

**The Grouped Parishes of
Annahilt and Magherahamlet**



Parish Communion

2 May 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Rector introduces the Service

Hymn CH 272

JESUS lives: thy terrors now
can no more, O death, appal us;
Jesus lives: by this we know -
now the grave cannot enthrall us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: for us he died;
then may we, for Jesus living,
pure in heart, in him abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: to him the throne
over all the world is given;
may we go where he is gone,
live and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!

The Rector, the Revd Canon Robert Howard, says:

Christ is risen

All: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia. Luke 24:34

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 1v 3*

All:

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. Matt. 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.

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.**

(All Sing)

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

O God,
form the minds of your faithful people,
that we may love what you command
and desire what you promise,
so that, amid the many changes of this world,
our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found:
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The first reading is from the book of the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 8 beginning at verse 26

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south* to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.)²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.'³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'³⁵ Then

Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?*' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip* baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Easter Anthems

Christ our passover is | sacri • ficed | for us;
therefore | let us | keep the | feast,
Not with the old leaven nor with the leaven of | malice • and |
wickedness;
but with the unleavened bread | of sin | certy • and | truth.
Christ being raised from the dead | dieth • no | more:
death hath no | more do | minion | over him.
For in that he died he died unto | sin | once:
but in that he liveth he | liveth | unto | God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed | unto | sin:
but alive unto God through | Jesus | Christ our | Lord.
Christ is | risen • from the | dead:
and become the first | fruits of | them that | slept.
For since by | man came | death:
by man came also the resur | rection | of the | dead.
For as in Adam | all | die:
even so in Christ shall | all be | made a | live.
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

The Epistle is from the 1st Epistle of Saint John Chapter 4 beginning at verse 7

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world

so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love* because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters,* are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister* whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters* also.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

*Jesu, Jesu,
fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.*

Kneels at the foot of his friends,
silently washes their feet;
master who acts as a slave to them.

Neighbours are rich folk and poor,
neighbours are black, brown and white,
neighbours are nearby and far away.

These are the ones we should serve,
these are the ones we should love;
all these are neighbours to us and you.

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we were slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Saint John
Chapter 15 beginning at verse 1

All sing: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes* to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed* by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become* my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Sing: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Sermon

The Rector

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

The Rector says

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:

Grant that your Church, constant in faith and love, may bring forth good fruit. We pray for David our bishop, and for this group of parishes. Give unity to all her branches in the strength of Christ, the true vine. Make her ministers wise in the teaching of holy scripture.

Open our minds to new horizons, new experiences and a new way of looking at life. May we live by the Spirit bearing rich fruit to your glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Lord of creation:

Enlighten all in the world who earnestly desire to find the truth, and lead them to those who can show them the way. With your love, cast out the fear that destroys fullness of life.

Give wisdom to all rulers and law givers, keeping them constant in care for those whom they are committed to serve. We pray for Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister Boris Johnston, the Government and all Members of Parliament and Peers. On the eve of the centenary of Northern Ireland, we pray for the First Minister Arlene Foster, Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill and the Executive, all Assembly members and other public representatives, also President Michael D Higgins, an Taoiseach Micheal Martin, Tánaiste, Leo Varadkar and the Government in the Republic.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord of our relationships:

Give grace to our families and friends to recognize the presence of Christ in all we do. In our lives together, especially over this holiday weekend, make us witnesses to the love that he brings to all who follow him.

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Lord of all healing:

Relieve and protect those who are sick or suffering or are recovering from sickness. In particular we pray for Isaac Harrison. Have mercy on those who are without security of living and have lost their sense of purpose, especially in the midst of the catastrophic health crisis in India and following the stampede in Israel .

We thank you for the various scientists who have toiled day and night that we might receive the vaccinations that will protect us. May it be your will that this vaccine will prevent the further spread of the pandemic and save the lives of millions throughout the world. Bring us back to the one sure source of life in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Lord of eternity:

We give thanks for all who have glorified you by their lives on earth and left us a good example. Give us grace to praise their memory not in words alone, but in lives that make us worthy to share with them in your everlasting glory.

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.**

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

The peace which Jesus brought through his rising again on Easter
Day be with you all.
And also with you.

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

Hymn CH 254

At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his piercèd side.
Praise we him, whose love divine
gives his guests his blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast;
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

Where the paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
paschal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.

Mighty victim from on high,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight;
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.

Easter triumph, Easter joy,
sin alone can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us

Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

The Great Thanksgiving

The congregation may kneel

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.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it
is right to give you thanks and praise:

And above all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your
Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the true Pascal Lamb who was sacrificed
for us; by dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our
life:

And so with all your people, 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!
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you
made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even
when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but
in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving
your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the
cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-
sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and
in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory
of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had
given thanks to you, 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had
given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of
you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you
and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you
drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your
Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate
his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of
his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by
the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your
holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that
he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

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.

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.

Communion is received

Living God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily unto sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life;
God the Son, who in rising from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith;
God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace;
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.**

Recessional Hymn CH 634

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown;

Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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

Notices