



NEWSLETTER ❖ PENTECOST

Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Dear friends

Being the last day of Eastertide, Pentecost, we celebrate today the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and to the Church. Sometimes described as the birthday of the Church, this festival draws us towards some of the most fundamental questions of the Christian faith. In a secular culture that is consumerist in character (it encourages us to acquire goods and services in ever increasing quantities) what does it mean to focus our lives on the spiritual entity we call God, and to involve ourselves in gifts of God's Spirit through which, the Church teaches, we are guided and empowered?

Two books come to mind that help if not to answer this question, then to provide clues. Firstly, Bishop Rowan Williams' little book, *Being Christian*, published in 2014. The late Sister Wendy Beckett wrote of this book:

Christianity is both simple and profound. Rowan Williams understands these two levels, and how we come to the depth of what Jesus is by the simplicities of informed Christian practice.

Those simplicities are enumerated by Lord Williams in four brief chapters: *Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer*. None of these headings looks particularly productive for the world - the Church is often anxious to appear useful to society's secular censors - and that is part of the point. Being a Christian is about being transfigured for God, not dancing to the world's tune, although the world is - of course - also changed through our transformation as members of the mystical body of Christ (perhaps that's why it resists).

The other book is Timothy Radcliffe's *Why go to Church?* A very good question you may feel at the moment, when the doors remain locked! Fr Radcliffe wrote this book with its subtitle, *The Drama of the Eucharist*, at the invitation the Archbishop of Canterbury (Rowan Williams again) in 2009. In the foreword Rowan described the basic commitment of the Christian to

let God the Holy Trinity, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, touch the core of our humanity and, as Timothy Radcliffe writes at the very end of the book, 'free us to be sent' in God's name, to announce healing and joy to all creation ... Only a vision like this can get us out of bed on Sunday mornings!

Both of these books focus primarily on worship, not on service - worship of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Worship inspires service - yes, but primarily service of *God* and of the *Gospel* that touches and changes our humanity, planting seeds for justice, reconciliation, and healing in the world, since injustice is an offense to God's glory.

There's lots about contemporary Christianity that tries to short-circuit our need to continually re-orientate our lives towards God and the promise of glory through worship and prayer, and to eclipse those virtues with enterprises of moral striving for communal aims that, however worthy and creatively achieved, usually degenerate into rivalry, exhaustion and guilt. Pentecost, however, celebrates the Church's renewal in our faithfulness to the work of the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to that work, and not our own capacity to achieve it. Thank God for that!

Fr Alasdair

THE WEEK AHEAD

The Rector will again be on leave on Monday: Morning and Evening Prayer will be placed on the website by kind members of the congregation; Mass will hopefully be celebrated on both Monday and Tuesday but without being webcast.

Another Zoom meeting (bring your own coffee or tea) is planned at **1000 on Wednesday**.

To Join Zoom Meeting at 1000 on Wednesday:

Alasdair Coles is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82546386442?pwd=Nklvc005SGINVldDSlJTZEFlkUT09>

Meeting ID: 825 4638 6442

Password: 4mkGii

To join Zoom Compline at **2100 on Wednesdays**:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87820265205?pwd=V3dFMFZLRUk0SjBnMEtKRi9KSHdxZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 2026 5205

Password: 2CYC3z

A reminder that, wherever possible, audio recordings of services are being shared on the church website here:

<https://www.allsaints-standrews.org.uk/category/virtualservices/>

Thank you to those providing audio files for various parts of today's Sung Mass and especially to Bishop Ian for providing the Homily.

Negotiations are in process with Bishop Ian over permission to have one person *not* from the Rectory household at services held outside, either in the church courtyard or at one of the holy places around this part of Fife. While it's yet to be entirely clear *why* that permission is required - given that the Phase I guidelines from the Scottish Government permit it - we have been asked *not* to do it yet.

There are different understandings of the nature of Christian worship current in the Scottish Episcopal Church and in any congregation. The Bishop is concerned that some at All Saints', eager to return to church, may be placing their own spiritual needs above the wellbeing of others: that it is for our own edification regardless of risk to others. While that is possible (and perhaps a suitable issue for self-examination and repentance if necessary) the Rector sees another possibility: that a distinctive understanding of worship operates at All Saints'; that far from being for *our* edification, worship is offered to God. Worship is an act of fundamental love and justice towards God, for which we are created, without which many of us feel diminished beyond the privations of the lockdown, and far less well-resourced for the challenges of loving in a complex world full of risks. Health, wellbeing and love involve managing more than one risk.

Do you know that feeling when you wished you hadn't asked and just got on with it?

