

# The Grouped Parishes of Annahilt and Magherahamlet

## A Service on Wednesday of Holy Week 31 March 2021

### PREPARATION

May the grace, healing and forgiveness of the Lord be with you  
this Holy Week  
**and also with you.**

O Saviour of the world, who by your Cross and precious blood has  
redeemed us:  
**Save us and help us, we humbly pray.**

*The Rector introduces the service with these or other suitable  
words:*

We gather together this evening to continue our journey with the  
Lord through this Holy Week of our salvation. The Wednesday in  
Holy Week sees the gathering gloom of hatred toward our Lord, of  
deep betrayal in the heart of Judas, and of determination to be rid  
of the very One who carries our future hope and salvation in his  
person.

The fact that Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him does not  
remove the responsibility from Judas. He betrays Jesus because he  
chooses to.

*Silence*

*Hymn*

Lord as to thy dear Cross we flee,  
And plead to be forgiven,  
So let thy life our pattern be,  
And form our souls for heaven.

Help us, through good report and ill,  
Our daily cross to bear;  
Like thee, to do our Father's will,  
Our brethren's griefs to share.

Let grace our selfishness expel,  
Our earthliness refine,  
And kindness in our bosoms dwell,  
As free and true as thine.

If joy shall at thy bidding fly,  
And grief's dark day come on,  
We, in our turn, would meekly cry,  
'Father, thy will be done.'

Kept peaceful in the midst of strife,  
Forgiving and forgiven,  
O may we lead the pilgrim's life,  
And follow thee to heaven.

*Penitence*

When we take our ease,  
rather than watch with you.  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

When we bestow a kiss of peace  
Yet nurse enmity in our hearts:  
Christ, have mercy  
**Christ, have mercy**

When we strike at those who hurt us,  
Rather than stretch out our hands to bless:  
Lord, have mercy  
**Lord, have mercy**

Jesus, Lamb of God, **have mercy on us,**  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, **have mercy on us,**  
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, **grant us peace.**

*The Collect of the Day*

Lord God,  
Whose blessed Son our Saviour  
Gave his back to the smiters,  
And did not hide his face from shame:  
Give us grace to endure the sufferings  
of this present time,  
With sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed:  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole family to himself, strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*Psalm 70*

**You are my help and my deliverer.  
O Lord, do not delay.**

O God make speed to save me:  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confusion:  
let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil.

**You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.**

Let those who mock and deride me:  
turn back because of their shame.  
But let all who seek you, rejoice and be glad in you:  
Let those who love your salvation say always: 'Great is the Lord'!

**You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.**

As for me, I am poor and needy:  
come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.

**You are my help and my deliverer:  
O Lord, do not delay.**

*Bible Reading Saint John Chapter 13 beginning at verse 21*

21 After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.'<sup>22</sup>The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking.<sup>23</sup>One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him;<sup>24</sup> Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking.<sup>25</sup>So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'<sup>26</sup>Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.'<sup>27</sup>So when he

had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot.<sup>28</sup>After he received the piece of bread,<sup>29</sup>Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.'<sup>30</sup>Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him.<sup>31</sup>Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor.<sup>32</sup>So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

31 When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him.<sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him,<sup>33</sup> God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

*Canticle Isaiah 53: 3-6*

**He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
And as one from whom others hide their faces:  
He was despised and we held him of no account.  
Surely he has borne our infirmities:  
And carried our diseases;  
Yet we accounted him stricken;  
Struck down by God and afflicted;  
But he was wounded for our transgressions:  
crushed for our iniquities;  
Upon his was the punishment that made us whole:  
And by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray:  
We have all turned to our own way,  
And the Lord has laid on him  
The iniquity of us all.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
And shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Sermon: The Rector*

RESPONSE

*Scriptural Affirmation of Faith 1 Peter 2:21b-25*

**Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example,  
that we should follow in his steps.**

**He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.  
when he suffered, he did not threaten,  
but he trusted himself to God, who judges justly.  
Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
By his wounds we have been healed, for we were straying like  
sheep,  
but have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of our  
souls.**

*Hymn*

Through all our days we'll sing the praise  
of Christ, the resurrected;  
who, though divine, did not decline  
to be by men afflicted:  
pain, pain and suffering –  
he knew its taste, he bore its sting;  
peace, peace has come to earth  
through Christ our king and saviour.

His birth obscure, his family poor,  
he owned no crown, no kingdom;  
yet those who grope in darkness, hope  
since he brought light and freedom:  
shame, shame and agony –  
though guiltless he of felony;  
shout, shout his sinless name,  
our Jesus, king and saviour.

At fearful cost his life he lost  
that death might be defeated;  
the Man of love, now risen above,  
in majesty is seated:  
low, low was his descent  
to those by sin and sorrow bent;  
life, life to all who trust  
the Lord, our king and saviour.

