

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Today (17 May) is Rogation Sunday. Rogation is celebrated tomorrow, Tuesday and Wednesday and precedes Ascension Day on Thursday. The word Rogation is from the Latin Rogare which means 'to ask' and the days of prayer, fasting and processions are a formal means of asking God for a good Harvest, protection against natural disasters and the forgiveness of sins. Traditionally a common feature of Rogation days was the 'beating of the bounds', in which a procession of parishioners led by the Minister and churchwardens would proceed around the boundary of the Parish and to pray for its protection over the coming year.

**A Prayer for Rogationtide**

*Remember Lord, your mercy and kindness towards us.*

*Bless this good earth and make it fruitful.*

*Bless our labour and give us all things needed for our daily lives.*

*Bless the homes of our parish and all who live within them.*

*Bless our common life and care for our neighbours. Hear us good Lord. Amen*

*Bishop Peter is posting, on the diocesan website, a weekly video reflection based on the Sunday's Eucharistic readings. The upcoming Bible readings will be posted on the Thursday beforehand to allow people an opportunity to reflect on the text in advance of the Bishop's sermon, the video will then go online every Sunday morning.*

**The cathedral is meeting virtually for worship on Sunday mornings 10.30am, if you would like to join in with this worship please contact Canon Janice.**

**Our Bible readings for today are;  
Ps 66:7-18, Acts 17:22-31 & John 14:15-21**

**Thy Kingdom come.....**

As noted above, we celebrate Ascension Day this coming Thursday as the day our Lord Jesus Christ returned to heaven. As we await the joys of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit we can join in with the prayer 'Thy Kingdom Come'. This is a global prayer movement between Ascension Day (this Thursday) and Pentecost (Sunday 31 May) established by The Church of England in 2016. There is a link to resources on our church website, facebook page and via [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) Briefly, over 9 days of focused prayer Christians this year are encouraged to pray for the Holy Spirit to work significantly in the lives of those who don't follow Christ, that they might encounter his love and peace and so become followers of Jesus.

In particular, this year we are encouraged not simply to pray that friends and family, colleagues and neighbours might encounter the love of God in Christ, but that they would experience that love in action. We are calling this '**Prayer and Care**' – care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for. As we pray for others, we pray that they would come to know Christ so that they may come to give their lives to serve God's Kingdom. Every person taking part in TKC is asked to pray for 5 others who don't know the love of Christ and then to resolve to invite them along to something appropriate once our church buildings are reopened. All this prayer is reliant and expectant that the Holy Spirit would draw more and more to encounter God's love in Christ, so we might be and bring the difference in the world he sends us to stake everything on.

**Don't forget....**10-16<sup>th</sup> May was Christian Aid week. Of course, there weren't any house to house collections this year. Instead, the Manx focus for this year is to complete the Burundi Bee project, started by Louise Whitelegg and Harry Owen. If you have not had a chance to look at the appeal or make a donation please use this information below and watch the youtube link from Louise Whitelegg:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/burundibees>

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/fundraising/bees-burundi>

Direct to IOM Bank: Christian Aid, Sort: 55-91-00 acc: 13045571

Post: Christian Aid, Marlbrook, Kerrowmoar, Lezayre, IM7 2AX

Link to you tube for details of the Manx project in Burundi to create a centre of excellence to train bee keepers.

<https://youtu.be/dD5RjbcKQ9jQ>

And we pray for.....

all those in our communities who are vulnerable or struggling: the elderly, the isolated and lonely, single parents, those who are ill or depressed, those stressed and anxious, the poor and needy, those facing financial pressures and insecurity, and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one; and we pray that they that they may know God's presence with them and be comforted.

all our Island Community as we gradually lift coronavirus restrictions that together we may find the new norm, so that no one remains feeling isolated or alone and we can find new and safe ways of continuing to be a caring community.

On this Rogation Sunday we pray for our farming community, all who work the land, feed our island, and care for God's creation. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness to us and in this long dry period we pray for the land and pasture, for rain for the fields and the crops that our harvest may be sufficient.

We continue to hold in Gods' Loving care the hundreds of thousands of people across the world affected by the Coronavirus. We pray for wisdom, generosity and compassion for all world leaders with responsibility for the logistics of infection control and financial security. We pray for those in the world's poorest communities and refugee camps who have no access to medical care, no sanitation, no water for drinking or hand washing, no financial security and no option for isolation during the coronavirus pandemic. We give thanks for the selfless work of Aid agencies and churches that are working to support them in their need and we pray for a spirit of generosity that these innocent people are not forgotten as, globally, we scramble to save our own economies and face the financial cost of lockdown.

From amongst our own fellowship we continue to pray for; Paul Lemaire, Jenny Ingham, Fleet & Joan Simpson, Bert Winckle, Tanya Thompson, Maud Dawson, Richard Beaumont, Mary Stevenson, Joan Brain, Sally Lister, Eddie Corkill, Wilf Corkish, Les Edwards, Pat Killip, Dee & Mark Whitlock & Elaine Quayle.

