

## **PAX**

Dear Friends in Christ



In this picture, possibly the earliest we have of her, we see Mary Magdalene going into the tomb “early in the morning”<sup>1</sup>. It is her feast day this coming Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and I cannot help feeling there is a similarity between Mary and us. Her world had been turned upside down with the violent death of Jesus and so we see her entering His tomb, with a flickering light – as shown in this picture. I wonder what was going through her mind, as she walked alone into that dark place? Unlike you and I, she wouldn't have known of the miracle that would take place. I wonder if her visit was inspired by love for Jesus, duty, or perhaps like many of us, she had risen early from sleep and wondered what to do!

Life has changed for many of us over these past months and we are beginning to walk slowly into the increasing light of the ‘new normal’. Many of us are feeling our way forwards, as we encounter anew places that were once familiar to us, but have now been changed by new systems and procedures. All designed to keep us safe. Doubtless, some of us will take to the new comfortably, whilst others will struggle and have a strong desire to return to the old world, that was so familiar. I believe Mary Magdalene visited the tomb out of love for Jesus and yes, perhaps even out of duty. Could she have had the desire to see Jesus again? Even if it was only to see His final resting place, just as you and I might stand in a special place to remember what has been and now

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<sup>1</sup> Jn20: 1

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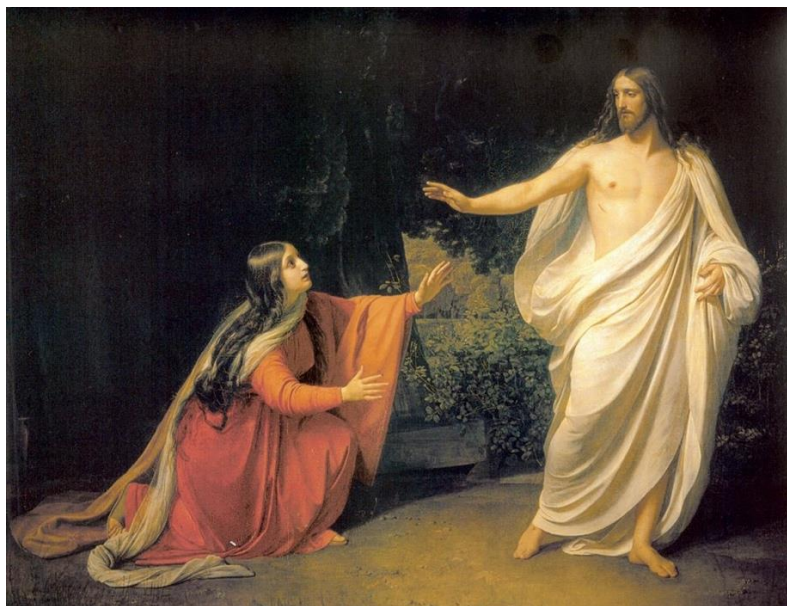
19<sup>th</sup>, July 2020

Isaiah 44: 6-8 ; Psalm 86: 11-17; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

been lost. As we begin to rediscover our towns, there is a renewed pleasure in returning. Even if the old ways are not obviously present, due to new protective systems that have been put into place, there is 'joy' to be found in meeting up with old friends and acquaintances, in returning to familiar places and in the insane pleasure of having your haircut after so many months of growth – I no longer need my Alice band!

What I am beginning to describe here was perhaps Mary Magdalene's experience. Everything had all changed: Yet, it was similar, but different! Our Vestries feel that it is not yet time to return to our church buildings. There is concern for everyone's continued safety. Hopefully, we will be able to return to worshipping God in our churches soon. In the meantime, we must be like Mary Magdalen, waiting in the Light of Faith. Journeying just that bit further.

Please continue to hold our Vestries, Diocese and congregations in your prayers as we travel through July and into August. Remember to phone, or possibly even visit, those whom you may think to be lonely. Remember to keep safe and take the necessary precautions. The future will be bright as Mary Magdalene was to discover, but for the moment we must proceed with great care. We must remain faithful!



*“Don't stop thinking about tomorrow – yesterdays gone!  
Yesterdays gone!”*

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Yours in the Risen Christ

Christopher

Rector

**Please hold in your prayers:**

Please continue to pray for Gill Piper – now at home. Francis and Jean Turnbull would appreciate your continued prayers.

RIP Leslie Francis Hanbury

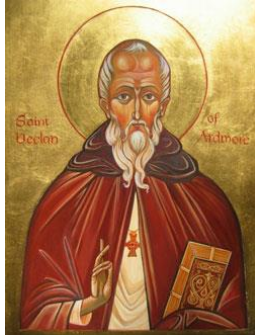
**Prayer Themes for Wc. 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Pentecost 7	Pray for the Church and it's life of witness. For The Rt Revd Kevin Pearson Bp Glasgow & Galloway, and his wife Elspeth.
Monday:	The NHS, our local surgeries, and all at DGRI.
Tuesday:	For those affected by the Coronavirus.
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.
	For refugees throughout the world.
Saturday:	For Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for ourselves.

