

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

SC010918 & SC011079

Newsletter No. 21

Pentecost 10

9th, August, 2020

1Kings 19: 9-18, Ps 85: 8-13, Romans 10: 5-15, Matt 14: 22-33

PAX

Dear friends in Christ

I cried when I heard an elderly lady play *Auld Lang Syne* on her piano. It was perhaps the last possession left to her, in the aftermath of that terrible explosion in Beirut. As she played, her family were sweeping the broken glass out from her flat. The sad rendition of such a familiar song, with the almost magical chiming sound of the glass shards, was just too much to bear.

There seems to be a real sense of loss in the air. We have lost some very good friends from church recently. The Rev Beryl Scott has been re-born into God's kingdom. Please pray for her and Catriona (her daughter). Life is changing and continues to evolve. Our organist, Michael Little, will be leaving us, at the end of the month, to go up to university at St. Andrews. William Stevens and Jack MacQuarrie will also have received their exam results now. Please pray for the young members of our Charge and for their futures. We wish them all well as they continue on their life-journeys. More worryingly, the Covid virus was reported (on BBC Radio Scotland this morning, Thursday) as being present in Castle Douglas. Please pray for the safety of our community and those affected.

The theme of Loss has been followed through the Daily Office (Morning Prayer) this week. We have been reading the story of Joseph (Genesis chapters 37 to 50). His story is bleak, and I am not surprised that, in his younger days, his brothers put him down a hole, for he appeared insufferable. Although it looked to be a hopeless situation, with Joseph being left in a pit, and then, as we see in this picture, being taken into slavery, God had other plans!



Here we see Joseph losing his famous coat, as his former, known world slips away and he begins his tortuous journey into what appears a very bleak and uncertain future. He is portrayed as a lonely figure who has suddenly lost control of his life. We may feel there are similarities between him, us, and the people of Beirut, today? However much

we may plan, we do not appear to be able to do more than coax our lives in a given direction. We have to walk by Faith alone and not allow ourselves to lose heart, even if our lives appear hopeless, and devoid of a future. Transitions from one state of being to another are always difficult and full of trials. You will know this from experience and Joseph's story. Persistence and patience always pay off. We must trust in God! When life is difficult, there is a tendency to try and blame others, as we seek out their faults. What we should be doing is carrying their weaknesses tenderly cradled in our arms, rather like babies needing to be fed! This is the 'Way' that Jesus showed us and it is the lesson the world needs to learn quickly. The emphasis on divide and rule is too great amongst the nations. People need to unite and care for each other. Societies need to listen to what is happening at a local level, so that national and international interventions can be successful. Sadly, so much of our world appears disjointed and 'fake news' is destroying our trust in the very institutions that have the ability to save us. These institutions must listen though. These are the days when we need to keep our local councillors, MP and MSP's informed about how we see our new world and society evolving. It must be caring. Socially aware, and with a strong environmental conscience.

I recently heard it said that 'should', 'must', and 'ought to' were not God words. 'More' is a God word. The other shrivelled words, are used to keep Christ at bay! How our use of language can betray the true person to God. To truly know ourselves we need to look to Jesus Christ to be our teacher. Christ lives in the heart of each one of us. St. Augustine wrote "*I, the preacher, am pouring words into your ears. My words are meaningless unless he who dwells within you reveals their sense to you.*" Your task and mine is to live as Christ did, and as He would want us to live. Joseph's story teaches us that God is always accompanying us and, however difficult life maybe, all will be well.

Next week is the feast day of St Jane Frances de Chantal. Perhaps everything can be summed up by these words of hers:



Delight in prayer is no measure of our love of God. But if we bear difficulties patiently, resist the urgings of self-love resolutely; and fulfil our duties in life willingly, if we live trusting in Providence and desiring to be known only by God - then we will show that we truly love God! Such deeds are unmistakable signs of love. Let us always be faithful in doing God's will because all else is

unworthy of the name of love.

Prayerfully yours in Christ

Christopher
Rector

The Conference of Birds.

Here is an ancient poem which came to my attention. It is from Persia.

What do you make of it?

It comes from the mystical tradition
of writing.

*A royal hunt swept across the
plain.*

*The monarch called for someone
in his train*

*To bring a greyhound, and the
handler brought*

*A dark, sleek dog, intelligent, well
taught;*

*A jewelled gold collar sparkled at its throat,
Its back was covered in a satin coat –*

*Gold anklets clasped its paws; its leash was made
Of silk threads twisted in a glistening braid.*

*The king thought him a dog who'd understand,
And took the silk leash in his royal hand;*

*The dog ran just behind his lord, then found
A piece of bone abandoned on the ground –*

*He stooped to sniff, and when the king saw why
A glance of fury flashed out from his eye.*

*'When you're with me', he said, 'your sovereign king,
How dare you look at any other thing?'*

*He snapped the leash and to his handler cried:
'Let this ill-mannered brute roam far and wide.*

*He's mine no more – better for him if he
Had swallowed pins than found such liberty!'*

The handler stared and tried to remonstrate:

*'The dog, my Lord, deserves an outcast's fate;
But we should keep the satin and the gold.'*

The king said: 'No, do just as you are told;



*Drive him, exactly as he is, away –
And when he comes back to himself some day,
He'll see the riches that he bears and know
That he was mine, a king's, but long ago.¹*

There has been an interesting series on Persia that you may like to watch.

