

PAX

Dear friends in Christ

A story:



Nuns and Monks playing an early form of Cricket, Ghiselles Hours 14C Flemish

*A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him 'Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it.' So he did. The old man said 'Shoot another,' and he did so. Then the old man said, 'Shoot yet again,' the hunter replied 'If I bend my bow so much I will break it.' Then the old man said to him, 'It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs.' When he heard these words the hunter was pierced with compunction and, greatly edified by the old man, he went away. As for the brethren, they went home strengthened.'*¹

As I write this newsletter I am looking forward to my Retreat at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Nr. Consett, County Durham. It is too long since I made a Retreat, and the opportunity to rest in God in Silence feels long overdue. The last 18 months has taken a toll on all of us, with the world we now inhabit, seeming to change daily, in ways we would once have never conceived. An essential aspect of Christian life is to make time for God. The old saying is 'an hour a day, a day a month, a week a year'. To stand back from our daily lives and to take stock in God's company is a privilege, but also a necessary one. It allows us to review and understand where God is leading us. There should be time to relax (possibly to even play a game of cricket!). Time to pray: to just 'stand and stare...'

¹ p.3, 13 Anthony the Great, The Sayings of the Desert Fathers, The Alphabetical Collection, trans Benedicta Ward, SLG

In September we have the opportunity to meet with the Revd Professor (Retd) David Jaspar and his wife Alison, a University Lecturer, to rediscover, renew and learn about Celtic Spirituality, Poetry, Worship and Mystical Christianity. It is always good to share our understanding of God and to learn about the spiritual traditions of Holy Church. I hope a number of you will join us for what looks to be a very interesting day on the 18th September. (Full details and booking information can be found below).

The newsletter team are taking a well-earned rest in September but will return in October. Our services are listed below including St. Ninian's Patronal Festival on the 16th September. Do come and celebrate our patron's feast day with us at 7pm.

Meister Eckhart, a German mystic, once wrote:

Man's last and highest parting is when for God's sake he takes leave of God.²

May we never take leave of God. I pray that we may have the courage to cross the Kidron³ with Jesus and His disciples, as we learnt all those weeks ago in Holy Week.



Jesus crossing the Kidron after the Last Supper

I pray that you and I will make time to be with God and to walk Faithfully into the future with His Son, Jesus Christ.

May God continue to bless us all.

Yours in Christ

Christopher
Rector

² p.14 Serious Sounds, John Moriarty

³ John 18: 1

Please Pray for:

For Earle, Anne and Marion Gardner, Gill Piper, Francis Turnbull, Clem' & Ann Gault, Katherine Hatfield and Jenny Wright, Billy and Llyn Glendinning, Ian Mather, Inez, Alison Coolican, Alan Rumble and all their families. Remember especially those who are struggling particularly at this time.

Support at St.Ninian's, Castle Douglas & Christ Church, Dalbeattie



If anyone is in need of help, conversation or prayer please do not hesitate to contact Christopher 01556 505894, Helen Evans 01556 504007 or Christine Collier 01556 670275. We are all available to talk or help in any way. It is important that we keep in touch as much as possible.

Church Services

Sunday 5th September at 11:00am Trinity 14

Family Eucharist at St. Ninian's Castle Douglas

Sunday 12th September at 11:00am Trinity 15

Family Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie

Wednesday 15th September at 11am

Eucharist at Bothwell House, Castle Douglas

Thursday 16th September Patronal Festival St. Ninian at 7pm

Family Eucharist at St.Ninian's, Castle Douglas

Sunday 19th September Trinity 16

11am, Eucharist at St. Ninian's

3pm, Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, Dalbeattie for Barbara Chadwick RIP

Sunday 26th September, 11am Trinity 17

Family Eucharist at Christ Church, Dalbeattie

Sunday 3rd October, 11am Trinity 18

Eucharist at St. Ninians, Castle Douglas

Prayer Themes for Trinity 14

Sunday:	Pray for people of Afghanistan. For Refugees and Asylum Seekers as they make their journeys to safety. We pray they may be welcomed and cared for. For the mission of our church and our church family as we enter the Season of Creation.
Monday:	For continued Peace in the world. For tolerance and understanding among the nations. May they have a love for the poor and vulnerable. For those in danger of losing their jobs and those sectors of industry and hospitality which are not allowed to open. For those in financial difficulties.
Tuesday:	For University students & staff as they prepare for the new Semester. For all school staff and pupils.
Wednesday	We pray for our care homes and especially their residents at Bothwell House, Hanover House, Carlingwark Care Home, Barlochan House Care Home, Munchies Park House, and Alma McFadyen Care Centre. For those at home who are dependent on carers and those who look after them.
Thursday:	For our politicians, Governments, Councils and all in authority.
Friday	For the people of Louisiana & New Orleans, Yemen, Myanmar and Hong Kong. For those awaiting execution on death row.
Saturday	For the people of India, Brazil, and all nations struggling with the Covid pandemic. All who suffer the effects of 'Global Warming'. For the NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI. For those affected by the Coronavirus throughout the world. For all who are experiencing 'Lockdown', and for our own communities.