**Gospel Readings for the 16<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time (Proper 16)**

Sunday	Pentecost 7	Matt 13: 24-30, 36-43
Monday	feria	Matt 12: 38-42
Tuesday	William Wilberforce	Luke 4:16-21
Wednesday	St. Mary Magdalene	Jn 20: 1-2,11-18
Thursday	St. Bridget of Sweden	Jn 15: 1-8
Friday	Declan Bp.	Matt 13: 18- 23
Saturday	St. James Ap.	Matt 20: 20-28

## St Declán of Ardmore. 24<sup>th</sup> July



Declán was born the son of a chieftain of the Déisi in Ireland during the C5th. He is one of four Pre-Patrician saints who brought Christianity to Ireland. He is known to have converted his own Déisi tribe. After his conversion and baptism Declán went to Rome to study for the priesthood, he was later ordained as a bishop and then returned to Ireland to establish a monastery at Ardmore. He was an active missionary in Ireland and known for many miracles including stopping a particularly nasty plague by his prayers and fasting. The waters of St Declán's Well are still credited with powers of healing for those who suffer from sprains, injuries or rheumatism when they bathe in the waters. Declán was a friend of St David and was confirmed in his position at Ardmore by St Patrick. The route he walked between Ardmore and Cashel to meet with St Patrick is now a 56 mile long pilgrim route known as St Declán's Way. He is buried at Ardmore where the grave is marked by the ruins of a stone oratory.

## Crossword based on Matthew 13 Answers

### Across

1. What did Jesus get into when large crowds gathered by the lake?  
**Boat**
5. What took the seed from the path? **Birds**
6. Who will the angels separate from the righteous? **Wicked**
8. What did Jesus speak to the crowds in? **Parables**
9. The man who hears the words like the seed amongst thorns, is eventually what? **Unfruitful**
10. Who sowed the weeds amongst the wheat? **Enemy**
11. What happens to rocky placed plants in the sun? **Scorched**
13. How many brothers did Jesus have? **Four**

### Down

- 2 Who were the harvesters? **Angels**
- 3 What did Jesus say the field was in the weed parable? **World**
- 4 One of Jesus brothers? **Joseph**

**7** According to Isaiah what had the people's hearts become?

**Calloused**

**12** What will those who have ears do? **Hear**

### **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](mailto:sandrawalshkbt@yahoo.com).

### **A Message from St. Ninian's Treasurer: Fred Coulthard**

A brief update on how the virus has affected the way the Diocese views the collection of offerings and our own position.

The use of collection bags and indeed cash is strongly discouraged for the foreseeable future, for obvious reasons. The Diocese recommends that, if at all possible, congregations should move to a standing order system, to replace the freewill envelopes and cash in the bag. Please, therefore, give serious consideration to this and, if you wish to follow this advice, contact me on 07702 166372 to discuss the appropriate form.

So far, as our own church is concerned, we are, as members will be aware, blessed with assets well above the norm for a church of our size. At the moment however, we are largely without income, other than via our investments (where companies are cutting dividends), and members standing orders, as mentioned above. As a result of this, our cash reserves are starting to dwindle and now is not the time to be selling shares if it can be avoided.

In an earlier edition of the magazine I asked if those who normally gave weekly could set aside their contributions for the future. Hopefully, that has been happening and I am especially grateful to those of you who have periodically sent me a cheque in that connection. It would now be extremely helpful if anyone else who has been saving their collection could similarly send me a remittance to 1 Ardcoil Avenue Castle Douglas DG7 3EG.

I fully appreciate that times are hard at present and that some members may not feel able to make over lump sums – any contributions however would be most welcome.

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Finally may I express the hope that you are all keeping well and safe in these difficult times.

Fred.

## **Galloway Food Banks**

Manager Sarah-Jane Allsopp. If you cannot attend tel: 07730 788 335 or email [projects@castledouglas.info](mailto: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](http://www.nhsinform.scot)

**Emergency** 999

**Doctor Out of Hours** 111

**Dumfries and Galloway Council** 030 33 33 3000

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG](http://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](http://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://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKDGC/2020/07/16/file\\_attachments/1497114/Friday%2017%20July%20Community%20Newsletter%20web.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKDGC/2020/07/16/file_attachments/1497114/Friday%2017%20July%20Community%20Newsletter%20web.pdf)