It explains something of the history of Iran and its traditions – fascinating! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000k48g/art-of-persia-series-1-episode-1>

Why not contribute to your newsletter?

If you have any news, stories, poems or articles you would like to share through our newsletter, please send them to Christopher cq.ketley@zen.co.uk

Prayer Themes for Wc. 9th , August

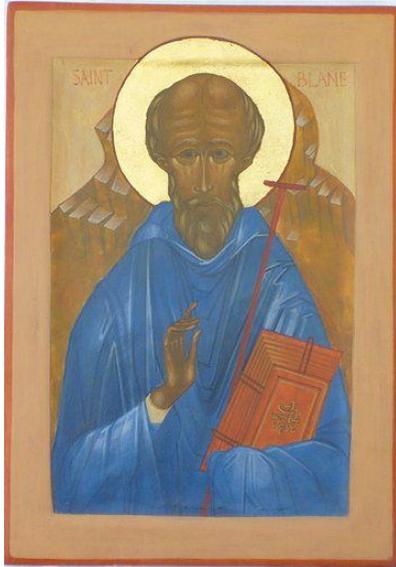
Pentecost 10	For the people of Beirut as they recover from the explosion.
Monday:	The NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI.
Tuesday:	For those affected by the Corona virus throughout the world. Pray particularly for the people of the Yemen, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Aberdeen, and our community.
Wednesday:	Our local community, key workers & volunteers. Bothwell House, Hanover House, Carlingwark Care Home, Barlochan House Care Home, Munchies Park House, and Alma McFadyen Care Centre.
Thursday:	The Government, and all in authority.
Friday:	For those with job insecurity or financial difficulties. For a renewal of the Christians Against Poverty (CAP) scheme in Dumfries & Galloway.
Saturday:	For refugees throughout the world.
ourselves.	For Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for

¹ The Conference of Birds, Farid Ud-Din Attar

Gospel Readings for the 19th week of Ordinary Time (Proper 19)

Sunday	Pentecost 10	Matt 14: 22-33
Monday	Lawrence, Deacon & Mtyr	Jn 12: 24-26
Tuesday	Clare of Assissi	Matt 19: 27-29
Wednesday	Blane Missonary, Jane Chantal	Mk16: 15-end
Thursday	Jeremy Taylor Bp. Hippolytus Pr	Jn 15: 18-21
Friday	Maximilian Mary Koelbe	Jn 15: 12-16
Saturday	Dormition of the Mother of God	Lk:1: 39-56

St Blane (Bláán). 12th August



Blane was born on the Isle of Bute sometime in the 6th century. Tradition says that for some reason he and his mother, Ethne, were set adrift in a small boat and landed in Ireland, although other sources say that his mother was Irish. He returned to Bute as a young man where he entered the monastery founded by his uncle, Cattán, to complete his education. He became a monk and travelled extensively through Scotland and northern England on missionary journeys. He is also thought to have travelled to Europe and to Rome. He succeeded his uncle as abbot of the monastery and bishop of the area. Later he moved to central Scotland and established a monastery in what is now Dunblane. He is credited with bringing a dead boy back to life, restoring the sight of a blind boy and making fire with lightning bolts from his fingers. He died in 590 and is buried on Bute. His feast day is given as 10th, 11th or 12th August depending on which source you are using.

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal. 12th August

Jane was born in 1572 in Dijon, France. At age 20 she married a French nobleman, Baron de Chantal. They were happy in their marriage and had six children not all of whom survived infancy. After almost a decade of marriage Jane's husband was killed in a hunting accident which sent her into a severe depression. She had to live with her father-in-law who was not a pleasant man but she survived seven years of his terror and humiliation. In 1604 she heard Bishop

St Francis de Sales preach and there began an enduring friendship. Together they began a new religious order, the Congregation of the Visitation of Holy Mary, it was for women who for reasons of age, health, or other considerations were unable to join an established order. The nuns would live and work in the community they served, not something that was usual at that time. It was not the end of her sufferings though, Francis de Sales died; her son was killed; a plague ravaged France; her daughter-in-law and son-in-law died. She died in 1641 and was canonised in 1767. She is known as the patron of forgotten people, in-law problems, loss of parents, parents separated from children, widows.



Prayer Chain

Prayer is perhaps the only help we can give to people in need throughout the world. Please consider joining our ever growing 'Prayer Chain'.

Contact Sandra Walsh tel.01557 331596 email sandrawalshkbt@yahoo.com.

Loneliness, and the lack of human contact, has been the enemy of so many during this period of 'lockdown'. I know that we are trying to keep in touch with each other by many and varied means. The inability to meet for a coffee or just travel somewhere to meet a friend can be unbearable. May I remind you that I am just a phone-call away 01556 505894 or you could speak to Helen 01556 504007 or Christine 01556 670275. (All calls would be treated confidentially). Why not contact someone you have not spoken to in a while?

