

Lent 5 (Passion Sunday) Newsletter

26th March, 2023

**St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas & Christ Church,
Dalbeattie**
(SC011079& SC010918)



PAX

Dear friends in Christ

A lot has been happening since our last Newsletter. Our Lent Course and Compline are going well. The Charge Retreat to Mirfield was excellent along with our Mothering Sunday Lunch and Wine Tasting! Phew!

The tone of Lent changes on the 5th Sunday (sometimes known as Passion Sunday), as we begin the approach to Palm Sunday and our terrible walk with Jesus and His disciples through Holy Week to Golgotha and beyond. We walk secure in the knowledge of the Resurrection, on Easter Sunday, but we must remember that the disciples did not know that. For them it was a walk into the 'unknown'. Our walk into the future is always unknown but the news and events, at this time, are particularly concerning. We too must walk by Faith and Trust with God. This week started with the Feast of St. Joseph (transferred from Sunday). In a sermon we have discussed at Bothwell House and Barlochan Care Home we heard from St. Bernardine of Siena:

"There is a general rule concerning all special graces granted to any human being. Whenever the divine favour chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfil the task at hand."

This is such cheering news for you and me, as we live out 'our' vocations and callings in this challenging age.

You will know that I am very fond of the Sayings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Here is one I came across recently which may serve us all well:



A brother asked Antony to pray for him. Antony answered, “Neither I nor God will have mercy on you until you do something about it yourself. Ask God to help you.”

This saying sounds so hard: Yet, how many times do we turn to another first, rather than God? With God’s help everything is possible. He will send the appropriate person to help us or give us the ability to see the situation through for ourselves. It is those words Faith and Trust!

Further on this newsletter you will find the services offered for Holy Week. I do hope you will come and walk with Jesus and us through this week that encapsulates all human emotions.

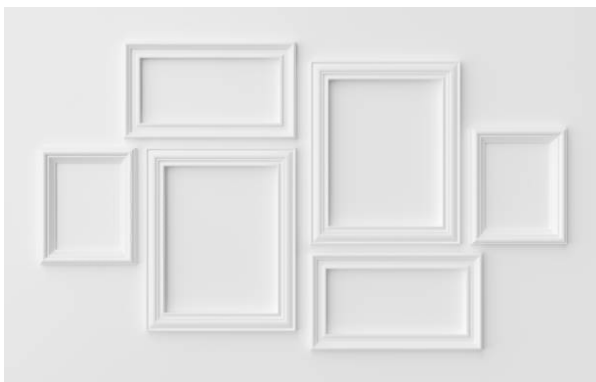
There is news of the Diocesan Lent Appeal and the forthcoming on-line quiet day.

There are lots of opportunities to pray, get to know God better and to join in and make new friends.

Wishing you every blessing for Holy Week.

Yours in Christ

Christopher
Rector



Christ Church & St.Ninian’s Picture Gallery



All ready for our on-line wine tasting!
We tasted a white and a fashionable ‘orange’ wine from Austria, followed by a Chianti and delicious Spanish red!
With Italian pizza and *antipasto!*



Mothering Sunday Lunch

We all enjoyed a glass of good cheer with our lunch as we gave thanks for our mothers. In our *Eucharist* we remembered those who wished to be mothers and couldn't and prayed for those who had lost children.

The food as you can see was excellent!



Charges Retreat to Mirfield



We enjoyed our Retreat to Mirfield. The worship there was wonderful and we considered Mount Tabor (The Mount of Transfiguration) and Golgotha (the hill upon which Christ was crucified).



Whilst there we were taken aback at the ascension of Edith!

You will see that the Gordon Memorial Hall has been updated below and we are currently awaiting the delivery of a Choir Organ after the demise of our 25 year old 'old faithful' organ.



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

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday 2nd April

- 8.30am Said Eucharist, St. Ninian's
- 10.30am Liturgy with Eucharist of Palm Sunday St. Ninian's
- 8pm Compline St. Ninian's

Monday of Holy Week

- 10am Said Eucharist, Christ Church
- 4pm Gordon Hall: Jesus Christ of Montreal (film)

Tuesday of Holy Week

- 10am Said Eucharist, Christ Church

Wednesday of Holy Week

10am Said Eucharist, Christ Church

Wednesday of Holy Week

10am Said Eucharist, Christ Church

Maundy Thursday

10am Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, Christ Church

Sacred Triduum begins:



6pm

Eucharist of the Lord's Supper

followed by Watch. St. Ninian's, Castle Douglas

A simple meal will be shared in the Gordon Hall with the watch following in the Garden (weather permitting).