And all who trust will find they must  
obey the will of heaven;  
for grief intense can make some sense  
to those who are forgiven:

hard, hard the road he trod –  
the Son of Man, the Son of God;  
hope, hope in Christ alone,  
our reigning king and saviour

*The Prayers*

Let us pray to the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent  
his only Son to give us life.

Simon from Cyrene was forced to carry the cross for your Son.  
Give us grace to lift heavy loads from those we meet  
And to stand with those condemned to die.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Your Son watched the soldiers gamble to share his clothes.  
Transform the hearts of those who make a profit from their victims,  
and those whose hearts are hardened by their work.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

The thief, who was crucified beside Jesus,  
was promised a place in your kingdom.  
Give pardon and hope, healing and peace  
To all who are close to death.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

From the cross Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his  
disciple to each other's care. Help us also to care for one another  
and fill our homes with the spirit of your love.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

In Mary and John your Son created a new family at the cross. Fill  
our relationships and those of new families today, with mutual care  
and responsibility, and give us a secure hope for the future.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

The centurion was astonished to see your glory in the crucified  
Messiah.

Open the eyes of those who do not know you to see your Son in the  
meaning of life and death.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Joseph of Arimathea came to take your Son's body away.

Give hope and faith to the dying and bereaved,

And gentleness to those who minister to them.

Lord, hear us

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

Simon and Joseph, Mary and John.

Became part of your Church in Jerusalem.

Bring into your Church today a varied company of people

**Lord of the Church,**

**Hear our prayers,**

**And make us one in heart and mind**

**to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

*A prayer of preparation in advance of our commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper on tomorrow, Maundy Thursday:*

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his body and Blood: mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Dear Lord,

You chose Judas Iscariot to be among your twelve most trusted companions.

Yet he betrayed You *with a kiss*, gave You over to torture and certain death for 30 pieces of silver...

Over the years artists have pictured Judas as having red hair, which is seen in every nationality, but always as an exception in a minority of people.

The intent was, of course, to make Judas an "other," distancing him from most of us.

And so, we breathe a sigh of relief: We are not traitors: We are better than him.

But meditating seriously on Judas does force us to think of our own loyalty, or lack thereof, to our friends, acquaintances or even family. Might we desert them in their hour of greatest need?

Have we not all acted at some time in the manner of Judas, not leading someone to death, not collecting 30 pieces of silver, but perhaps savaging a reputation behind a "friend's" back, or standing in the way of another's success or happiness?

We are, none of us, completely innocent.

Lord, help us always to stand up for our companions, deal with them honestly, and be always Your Own loving loyal friend.

No more could we want than this, our Jesus. **Amen**

Lord, comfort and heal those who stand in the shadow of death, the mothers who have seen their children die, the friends who have been separated by death and all who are departing this life at this time. Grant that those whose crosses are heavy, may find new hope in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, in your last hours of pain you took thought for your mother and commended her to the care of your dear disciple John. Help us, when trials overtake us to have thought for our loved ones and for those who are in need of support and compassion. Make us to know that we are members of your family, and that nothing can separate us from your love, for your name's sake. **Amen.**

*We pray for all who are anxious, especially those who are sick or are recovering from sickness, in particular Mrs Jean Bradford, Trevor Hill, Canon Eric Kingston, and Isaac Harrison. Remembering those who are bereaved, we pray for all who mourn Aileen Stockdale:*

Loving father God, be with us in our distress; be with our families, friends and neighbours, our country and our world. Give health to the sick, hope to the fearful and comfort to mourners. Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers, insight to our Government and

patience to us all. Overcome disease with the power of your new life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and merciful God who in days of old didst give to this land the benediction of thy holy Church; Withdraw not, we pray thee, thy favour from us, but so correct what is amiss, and supply what is lacking, that we may more and more bring forth fruit to thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

*Closing Hymn (Kneeling)*

*The Story of The Cross – Part III*

On the Cross lifted up,  
Thy face I scan,  
Scarred by that agony,  
Son of Man.

Thorns form thy diadem,  
Rough wood thy throne;  
To thee thy outstretched arms  
Draw thine own.

Nails hold thy hands and feet,  
While on thy breast  
Sinketh thy bleeding head  
Sore opprest.

Loud is the bitter cry;  
Rending the night,  
As to thy darkened eyes  
Fails the light.

Shadows of midnight fall,  
Though it is day;  
Friends and disciples stand  
Far away.

Loud scoffs the dying thief,  
Mocking thy woe;  
Can this my Saviour be  
Brought so low?

Yes, see the title clear,  
Written above,  
'Jesus of Nazareth',  
Name of love!

What, O my Saviour dear,  
What didst thou see,  
That made thee suffer and  
Die for me?

*Blessing*

Christ draw you to himself and grant that you find in his cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.  
(*All sing*) **Amen.**

*Notices*

Registered as a charity with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland  
NIC103246 (Annahilt) and NIC102122 (Magherahamlet)