*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.  
*St John 20 v 19 & 20*

*followed by:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

#### **HYMN CH 259**

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  
Saviour, Master, King!  
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  
hear us as we sing:

*Yours the glory and the crown,  
the high renown, th'eternal name!*

Word incarnate, truth revealing,  
Son of Man on earth!  
Power and majesty concealing  
by your humble birth:

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,  
victim crucified!  
Death is through the cross defeated,  
sinners justified:

Priestly King, enthroned for ever  
high in heaven above!  
Sin and death and hell shall never  
stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising  
through the ages long,  
ceaselessly upon you gazing,  
this shall be our song:

#### **CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

#### **THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

*The Rector takes the bread and wine and may say*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us  
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour, thanks and praise  
be given to you at all times and in all places,  
Lord, holy Father, true and living God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is your eternal Word  
through whom you have created all things

from the beginning  
and formed us in your own image.

He has passed beyond our sight, not to abandon us but to be our  
hope, that where he is we might also be and reign with him in glory.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit  
and made us a royal priesthood called to serve you forever.

Therefore with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and  
earth are full, full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Merciful Father, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,  
and we pray that we who eat and drink them  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
in obedience to our Saviour Christ  
in remembrance of his death and passion  
may be partakers of his body and his blood,

who on the night he was betrayed took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you;  
Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
or the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Father, with this bread and this cup,  
we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
we celebrate the redemption he has won for us;  
we proclaim his perfect sacrifice,  
made once for all upon the cross,

his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
and we look for his coming  
to fulfil all things according to your will.

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom and in whom,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Rector breaks the consecrated bread in preparation for the  
Communion*

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

#### **THE COMMUNION**

*The Rector says*

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Remember that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The Rector and other persons present receive communion*

#### **THE GREAT SILENCE**

*When both have received the communion, they keep silence for  
reflection.*

#### **GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and feed us  
with the bread of heaven. Mercifully grant that, nourished with such  
spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts to the heavenly places;  
where he now lives and reigns forever. **Amen.**

*All say*

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

Christ our exalted King pour on you his abundant gifts make you  
faithful and strong to do his will that you may reign with him in  
glory: and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. *(All sing)* **Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Notices*