### **Bible Quiz 4**

1. Who were Cain and Abel?
2. What is the most popular name in the Bible?
3. What was the name of the tower built to try to reach up to heaven?
4. Did Adam live to be 90 or 930?
5. What special food did the Israelites eat the night they escaped from Egypt? (3 things)
6. Who went from a prison cell to a palace in one day?
7. Where did Noah's ark finally come to rest after the flood?
8. Who only cut his hair once a year when it got too heavy?
9. Which musical instrument did King David play?
10. Why did some little boys mock the prophet Elisha?
11. What was Samson famous for?
12. Which bird was believed to be immortal, always renewing its strength?
13. Where was Jesus baptised?
14. What are the first recorded words of Jesus?
15. How many disciples did Jesus have?
16. Which 2 books of the New Testament were written by a doctor?
17. Which animal did Jesus ride when he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday?
18. Apart from a flaming pot, what else did God show Abram?
19. What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
20. When in prison, who did Paul ask to bring him his cloak, books and parchments?

based on quizzes in *Family Bible Flip Quiz*. © Miles Kelly Publishing Ltd

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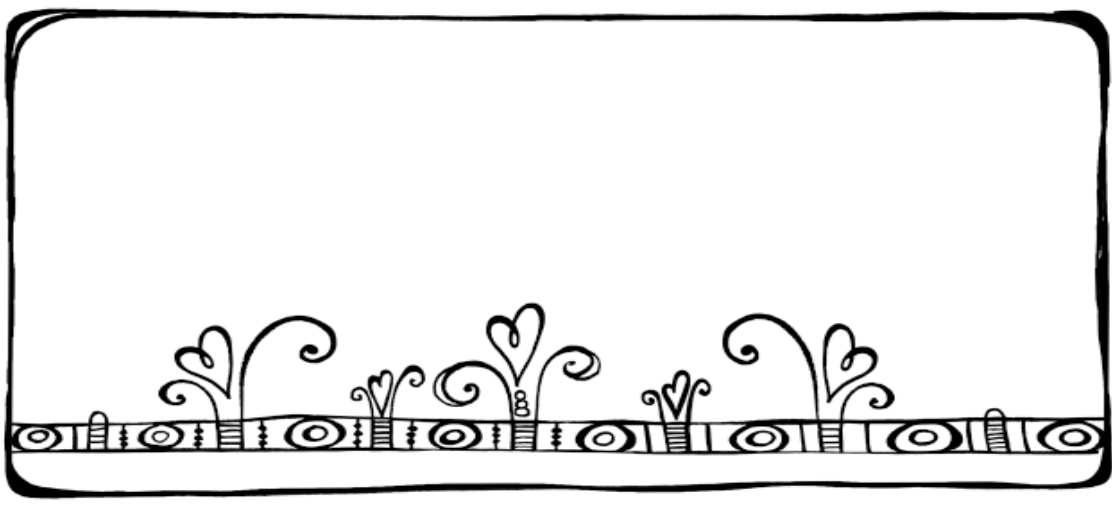
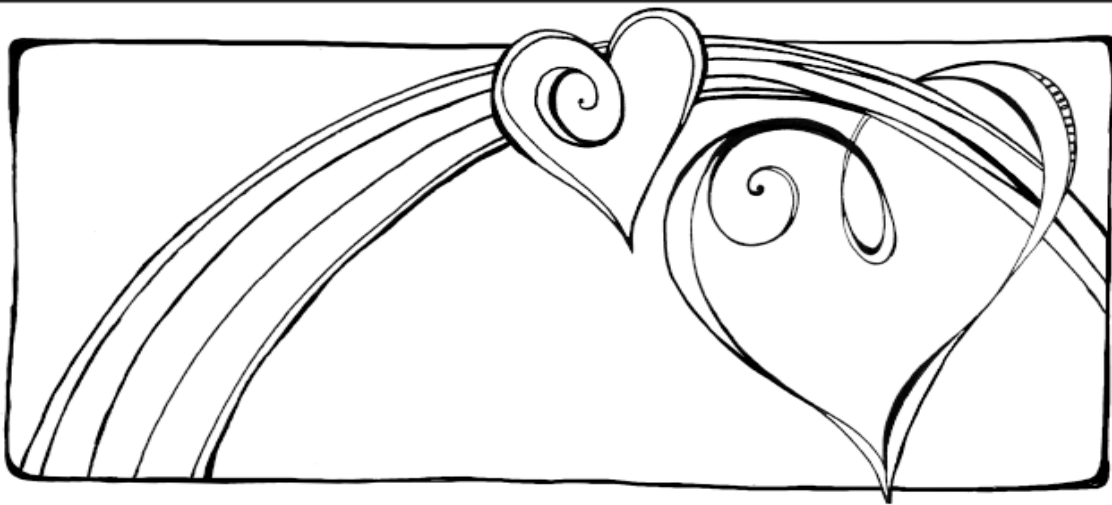
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