Michael Little – Leaving Collection

As members of the congregation may be aware, our organist Michael Little is leaving us to go to university. In the past we have given our departing undergraduate members a cheque for £250 to help them on their way and the Vestry have authorised me to make such a payment to Michael.

However given the enjoyment that Michael has given us with his organ

playing over the last three years the Vestry thought that the congregation might wish to augment this sum with their own donations. Any member wishing to do so should either send me a cheque in favour of St Ninians Church or arrange a direct transfer into our bank account with the Bank of Scotland sort code 80-06-11 account number 00831396 reference 'Michael Little'.

Please let me have any funds within the next two weeks.
Fred

A Thank you from Douglas Allison and family



Douglas and his family, Jean, Mark and Melanie wish to thank everyone who sent cards or came to the internment of Kirsty. We had an absolutely astounding turn out for 9am with the sun joining in just for the service.

I am quite amazed at the reach of Kirsty's love and affection for everyone she met. As I work through her letters I find that she helped lots of people with lots of problems. I'm not sure I ever realised the spread of her generosity. I certainly do now!

If you came to the internment it was a pity that the virus limited our conversations yet people came away feeling rewarded. We are sorry not to have met with more of you. Hopefully we may hold a memorial service to allow more expressions of thanks maybe in the New Year. Meanwhile our thanks to Christopher for a marvellous service in difficult conditions and a further thanks to you who came or sent cards or letters. Your support has and is most welcomes in a very trying time.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Galloway Food Banks

Manager Sarah-Jane Allsopp. If you cannot attend tel: 07730 788 335 or email projects@castledouglas.info and they will deliver to your door.
The Heart of Galloway Visitors Centre, Castle Douglas

Open 12noon to 2pm

The Heart of Galloway food bank,24 High Street, Dalbeattie.

If you need food, drop in Monday-Friday 12noon-2pm.

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

Dumfries & Galloway Community News

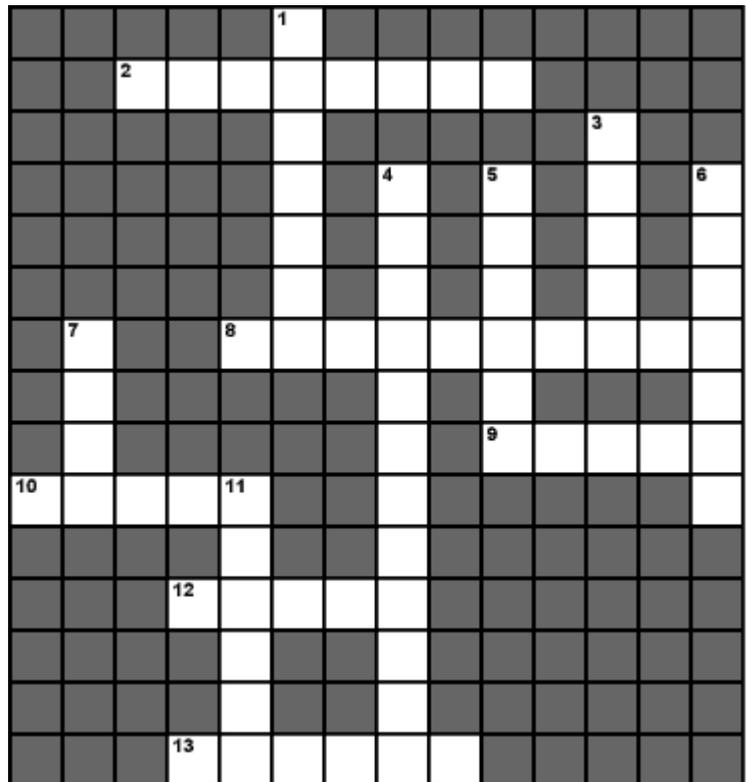
[https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23315/Community-Bulletin-](https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23315/Community-Bulletin-Edition-)

[31/pdf/Community Newsletter 7 August.pdf?m=637323258706800000](https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/media/23315/Community-Bulletin-Edition-31/pdf/Community%20Newsletter%207%20August.pdf?m=637323258706800000)

Crossword based on Matthew 14. (NIV)

Across

- 2** Who was Herod's sister-in-law?
- 8** Where did Jesus and his disciples land?
- 9** What relation of Herod danced at his birthday?
- 10** What did the disciples think Jesus was when he walked on water?
- 12** Who did John the Baptist's disciples tell after burying John?
- 13** Where did Jesus look before breaking the 5 loaves?



Down

- 1** What did Jesus tell the disciples to take when they saw him walking on water?
- 3** Who also walked on water towards Jesus?
- 4** Where did Jesus go to pray after he dismissed the crowds?
- 5** Where had Herod put John the Baptist?
- 6** On what did the dancer say she wanted John the Baptist's head?
- 7** Two what were used by Jesus to feed the five thousand?
- 11** How many baskets of left-overs were there after feeding the five thousand?

https://www.bible-crosswords.co.uk/new-testament/Printable/Matthew_14.html