Good Friday

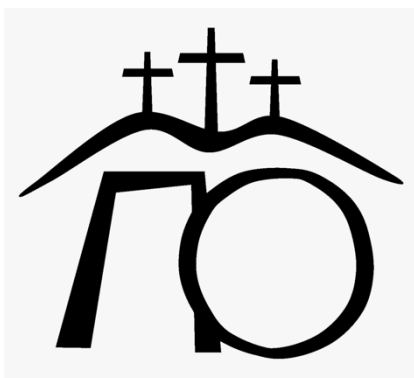
10am Stations of the Cross via Zoom

12-1pm Liturgy of the Cross, St. Ninian's
(The church will remain open until 3pm)

1.30-3pm Liturgy of the Cross, Christ Church

Holy Saturday

Church preparations



Easter Sunday*

9.30am Sung Eucharist with renewal
of Baptismal Vows
at Christ Church

11am Sung Eucharist with renewal
of Baptismal Vows
at St. Ninian's

***Please Note There is No 8.30am Eucharist**
Easter Sunday



Eucharist of the Lord's Supper followed by Watch.

6pm, 6th April

St. Ninian's Castle Douglas

A simple meal will be shared in the Gordon Hall within the context of a Eucharist. The Watch will follow in the Garden (weather permitting) or in church if it rains. **Please let the Rector know if you are coming** for catering purposes.

A Poem for Holy Week...

Holy week, our childhood voices singing
Gregorian chant far off, nun's rosaries
chinking as thuribles fill with incense,

hands with candles. Under a blue moon
only, we genuflect – while sirens wail
in emptied city streets through silences

that echo for miles. Long have we swapped
naves for woodland paths, treading in
imprints of a man who shouldered everyone

on His Way to the Cross: a man we need
urgently to help us here where ash dieback
matches the dieback of people who run out,

even, of mountain air. Maybe it is His heart
beating in every tree, His pulse in throats
of nightingales still to soon to find

in the early April season. We daub foreheads
with ash from old bonfires. Spy Wednesday,
Maundy Thursday, Good Friday: cross

after cross, masks stolen by thieves
from wards where eyes of the paralysed
on ventilators stay open all night

unseeing, comatose. We do not hear,
the tapping of nails into flesh and wood.
Our girlhood voices suddenly lack a tune.
Nothing to sing about under this blue moon.

iv, Patricia McCarthy
(Whose hand would you like to hold...)



Away From It All (AFIA) is a diverse Mothers' Union Project offering Christian care for families. It is active throughout the UK, responding to families whose lives have met with adversity, providing holidays not just for a little respite but to create happy memories for a lifetime. In Glasgow and Galloway, a generous bequest of £1000 in 2018 encouraged trustees to think creatively, bringing together the launch of AFIA with a needful response to domestic abuse within our region. You can read about a [previous AFIA project here](#).

Ways to Donate

JustGiving Page

[Click here for Bishop Kevin's Lent Appeal for Mothers' Union AFIA Project \(justgiving.com\)](#)

The preferred and easiest way is to donate electronically and instantly to the appeal, either for individuals or for treasurers sending collected charge donations. For individual donations, it means that Gift Aid can be added to your donation, adding 25p to every pound donated (if you pay tax). **Whether donating as an individual or as a church via your Treasurer, please add the name of your church to the Donation Notes** (this is perfectly possible even if you are an individual who prefers to remain anonymous). Please donate through *this* page (which donation goes directly to the Lent Appeal) by clicking the link above. **Or through Susanna Morriss or Fred Coulthard**



Open Hoose is a unique opportunity for anyone with a community-focused idea in Dumfries to use our cafe venue space alongside the resources of the Stove team to launch self-initiated projects and events through the support of the Stove's experience, space, and production skills.

Open Hoose is a funded* project all about giving good ideas a chance to grow. So whether it's a regular jam night, a bread club, banner-making group or book club, we want to offer our space, our team and our support to help launch community-based and/or cultural activity in the town, housed within the Stove Cafe. Activity can be a one-off evening or a regular slot, it's up to you!

Contact <https://thestove.org/open-hoose/> for details.