HOMILY FOR PENTECOST - BISHOP IAN

‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ (John 7.38)

It is very good to be with you, in this way, for the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost.

When the lockdown finally ends, one of the places I intend to make for is the Isle of Skye, a place I’ve known and loved all my life. On the road to the Isles, on the way to Spean Bridge, you drive along the long shore of Loch Laggan. A few miles further on, you pass another beautiful stretch of water, but one that is not a natural loch at all. At the far end of you see the reason for its existence, the immense Laggan Dam, built to contain the waters of the River Spean and creating a new loch where before there was none.

When they finished the dam in 1934, the waters began to collect, and the Glen began to fill, so that today there is a beautiful loch, with views, wildlife and fishing. A visitor might easily imagine that the sole purpose of building the dam had been to create another beauty spot on the road to Skye, a twin for Loch Laggan. But of course that was not the purpose. The fishing and wildlife and all the other features of Spean Water are secondary, for its real and much needed purpose, the purpose which transformed that landscape to flood it with water, is to collect the water for great city of Glasgow. A beautiful loch on the way to Skye was created not because for the pleasure of fishing or or enjoying the view, but for the sending of water to those who need it.

In the Gospel for today Jesus says, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink!’ ‘If anyone is thirsty!’ we think. In the middle of this pandemic we know we are very thirsty - thirsty so see our families and friends, thirsty to know we and others will stay safe, thirsty for the eucharist and the sacraments, thirsty to pray again in church. We are thirsty, and need that living water.

Jesus is talking about the living water of the Holy Spirit, who would come when he himself was glorified. The living water that comes as the gift of God. Today, I would have been at All Saints to celebrate with you the Sacrament of Confirmation, the sacrament of the Holy Spirit in the life of the baptised. We would have prayed for the Spirit’s gift of living water to each of the candidates. Of course the Holy Spirit is at work not only in Confirmation but in all of the sacraments. In Baptism it is the Spirit who incorporates us into the Body of Christ, the Church. In the Eucharist it is the Holy Spirit who, in answer to the Church’s prayer, transforms the bread and wine, and also transforms the people. Our own Scottish Liturgy (in its various forms) asks the Father “to send thy Holy Spirit upon us and upon these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine.” That prayer, called *epiclesis*, is a prayer for the ‘spiritual communion’ most of us will have to make today, just as it is a prayer for the sacramental communion being received on our behalf. By the power of the Holy Spirit, both are transforming gifts, both are living water.

Many of us tend to suppose, at least some of the time, that the purpose of the spiritual life is that, filled with the Holy Spirit’s gifts, we will become a beautiful loch, a pleasing sight, a holy people, enjoying the presence of God. We are so thirsty for the living water we receive from our life of faith, that our image of holiness is that picture of the loch, beautiful and glistening but essentially static.

Yet the purpose of the loch is not to exist for its own sake, but so that water can flow out of it. As Jesus says in the Gospel, ‘The one who believes in me, as the Scripture says, out of that person’s heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ‘Out of that person’s heart,’ he says, when we might have expected him to say, ‘into that person’s heart.’ Yes, God is the source of our life, the fount of our love, and the well of our salvation. And, yes, we are filled by the Spirit’s living water - in Baptism, in the Eucharist, and the other Sacraments; in the word of Scripture and the life of prayer. But we are filled so that the waters, having been collected in the loch, can then flow out, downstream, to where they are needed.

In 1918 Marcel Proust described the effect of living through the First World War: “Just as people used to live in God, so I live in the war.” This may be how many people feel about the pandemic, it dominates and affects everything we do and how we think of the world. But one of the Spirit’s gifts to us is the reassurance that we do indeed live in God, in all the circumstances of our lives and the life of the world. The Holy Spirit is that living water poured upon us, perhaps most especially when we need it most, and through us to others most especially when they need it most. Many have lost friends or family to the virus, in them the Spirit of love is at work. Many are fearful about the future of their jobs, in them the Spirit of comfort is at work. Many are worried about the future of human society, in them the Spirit of truth is at work.

The feast of Pentecost is therefore a time, not only of celebration, but of vocation for all of us, just as it would be for the candidates at a Confirmation. We are not called to be a static loch, however beautiful, but to be those ‘out of whose hearts’ will flow rivers of living water for all who are thirsting for love, for comfort, for truth, and for God.

May the Spirit bless you this Pentecost and always.