#### Don't forget.....

\* The latest edition of the parish magazine is now available on-line via our church website [www.marownchurch.im](http://www.marownchurch.im)

\* Judith Ley's Sunday morning 9.30am broadcast on Manx Radio- 'At Your Service' continues. It includes music, scripture, prayers and reflections.

\* Churches Bookshop, this shop remains 'open' for telephone and email orders, please leave messages on 01624 621593 or [churchesbookshop@manx.net](mailto:churchesbookshop@manx.net)

\*ROOTS resources, The ROOTS community comprises churches, organisations and individuals, using their own resources to enrich worship and learning. ROOTS is offering additional resources to use at home during the pandemic. These are fun, informative, prayerful and easy to use so give them a go using the links.....

For adults [www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome17may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome17may)

For families [www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome17may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome17may)

\***Daily HOPE** is a free national phonenumber aimed particularly at older people who don't have access to the internet. Manx Telecom customers will not be charged for the call from either a landline or mobile. Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer. These will be updated daily from Common Worship, and also recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called Hymn Line will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love' provides a hymn and reflection – and an invitation to sing along!

#### Bible readings for the coming week.....

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May MP= Ps 65, Numbers 16:1-35 & Luke 6:27-38

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> MP= Ps 126, Num 16: 36-50 & Luke 6:39-49

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> MP= Ps 132, Num 17: 1-11 & Luke 7:1-10

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> ASCENSION DAY MP= Ps150, Isaiah 52:7-15 & Hebrews 7:26-28

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> MP= Ps 81, Num 20:1-13 & Luke 7:11-17

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> MP=Ps 47, Num 21:4-9 & Luke 7:18-35

EP= Ps 121, Deut 26 & 1 Peter 4:1-11

EP= Ps 128, Deut 28:1-14 & 1 Peter 4:12-19

EP= Ps 15, 2 Samuel 23:1-5 & Colossians 2:20-3:4

EP= Ps 8, 2 Kings 2:1-15 & Revelation 5

EP= Ps 145, Deut 29:2-15 & 1 John 1:1-2:6

EP= Ps 85, Deut 30 & 1 John 2:7-17

### **Prayer time up-date.....**

Canon Janice keeps regular prayer times (9am & 6pm) Morning Prayer is said at Marown Vicarage but **from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May island clergy were allowed back into church for private prayer, therefore, Evening Prayer is now being offered by Canon Janice in Marown Church.** Why not join in from your own homes at those times too so our 'private prayer, silence and reflection' coincide.

If you need support please contact her on the usual vicarage number 851378 or by email [revjaniceward@manx.net](mailto:revjaniceward@manx.net)

Don't forget our facebook page or website [www.marownchurch.im](http://www.marownchurch.im)

The Church of England website [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) and the diocesan site [www.sodorandman.im](http://www.sodorandman.im)

### **Our reflections this week come from Licensed Reader Nancy Clague**

From the Acts reading, Paul is addressing the people in Athens, who have lots of gods, and even an inscription to unknown god, in case they missed one out and offended him/her.

Abraham worshipped the one true God, Moses gave us 10 commandments from the One true God and Jesus came to live among us to show the best way to live our lives for God, and died for our wrongdoings, we do not need to live in fear and guilt. What is our response? Do we still 'worship' unknown gods, idols, just putting other things/objects before our Lord. During this lockdown I have spent hours in the garden. I try to stop at midday and join in prayer with a friend in UK, I try to remember to say evening prayer, or night prayer, but sometimes I am just so engrossed in the garden, time slips away. Am I putting the garden, enjoying the outdoors, the sunshine and bird song before talking to God in set prayers? Many people have preferred to spend Sunday's shopping or recreational, maybe washing the car or preparing Sunday lunch. Nothing bad in themselves but are they making 'gods' or idols in the form of sport, possessions or free will to do as they please?

A recent article in the magazine for Readers was written by Gertrud Sollars (recently retired from Central Reader Council) and echoes some of my thoughts, she has a better use of vocab than me. She writes, responding to a video she had received, that asserted that God 'has sent' COVID-19 in judgement of our turning away from him. 'For a start. I don't believe God sits in heaven, pulling a lever called 'judgement' when he has had enough' (Yes plenty in OT suggesting this with the plagues but we live with the NT) 'She continues,.... 'If I abuse creation, it will wither; if I abuse my body, I will get ill; if I abuse my neighbour, relationships will be damaged, and harm will ensue. God does not need to pull a trigger. The current outbreak of the coronavirus can be traced to a natural chain of cause and effect, unhygienic conditions, people living very close together, globalisation, etc. Given the circumstances we have created, an event of this kind was highly likely if not inevitable. I don't believe God sits in heaven dropping viruses; I believe God sits with us, weeping with us' She continues the article but I will leave her thoughts now.

How do we react to accusations that God has sent the virus?

There have always been virus', bacteria, insects and some are annoying, and many more are helpful.

How we react to accusations of a good God sent this virus, therefore I won't believe in the one true God, but will worship the things important to me, the unknown gods, Paul was talking about?

God weeps with us, we know this because Jesus lived among us to show his Father's love for us. He shared parties, he healed the sick and he wept with his friends. Jesus tells us to love our God, and love each other, and he promised to send us a Helper, but that's for next week.