Gospel Readings for Trinity 14, 15 & 16

Sunday	Trinity 14	Mark 7: 24-37
Monday	feria	Luke 6: 6-11
Tuesday	feria	Luke 6: 12-19
Wednesday	Birthday of the BVM	Matt 1: 1-16, 18-23
Thursday	feria	Luke 6: 27-38
Friday	feria	Luke 6: 39-42
Saturday	feria	Luke 6: 43-49

Sunday	Trinity 15	Mark 8: 27-38
Monday	St. John Chrysostom	Luke 7: 1-10
Tuesday	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	John 3: 13-17
Wednesday	Ember Day	John 10: 1-16
Thursday	St. Ninian	Matt 7: 21-29
Friday	Ember Day	Luke 4: 16-21
Saturday	Ember Day	Matt 9: 35-38
Sunday	Trinity 16	Mark 9: 30-37



**Study Day ‘An Adventure in Faith’
with John Moriarty**

10.15am to 4pm, 18th September, in St. Ninian’s,
Castle Douglas, Gordon Hall

John Moriarty is an Irish poet, philosophy and writer on religious and mystical themes. He begins his book *Serious Sounds* with Philip

Larkin's poem 'Church Going'. Our day will begin with a discussion of the same poem as a starting point for a discussion of Celtic spirituality and poetry, the spirituality of worship, and finally a reflection on mysticism and the adventure of Christianity.'

David and Alison Jasper

David is an Anglican priest who taught religion for many years at Glasgow University. Alison taught religion at Stirling University.

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and Coffee will be provided.

Let us know you are coming by email to cg.ketley@zen.co.uk or tel Christopher 01556 505894

The Feast of St. John Chrysostom September 13th September

Those of us who are familiar with the Scottish Prayer Book (1929) Service of Evensong will be familiar with the prayer below:

A PRAYER OF SAINT CHRYSOSTOM

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for

them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

How many of us I wonder are familiar with St. John Chrysostom and his life?



St John Chrysostom (349 - 407)

He was born in Antioch. After a thorough education, he took up the ascetic life. He was ordained to the priesthood, and became a fruitful and effective preacher.

He was elected Patriarch of Constantinople in 397, and was energetic in reforming the ways of the clergy and the laity alike. He incurred the displeasure of the Emperor and was twice forced into exile. When the second exile, to Armenia, had lasted three years, it was decided that he should be sent still further away, but he died on the journey, worn out by his hardships.

His sermons and writings did much to explain the Catholic faith and to encourage the living of the Christian life: his eloquence earned him the surname “Chrysostom” (the Greek for “golden mouth”).

Below is another prayer of his that is to be prayed before reading scripture:

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart that I may hear your Word, and understand and do your will, for I am a sojourner upon the Earth. Hide not your commandments from me, but open my eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of your Law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of your wisdom. On you do I set my hope, O my God, that you shall enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of your knowledge; not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; For you are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from you comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

Stewartry Food Banks

If you cannot attend tel: 07730 788 335 or email projects@castledouglas.info and they will deliver to your door.

Castle Douglas Food Bank (Stepping Stones), 198 King Street, Castle Douglas
steppingstones@castledouglas.info

Manager Emma Haigh Open 10-12pm Monday to Friday. Dels M,W, F only.

Dalbeattie Food Bank, 24 High Street, Dalbeattie. Telephone 07730 788 335 between 9am & 5pm. Enquiries donnamck.dci@gmail.com The shop is open between 6 & 8pm.

Useful Contacts

National COVID-19 Helpline 0800 111 4000

For people who don't have family or existing community support and can't get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons, will be directed to our dedicated local team who can offer essential assistance.

NHS24 111 www.nhsinform.scot

Emergency 999

Doctor Out of Hours 111

Dumfries and Galloway Council 030 33 33 3000

www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Business Support Helpline 01387 260280 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273660

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway 0300 303 8558

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service 0300 303 4321

www.dagcas.org

Samaritans 116 123

SHOUT Text SHOUT to 85258 for free

Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234

Age Scotland 0800 12 44 222 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Shelter Scotland 0808 800 444 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

LGBT Helpline Scotland 0300 123 2523

Childline 0800 1111

Food Train tel: 01556 288427 email: everything@thefoodtrain.co.uk
(for food deliveries from local supermarkets)

Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

[SupportDG - Dumfries and Galloway Council - Community Bulletin \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](http://dumgal.gov.uk)