LECTIONS FOR SERVICES THIS WEEK

<i>Pentecost</i> 31 May	Mass Numbers 11.24-30 Psalm 104.24-34, 35 Acts 2.1-21 John 7.37-39	MP Psalm 48 Genesis 11.1-9 Acts 10.34-48	EP Psalm 104 Joel 2.21-end Acts 2.14-38
<i>Mon 1</i> <i>June</i>	The Visitation Zephaniah 3.14-18 Psalm 113 Luke 1.39-49	Psalm 19, 20 1 Samuel 2.1-10 Mark 3.31-end	Psalm 29, 33 Zechariah 2.10-end John 3.25-30
<i>Tues 2</i>	2 Peter 3.11-15a, 17-end Psalm 90.1-4, 10, 14, 16 Mark 12.13-17	Psalms 45, 46 Joshua 2 Luke 9.28-36	Psalms 47-48 Job 2 Romans 1.18-end
<i>Weds 3</i>	<i>Martyrs of Uganda</i> 2 Timothy 1.1-3, 6-12 Psalm 123 Mark 12.18-27	Psalms 65-67 Joshua 3 Luke 9.37-50	Psalm 68 Job 3 Romans 2.1-16
<i>Thurs 4</i>	<i>Pope St John XXIII</i> 2 Timothy 2.8-15 Psalm 25.4-12 Mark 12.28-34	Psalms 84, 87 Joshua 4.1-5.1 Luke 9.51-end	Psalms 91, 92 Job 4 Romans 2.17-end
<i>Fri 5</i>	<i>St Boniface of Mainz</i> 2 Timothy 3.10-end Psalm 119.161-168 Mark 12.35-37	Psalms 96, 97 Joshua 5.2-end Luke 10.1-16	Psalms 98-100 Job 5 Romans 3.1-20
<i>Sat 6</i>	2 Timothy 4.1-8 Psalm 71.7-16 Mark 12.38-end	Psalm 104 Joshua 6.1-20 Luke 10.17-24	Psalms 147, 148 Exodus 34.1-10 Mark 1.1-13

If you don't have your own Prayer Book, the Offices of Morning & Evening Prayer are in the same section as recorded services on the church website. If you'd like to borrow a Prayer Book or any other resources from church, let the Rector know.

GIVING TO ALL SAINTS'

A reminder for any who would like to support All Saints' financially our bank details are:

Bank: Royal Bank of Scotland
 Branch: 113 – 115 South Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QB
 Sort Code: 83-26-28
 Account name: All Saints Episcopal Church – St Andrews
 Account number: 00104363

Treasurer's contact details: Mr Ian Palfrey, 8a Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL
 01334 472358 treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk

INTERCESSIONS

Pentecost

Thank you for your prayers for the two funerals last week: both went as well as they could be expected to and the families were grateful for support from All Saints'.

While Judy Cummins is now recovering in St Andrews Community Hospital from her broken hip, Robin White is in the Victoria Hospital with a similar injury and is due to undergo surgery tomorrow. Please remember them in your prayers

IN PARTICULAR NEED

Debbie & Priscilla White, Eleanor Ross, David McLean, Anne Zweers, *Priest*, Amy Cox, Robyn Seenan, Bill Scott, *Priest*, Samantha, Averil Taylor, *Priest*, Anne Clayton, Judy Cummins, Ian Sadler, Andrew Mate, Cherry Jackson, Lori-Mark Quate, Graham Kennedy, Robin White

CONTINUING NEED

Lenora Mahoney, Effie Keracher, Jonah & Chris Andrews, Gareth, Jenni & Rosalie Saunders, Ashley & Kathleen Cummins, Charles & Thomas Ware, Ann Noltie, Lawrence Reynolds, Sally-Marie Gardner, Edie, Amber & Morya Blyth, Alice Bullough, Joan Day, Becca Swanson & baby Nairn, Janet Reid, Catherine Rowe, Bill Hyland, Samantha, Steve Scott, Angela Allaway

RESIDENTIAL CARE

Catriona, Fiona Ingham, John Shillaker, *Priest*, Marie-Louise Moffatt, *Priest*, Charlie Mather

RECENTLY DEPARTED

Frances Wann, Jacqui Quate & baby, Joan Maines, Simon Barrington-Ward, *Bishop*

YEAR'S MIND

- 31/5 James Traill, 1924
- 1/6 Alice Maud Gourlay, 1940, Dorothy Evelyn Herbert, 1983, Eleanor Doris Bruce, 1993
- 2 James Cummings Kirk, 1939, Margaret Vera Thorne Sinclair, 2015
- 3 Harriot Hassell Breudin, 1940, Marjorie Grace Gardner, 2005
- 4 David Fowler, 1926, Margaret Pizzie Patterson, 1928, Katherine Sanderson, 1992, Betsy Cummings, 1998
- 5 John Watson, 1928, Colin Robertson, 2014
- 6 Catherine Melville, 1931

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