

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Today our fellowships at Marown and at St Luke's should have been celebrating their church anniversaries. Instead, due to current circumstances, we give thanks for our common life together in Jesus' name from our homes as we pray...

Almighty God, to your glory we celebrate our homes as houses of prayer:  
We praise you for the many blessings you continue to give us as we worship you:  
And we pray that you will fill us with your Holy Spirit  
And make us living temples acceptable to you.  
Guard our churches whilst strengthening our faith.  
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 31 v 1-5, Acts 7 v 55-60 & John 14 v 1-14

Today (10 May) is also the start of Christian Aid week. Of course, there won't be 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. The following is a message from Louise:

"You may be aware that we are approaching Christian Aid week (10th -17th May). Like everything in our lives, this special week for the Island and the important outreach, discussions, prayers and awareness of global issues has been disrupted by this horrific virus. Yet, the world's poor need our help now as much, and more so than ever. This year's Christian Aid Week appeal was about finishing what we started in Burundi. It contains information on the Burundi Bee Project with suggested Prayers, actions and ways to support the project. If you need any help please contact [lwhitelegg@christian-aid.org](mailto:lwhitelegg@christian-aid.org) or phone 474275."

There are several items on our church website giving more details about this year's Manx appeal (including how to knit bees!) and how you can contribute. Our island community responded generously to the first part of the project, let's full together and see it to completion.

And so we pray for.....

All people suffering from poverty, injustice and the effects of climate change.

We pray that God will bless the work of aid agencies, especially Christian Aid's work in Burundi, give us generous hearts to play our part in caring for our neighbours near and far and in sharing the worlds resources whilst nurturing the environment.

God's loving care to be on all people across the world affected by the Coronavirus. We pray for vision, wisdom and compassion for those working to control the virus and move beyond lockdown, especially upon our government ministers as they strive to keep us safe and chart a way forward.

developing countries, already suffering so many difficulties, which do not have the infrastructure, health services or wealth to contain the virus. We pray to for refugees around the world who have fled their home countries and for all homeless people.

our Island Community particularly our medical services, social services, care workers, and ourselves as Christ's people, that we may continue to help and support others, so that no one may feel isolated or alone in this crisis. We also hold before God those afflicted with other illness or health conditions, those suffering mental breakdown and emotional turmoil.

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 Audrey Mc Neil

### 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/adultsathome10may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome10may)

For families [www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome10may](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome10may)

\*Daily HOPE is a free national phonenumber launched last Sunday, aimed particularly at older people who don't have access to the internet. Research indicates that some three million people have no or very irregular, access to the internet. The phonenumber is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, and the Diocese has now had written assurance that 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 11 <sup>th</sup> May	MP= Ps 145, Numbers 9:15-23 & 10:33-36, Luke 4:38-44	EP= Ps 105, Deut 16:1-20 & 1 Peter 1:1-12
Tue 12 <sup>th</sup>	MP= Ps 19, Num 11:1-33 & Luke 5:1-11	EP= Ps 97, Deut 17:8-20 & 1 Peter 1:13-25
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	MP= Ps 30, Num 12 & Luke 5:12-26	EP= Ps 99, Deut 18:9-22 & 1 Peter 2:1-10
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup>	Matthias the Apostle MP= Ps16, 1 Sam 2:27-35 & Acts 2:37-47	EP= Ps 80, 1 Sam 16:1-13a & Matt 7:15-27
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup>	MP= Ps 138, Num 14:1-25 & Luke 6:1-11	EP= Ps 66, Deut 21:22-22:8 & 1 Peter 3:1-12
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	MP=Ps 146, Num 14:26-45 & Luke 6:1-11	EP= Ps 118, Deut 24:5-22 & 1 Peter 3:13-22

Canon Janice keeps regular prayer times at the vicarage (9am & 6pm) 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 Steve Hamer from Kirk Michael as we pause now to consider 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day

As a child living in the industrial Midlands, a bus ride away from Birmingham, my walk to school took me over a canal with steel rolling mills along its banks. I can remember the 1st May being a different day as the horses that pulled the barges along the towpath were decked with flowers. May Day was the celebration of the return of spring and probably originated in ancient agricultural rituals going back to the Greeks and Romans. The first Monday in May became an established public holiday across Europe. This year, in the British Isles, the holiday was moved to Friday 8th May to create a long three day weekend to celebrate 75 years since the end of World War 2 in Europe.

