

THE GROUPED PARISHES OF
ANNAHILT AND MAGHERAHAMLET

SERVICE OF THE WORD
TO MARK THE
CENTENARY
OF THE OPENING OF
THE FIRST NORTHERN IRELAND PARLIAMENT



SUNDAY 27 JUNE 2021
CONDUCTED BY THE RECTOR:
THE REVD CANON ROBERT HOWARD

Introduction

This year marks the centenary of the creation of Northern Ireland. It provides us with an opportunity to look back and reflect on the last 100 years, and also to look forward in the present to the future that lies before us.

The Government of Ireland Act 1920 came into force on 3rd May 1921, partitioning Ireland and creating Northern Ireland. The first election to the Northern Ireland Parliament took place later that month, and on 22nd June 1921 the new parliament was formally opened by King George V at Belfast City Hall. In his speech, the King called for "... all Irishmen to pause, to stretch out the hand of forbearance and conciliation, to forgive and forget, and to join in making for the land which they love a new era of peace, contentment and good-will."

Sadly, this call was left unheeded by some sections of society at various points in the last 100 years with tragic episodes of conflict, discontentment and ill-will. Thankfully, good has prevailed over evil with a new era emerging in recent times and a fresh commitment to peace, prosperity and power-sharing resulting in better relations between North and South, and East and West.

The focus of this service is on good governance and civic responsibility. The prayers of repentance encourage us to learn from the mistakes of the past, individual and corporate. As HM Queen said in her speech in Dublin ten years ago, "With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all". The prayers of thanksgiving invite us to give thanks for all that has been good and true over the past 100 years, and the prayers of intercession remind us of our various needs and the needs of others as well as our continued dependence on God for his help and succour.

The Revd Dr Stanley Gamble
Rector of Killinchy Union

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preparation

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

GREETING

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

'Unless the Lord build the house,
those who build labour in vain.' *Psalms 127:1*

'Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.' *Isaiah 40:31*

'What does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.' *Micah 6:8*

'But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits,
without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.' *James 3:17*

BIDDING PRAYER

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
in meeting today we recall and commemorate
the one hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Northern Ireland.
Let us come together to offer to almighty God
our worship and praise and thanksgiving,
to draw near to the throne of God
in penitence and humility;
to pray for ourselves and for all who seek to better our common life
through public service and Christian citizenship.
And to pray that in the power of his Spirit
we may serve him in the pursuit of his heavenly realm.

HYMN CH 76

Sweet is the work, my God and King,
to praise your name, give thanks and sing;
to show your love by morning light,
and talk of all your truth at night.

Sweet is the day, the first and best,
on which I share your sacred rest;
so let my heart in tune be found,
like David's harp of joyful sound.

My heart shall triumph in the Lord
and bless his works, and bless his word:
his works of grace, how bright they shine –
how deep his counsels, how divine!

Soon shall I see and hear and know
what mortals cannot reach below,
and all my powers for God employ
in that eternal world of joy.

Penitence

Let us confess to God our share of the sins and shortcomings of the world,
its pride, its selfishness, its greed,
its evil divisions and hatreds.
Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failure to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Rector pronounces this 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.**

ACCLAMATION

STAND

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise
We give you thanks, our God and Father,
for you have created and you sustain us.
Through your only Son Jesus Christ
you have revealed your love and care for all your people;
you are ready to forgive and to save in time of need;
so we proclaim your glory 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!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! hosanna in the highest!**

COLLECT

God of our past, God of our future,
from whom all authority comes.
On this centenary of the opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament
we pray for the legislative assembly and its executive.
By your gracious help may it give Northern Ireland good governance,
serve with integrity and seek the common good,
that all people may live peaceably and grow in respect for one
another;
this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Ministry of The Word

First Reading

The Old Testament Reading is from the 1st book of Kings Chapter 3
beginning at verse 5

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and
God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁶And Solomon said, 'You

have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David,
because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in
uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great
and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne
today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king
in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not
know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the
people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they
cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an
understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between
good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him,
'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life
or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself
understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your
word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you
has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give
you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life;
no other king shall compare with you. ¹⁴If you will walk in my ways,
keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David
walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

15 Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem,
where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered
up burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for
all his servants.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

PSALM 100

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord | all ye | lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his | presence | with a | song.
- 2 Be ye sure that the Lord | he is | God;
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves
we are his people | and the | sheep of · his | pasture.
- 3 O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving
and into his | courts with | praise;
be thankful unto him and speak | good of | his | name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is | ever|lasting,
and his truth endureth from generation · to | generation.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, and | to the | Holy | Spirit:
As it was in the be | ginning is | now and shall be for | ever. A | men.

