

**Sunday 24th May 2020**  
**7th Sunday of Easter/Sunday after Ascension Day**

This Thursday just past was Ascension Day. It comes 40 days after Easter Day and one of the main feast days of the Christianity. It is the day that marks the end of Jesus earthly appearances that followed his resurrection, and his return to heaven, thus, liberating Jesus from our sense of time and space. We now look forward to and prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Thereby, Pentecost itself becomes not just a remembrance of a past event but a renewal of the out-pouring of the Spirit upon the Church-which is us! This Sunday is an opportunity to continue to reflect upon and celebrate these Holy Mysteries and to open our hearts and minds to welcome afresh God's Holy Spirit into our lives.

*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 68:1-10& 32-35, Acts 1:6-14 & John 17:1-11**

**Thy Kingdom come**.....This is a global prayer movement between Ascension Day and Pentecost (Sunday 31 May) established by The Church of England in 2016. Over 9 days of focused prayer Christians 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 the theme is 'Prayer and Care' – care for those you are praying for, pray for those you are caring for. Pray for 5 people 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 people to encounter God's love in Christ.

There is a link to resources on our church website, facebook page and via [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

**Praying the Keeills Week**.....has begun but not in its usual format. The coronavirus means that the walks and visits that normally make up this special week (23-30<sup>th</sup> May) cannot take place but you can join in with virtual tours to the sites that would have been physically visited by going onto their facebook page <http://m.facebook.com/pg/PrayingtheKeeills/posts> You will find daily up-dates complete with pictures, music, prayers and readings from the venue hosts, including a piece from St Luke's Baldwin on Friday. Manx Radio's Thought for the Day next week is also linked to praying the Keeills Week.

**And we pray for**.....

all those in our local 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 in 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 society.

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 we give thanks for the selfless work of aid agencies and churches that are working to support them in their need.

the people of India and Bangladesh affected by Cyclone Amphan which has caused widespread destruction to already vulnerable people. Bless the work of Christian Aid as they work through local partners to help those people in most need.

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.

RIP Wilson Gibb

Don't forget.....

\*you can support the work of Christian Aid to bring relief to those affected by Cyclone Amphan by going online and donating via their website [www.christianaid.org](http://www.christianaid.org)

\*The islands Godly Play team are now offering Godly Play sessions online. The next one is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2pm. If you would like to know more or want to join in contact Canon Janice for further details.

\* 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)

\*The ROOTS community comprises churches, organisations and individuals, using their own resources to enrich worship and learning. They are 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/adultsathome24may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome24may)

For families [www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome24may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome24may)

\*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 25th May MP= Ps 93, Numbers 22:1-35 & Luke 7:36-50

Tue 26th MP= Ps 99, Num 22:36-23:12 & Luke 8:1-15

Wed 27th MP= Ps 29, Num 23:13-30 & Luke 8: 16-25

Thur 28th MP= Ps 24, Num 24 & Luke 8:26-39

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> MP= Ps 28, Num 27: 12-23 & Luke 8: 40-56

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> MP=Ps 43, Num 32: 1-27 & Luke 9: 1-7

EP= Ps 18, Deut 31:1-13 & 1 John 2:18-27

EP= Ps 68, Deut 31:14-29 & 1 John 3: 1-10

EP= Ps 46, Deut 31: 30-32:14 & 1 John 3:11-24

EP= Ps 139, Deut 32:15-47 & 1 John 4:1-6

EP= Ps 147, Deut 33: & 1 John 4:7-21

EP= Ps 48, Deut 16:9-15 & John 15:26-16:15

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

Canon Janice keeps regular prayer times (9am & 6pm) Morning Prayer is said at Marown Vicarage but from Monday 11th 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)

#### **A short reflection from Canon Janice Ward**

Life is full of 'goodbyes' whatever our ages or circumstances. Some of these 'goodbyes' are occurrences which we expect to be repeated daily (I used to wave my husband off to work in the mornings and my children to school). Some of these 'goodbyes' are matters of politeness, like saying goodbye when leaving a shop after paying for your merchandise. Some 'goodbyes' are more poignant such as when we move house leaving behind neighbours and friends. The most significant 'goodbyes' are those said at the death of a loved one.

Jesus Disciples probably said 'goodbye' to him on numerous occasions with the expectation of seeing him again. However, after the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and as the mood of the crowds turned sour they probably had a sense of foreboding that any 'goodbyes' said between them now might represent a more permanent state of affairs. The events of Jesus arrest, trial and execution didn't leave time or opportunity for any sort of 'goodbye'. Jesus resurrection appearances, from what we are told in the Gospels, didn't either. What were the Disciples thinking? If Jesus had overcome death did that mean he would always be with them? Was 'goodbye' going to be unnecessary now? The tone of John's Gospel 17:1-11 suggests that Jesus knows there will be an ultimate separation between himself and his friends, family and followers, at least in earthly terms. Jesus speaks of 'eternal life' and 'finishing the work' God has set for him. Jesus entrusts the Disciples into God's

keeping before clearly stating that they will remain 'in the world' but he will not. This is a clue pointing them and us to a very different kind of 'goodbye' which John does not elaborate on, the Ascension is not noted in this Gospel.

It is in The Acts of the Apostles that we read of Jesus being taken up to heaven never to appear on earth again as he had been doing post resurrection. Again, there seems to have been no chance for 'goodbye'. But there is reason for that, 'goodbye' was not necessary. Jesus had already told the Disciples that he would be with them 'to the end of the age', as recorded at the very end of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus remains full present to every person who believes in him through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we think of Jesus it is not as some historical figure locked in time but as an ever-present reality alongside us today. We need never say 'goodbye' to Jesus because he never leaves us. This is one of the signs of the new life and new kingdom that Jesus initiated. Whilst most things in this life are time-limited and finite, Jesus is not, he is eternal.

Most of us struggle to really understand the awesomeness of God in Jesus. It is only through the help of the Holy Spirit that we have the strength and depth of faith to carry us beyond our human comprehension into the heavenly realms. We expect life to be punctuated by 'goodbyes' of one form or another. We have come to accept that the goodbyes we said to each other when we last met at church have lasted after longer than we imagined they would need to at the time. Similarly, with the goodbyes we said to TT visitors last year, waving them off in full expectation of seeing them again this May. By God's grace we shall see each other and our TT friends again. Equally by God's grace we will meet Jesus again. What we focus upon and rejoice in is that Jesus lived among us as a human being, giving us an opportunity to re-establish our relationship with God. What is more, Jesus did not leave to wrestle with that opportunity alone but sent the Holy Spirit to help us. Never mind 'goodbye' it is time to celebrate and welcome the Advocate, the Helper, the Paraclete.....