

Easter 5 (Coronation Edition) Newsletter
7th May, 2023

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

(SC011079& SC010918)

<https://dcdchurches.org.uk>



PAX

Dear friends in Christ,

The Coronation of King Charles III seems very far away in London and the current edition of Private Eye does rather sum up, in a very simplistic way, what this weekend is all about. However, all the ceremony and symbols are much closer to home than you or I may have ever imagined!

Some months ago a gentleman, Michael Lloyd called at the Rectory and asked me if 'I would like to be present at the presentation of the new Processional Cross for the Archbishop of Wales'? The handing over was to be to the Archbishop's Chaplain in Auchencairn. He thought it appropriate that a Scottish Episcopalian priest be present as both Churches are members of the Anglican Communion. This event had to be cancelled due to Covid. For a while all was forgotten...

In March Jane and I received a phone call 'Would we like to see the cross before it is sent down to London?' So we visited Michael's studio and heard how the Pope Francis was sending two shards of the 'True Cross' to be placed in the Reliquary of the Processional Cross! (Below is a picture of the fragments in the Reliquary which appeared on the BBC website)



The cross uses Welsh materials from the Royal Mint in Llantrisant and you will have seen pictures of King Charles applying the 'Kings Mark' in the press recently with Michael in the background.



On the Cross are some words from the last sermon of St. David: *"Be joyful. Keep the Faith. Do the little things."* Pertinent words for our time.

¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2023/04/19/king-charles-coronation-pope-francis-fragments-christ-cross/>

So often we think of Galloway as being a backwater, but look closer and Galloway always has the ability to surprise! The cross as we saw it was very different.



Being fully aware of what is around us is a Christian imperative. Too often we take the normal and every day for granted. It is not, until it has gone, that we miss it. Perhaps, even worse – we never knew that it was there!

Spring and new beginnings are all around us. We are in the season of New Life. Resurrection! Soon the Church will celebrate Jesus' Ascension to the right hand of God the Father (Psalm 110:1). Accession and Ascension are inextricably linked in heaven and

on earth this year. This cross, made in Galloway, brings together many strands of Christianity and it will be shared by the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Church in Wales. There are many political hues present in our country and our world at present. Not all share a common viewpoint that can be celebrated. Sadly, it has always been so. This Processional Cross, in leading the way at the Coronation in Westminster Abbey, can be a symbol for how we can all be united and work together through Faith, Creation and for Christians, in Jesus' name. The words of St David are worth repeating:

*"Be joyful. Keep the Faith. Do the little things."*²

It is in doing the little things of life that heaven and Peace can be found. This shared Peace can be found in so many little ways. It is not for everyone to be a king, an Archbishop, a leader. We can however, in our own way and in our life make an impact through *random acts* of kindness and care. In this way we will transform

² <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2023/04/19/king-charles-coronation-pope-francis-fragments-christ-cross/>

and protect our world. Our Way ahead may seem disagreeable and unimaginable: Yet, *“Early we receive a call, yet it remains incomprehensible, and only late do we discover how obedient we were.”*³ Perhaps these words are appropriate to our new king? King Charles. May they also be appropriate to you and me as we live out our lives and various Vocations. May we never take the ‘normal’ and ‘everyday’ for granted. May we cherish each other, our surroundings and the world in which we live.

And so a Silver Cross, crafted locally, in Galloway, is to lead the Coronation procession in Westminster Abbey!



Yours in the Risen Christ

Christopher

Rector

³ Czeslaw Milosz, “Capri,” *New and Collected Poems 1931-2001* p. 585-88 (New York: Ecco Press, 2001)



A prayer for the Coronation

Eternal and ever-reigning God,
you created the heavens and the earth
and hold all things in the palm of your hand.
You call us to work with you,
in the ordering of society
and the flourishing of life.

We pray for Charles as he is anointed and crowned King.
Give him wisdom, love and understanding
enabling him to work for the good of all.
May he inspire, encourage and support those he serves,
and be a model of grace, justice and mercy.
We pray too for Camilla as she is anointed and crowned Queen Consort,
for William and all their family, and for all who support them
in their service to the people of this land, and the commonwealth of nations.

As we celebrate our community life,
give us hearts for gratitude and celebration,
a desire to enjoy all life's benefits with our neighbours,
and voices to sing with joy for all your gifts to us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Church Services in May

4 th	10am	Christ Church Eucharist Ss.Philip & James (trans' from 3 rd)
7 th	Easter 5	
	8.30am 10.30am	Said Eucharist, St. Ninian's Sung Eucharist, St. Ninian's
11 th	10am	Christ Church, Dalbeattie
14 th	Easter 6	
	8.30am 10.30am	Said Eucharist, St. Ninian's Sung Eucharist, Christ Church
18 th	The Ascension of the Lord	
	10am	Said Eucharist, Christ Church
21 st	Easter 7	
	8.30am 10.30am	Said Eucharist, St. Ninian's Sung Eucharist, St. Ninian's
25 th	10am	Christ Church, Dalbeattie The Venerable Bede
28 th	Pentecost	
	8.30am 10.30am	Said Eucharist, St. Ninian's Sung Eucharist, Christ Church



Come along to a coffee morning and listen to an open rehearsal

**Friday 12th May
10.30 - 12 noon**

**Gordon Memorial Hall
St Ninian's Church
Whitepark Road
Castle Douglas**



**free entry ~ donations welcome
in aid of the new organ fund**