Second Reading

The Epistle is from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 13 beginning at verse 1

13 Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; ⁴ for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority ⁵ does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁶ Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. ⁷ For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁸ Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GRADUAL HYMN OLD ICH 312

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
Entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love;
The love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
That lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
The love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
The love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country, I've heard of long ago,
Most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
We may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
Her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
And soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
And her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint Matthew Chapter 5 beginning at verse 1

All sing: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁵ When Jesus ^{*} saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely ^{*} on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

Response

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

HYMN CH 507

Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands
with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways
in touch with God's creation.

Put peace into each other's hands,
like bread we break for sharing;
look people warmly in the eye:
our life is meant for caring.

Put peace into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance
and share it like a treasure.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

Almighty God,
you promised through your Son Jesus Christ
to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith...
We pray for your Church in all the world,
for its unity and mission, for this diocese and for David. our bishop.

We pray for all in this Group of Parishes especially those recently
confirmed.

We pray also for the Parish of Drumbeg, remembering the Rector, the
Revd Willie Nixon and all Christian leaders.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray that we may work for peace
and embody Christ's ministry of reconciliation. By the power of the
cross help all who sin to repent, and all who have been sinned against
to forgive, that peace and reconciliation may come.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose discipleship
brings them into places of conflict and risk
and those who help to demolish walls of mistrust and prejudice.
Channel the strong desire for peace among many people into useful and
constructive ways of peace making; and bring your own rule of peace
among those created in your image.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who stand alongside
victims of hatred and sectarianism,
that your Church may work unceasingly
for human rights, equality and justice in the world. We ask that you
will awaken each one of us to the responsibility we have before you for
those who need the words of peace and love through Jesus Christ which
we have a sacred duty to make known to them.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister Boris Johnson,
the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and the Government, for the First
Minister Paul Givan, the Deputy First minister, Michelle O'Neill and
the Executive, for all Peers and Members of Parliament and of the
Legislative Assembly, We pray also for President Michael D Higgins,
the Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Government
in the Republic.

May the leaders of this and of all nations
may be given the courage to choose good
and reject evil in accordance with your will

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who display courage
in upholding justice and in preserving peace throughout the world
especially in Syria, Israel, Palestine, South Sudan, Yemen, Eritrea and
Myanmar.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, suffering and bereaved.
We especially remember those among us
who bear physical and psychological scars from the past. May Christ so
enter the hearts and minds of all victims that frailty may be made good
by his strength and bitterness by his total and victorious love.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

**Merciful Father,
accept these our prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Let us say together:

**Sovereign, wise, and gracious God, in whose hands lie the past,
present and future, we acknowledge before you our failures, our
divisions, and the hurt we have caused you and one another.
Forgive, restore, and heal us. The events of partition and
formation, which took place one hundred years ago on the island of
Ireland, changed, shaped, and determined the outlook for the place
which many of us call home.**

**As we reflect upon those times and bring to mind what happened
then and in the years since, we acknowledge before you our
different and often polarised interpretations of history.**

**As we travel onwards in our journey, may we learn from the
experiences of the past and from those who trod these roads before
us, so that the inheritance we pass on to the next generation is the
gift of understanding, peace, and hope. In faith we pray, and
humbly ask, in the name of him who is the light of the world and
giver of all hope, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Church Leaders' Centenary Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

HYMN CH 10

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil is builded,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power
hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Daily doth the almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all;
ye who follow shall not fall.

Act of Commitment

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

Will you strive for all that builds a peaceful society?

We will.

Will you seek to heal the wounds of the past?

We will.

Will you work for a just society for all?

We will.

Merciful God,
may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people
and live lives of justice, courage and mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
as we mark the centenary of the opening of the Northern Ireland
Parliament,
grant to us a true sense of what it is to be your people in the world.
We ask you to so guard and guide all who reflect on the past,
all who lead us in the present,
and all who shape our future,
that we may model our society on the image of Christ and to his glory,
in whom we trust and through whom we pray. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
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.**

HYMN CH 81

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided,
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
Speak to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
Teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
Spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
For young and old, for this and every nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world, when we disown and doubt him,
Loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
Hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ will reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
Past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Notices