After the loss of an estimated 75 million lives across the globe, the formal act of military surrender was signed by Germany on 7 May 1945. The next day celebrations broke out across the world to mark Victory in Europe. In Britain, Churchill marked the occasion by declaring 8 May a public holiday. But, what about the plans for this year ?

The Scottish poet Robert Burns wrote in his poem entitled 'To a Mouse' in 1786 "The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men'. Loosely translated, this means that even the best of plans often go wrong - for the biggest and most intelligent creatures and also for the smallest and least intelligent. For us, the parallel today being that even the well-intended plans of humans have been shattered by this dreadful, minute virus. There will be no national rejoicing, no parades, no street parties, no church services, etc.

But, we can reflect on what VE day is - it marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. The war continued in the Far East until fighting in Japan ceased on 14th August - which most countries celebrate as Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day). Statisticians often use 25 years as a generation and we are thus three generations on from WW2. There's an old saying 'when war ends, peace breaks out' – and since the end of WW2 there have been at least twenty battles, such as Korea and Vietnam. It's a fragile, uneasy peace that needs constant effort to protect it. We need to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. Peace is something we have to work at.

One of the sections of the Jewish Bible records the sayings of the prophets. Zechariah lived about 650BC and in chapter 8 of the book of Zechariah it refers to a time of living in safety and peace. This coming Thursday (14 May) the Jewish peoples will celebrate 72 years since they returned to Israel after 6 million of them were murdered in Nazi concentration camps and having been chased for centuries out of intolerant cities across Europe. For them living in safety and peace was a dream – but as unlikely as it might have been at the turn of the century, in 1948 the State of Israel was formed. God spoke these words through King Zechariah some nine centuries earlier:

*“I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain.” 4 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each of them with cane in hand because of their age. 5 The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” 6 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “It may seem marvellous to the remnant of this people at that time, but will it seem marvellous to me?” declares the Lord Almighty. 7 This is what the Lord Almighty says: “I will save my people from the countries of the east and the west. 8 I will bring them back to live in Jerusalem; they will be my people, and I will be faithful and righteous to them as their God.” (Zechariah 8:3-8)*

Jewish people are still returning to live in Jerusalem – to make aliyah. That's a Hebrew word meaning 'to go up'. Jewish tradition views traveling to the Land of Israel as an ascent, both geographically and mentally. Since the State of Israel was formed in 1948 about 3 million Jews from across the world have returned to their ancient homeland - their right to citizenship enshrined in law.

God also spoke through the prophet Micah about the end times and God's promised time of peace that will flow out from Jerusalem. In Micah 4.1–4 it records it as a time when they will 'beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid.' This time is still to come.

In Psalm 122 verse 6 King David exhorts us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and with it a request to God that may those that do so be secure. It continues - 7 May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.” 8 For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.” 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity. I can almost hear the words ringing out from that great choral anthem by C H Parry – I was glad.

As we know, our churches are closed for the time being by legislation preventing people meeting together and thus reducing the risk of passing on, or receiving the Coronavirus. However, we can celebrate 75 years of peace since the end of WW2. As Christians we can thank God that we live in a peaceful and relatively prosperous country. However, we must not forget our Christian brothers and sisters who do not enjoy either of these, and where warfare and hunger are a daily concern. It is a salutary thought that if the Nazis had won WW2 what our country would now be like – certainly not the freedoms we have come to enjoy.

Finally, to end with, a few thoughts about the peace of Christ. In 1981 the gifted composer John Rutter wrote a sacred choral composition entitled 'May the Lord bless you and keep you.' It has become a classic and is a beautiful setting of the priestly blessing that God suggested Aaron use and recorded in the Biblical Book of Numbers 6: 24-26. The blessing, sung or spoken, is used at the conclusion of worship, baptism, ordination, marriage, and other special occasions in Christian worship - such as at Holy Communion when not partaking of the bread and wine.

The six part benediction is:

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

**Culture Vannin has plenty of resources at [https://www.culturevannin.im/resource\\_629051.html](https://www.culturevannin.im/resource_629051.html). Along with Manx National Heritage (MNH) both have put a lot of effort in and one can discover more about the important role the Isle of Man played during the Second World War and how VE Day was celebrated on the Island. Click here to find out more. MNH have also some more links to their home school resources which can be found online, scroll down to find the VE Day part. There are also extracts from VE Day newspapers and photos. The digital iMuseum is currently free to use - there is no need to subscribe or create an account. You can ignore the Subscribe Now and Login buttons and just dive right in.**