



Dear Friends and Parishioners,

I hope the past week has been safe and healthy for you and your families. As I write, it seems that the current situation is set to continue for some time into the future for all of us.

There has been a certain sadness for me this week, leading another four families in the funeral liturgies for a loved one of theirs who has died. With the current restrictions, only a few people are permitted to be present at the crematorium or graveside, though some funerals have been “webcast” so that the wider family and friends can participate in spirit. When the time of lockdown is over and our churches are open again, each family will be able to celebrate a public Mass for their loved one and invite a larger congregation to join them.

A little blessing for me has been that I knew each person well: Joan, who had been the organist in Abroath for decades; Norma, a parishioner at St Joseph’s when I first knew her nearly thirty years ago and whom I’ve visited regularly since coming to the Cathedral; Margaret, who was a neighbour of ours in Hilltown Terrace and whose boys were at Primary School with me; and Liz, one of our Cathedral parishioners. At each funeral liturgy the small group of family were able to honour their loved one’s life, and with brief yet dignified ceremonies, commend them to God’s safe keeping.

The sadness of these families is reminiscent of the “downcast” disciples whom we encounter in this Sunday’s Gospel, which is one of the richest pieces of narrative in the whole of the New Testament. Unsurprisingly, it comes to us from the pen of St Luke, who promised at the start of his text that he would give us an “ordered account” of the Jesus event, and he is true to his word! In that narrative, those disciples heard the passion predictions and witnessed the passion events, but have not yet been able to “process” the fact that it was “ordained” that the Christ must suffer and “so” (i.e. “that way”) enter into his glory”. We know their grief. As one Emmaus hymn sings:

*Nameless mourners, we will join you, we who also mourn our dead;
we have stood by graves unyielding, eaten death's bare bitter bread.*

But they will come to understand, through the unknown stranger who joins them on their journey and gradually explains the scriptures to them, showing how he fulfils Moses and the prophets.

That hymn continues

*Who is this who joins our journey, walking with us stride by stride?
Unknown Stranger, can you fathom depths of grief for one who died?
Then the wonder! When we told you how our dreams to dust have turned,
then you opened wide the Scriptures, till our hearts within us burned.*

The risen Lord is able to answer the deepest longings of their souls. But as we know it is only when they sit at table with him and witness him breaking the bread that their eyes are truly opened and they realise who their hearts were *burning within them* as they walked the road with him.

For Luke and for the Church, Emmaus is not simply an historic event, it is a divine promise. **We are not alone.** The Risen One is walking with us on the road of our lives, sometimes unrecognised, and coming in the various guises of the companions whom he sends our way. And he guarantees to be with us when we *break the bread*. This Sunday as I break the bread in the Eucharist, on your behalf and carrying you all with me in the ritual of the liturgy, I will offer the Mass especially for our loved ones who have gone before us and whose passing we still mourn, especially those who have opened our minds to understand the scriptures and those who have taught us to recognise and love the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread.

As that hymn goes on:

*Who are you? Our hearts are opened at the breaking of the bread.
Christ the Victim, now the Victor, living, risen from the dead.
Great Companion! On our journey, still surprise us with your grace.
Make each day a new Emmaus! On our hearts, your image trace!*

Live stream Mass: I shall be the celebrant for the livestream Mass this Sunday at 10.30am from Lawside Convent. www.dunkelddioocese.co.uk. The hymns for the Mass are at the end of this newsletter in case you want to sing along!

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for the Third Sunday of Easter at 4pm in the Cathedral, by the light of the Easter Candle. I'm attaching/enclosing a Word document with the text of the Evening Prayer if you'd like to share in it at home. With my love and prayers,

Kevin

Our Prayers for:

those who have died recently: Johanna Daniels, Norman Green, Jane Higgins, Betty Edwards, Miriam Jackson;

those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Martha Hepburn, Margaret O'Brien, Tom Money, Margaret Cairns,

John Lynch, Tom Branney, John Mckay, Canon Michael Milton, Craig Davidson, Elizabeth Weir, Helen Duffy, Ernest Duffy, Mary Agnes Duffy, Stella Wilson, Albert Davidson;

all those who are sick: Sharon McNally, Moira Wilkie, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Connery, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Cheryl Marshal, Sharon Davison, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Estelle Fox, Allison Matthew;

and our continued prayer for those suffering from Covid 19, those caring for them, all medical and support staff, all those working to ensure our public services continue in these times.

Follow the reflections and music during the week on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

Your Offertory Contributions: Your contributions to the church during this time are especially appreciated – either through cash, cheque or standing order.

Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy

Take time to *be still and know* that our Lord is with you.

A prayer to begin

Father in heaven, author of all truth, once more this Sunday we gather around your holy Word, for inspiration and courage. This is the Word which brings us salvation: make our hearts burn within us as we hear it! May we recognise the risen Christ in our midst, and in the presence of every friend and companion, as we journey through another week. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Read the Scriptures of the day

Acts of the Apostles 2:14. 22-33: Peter's Pentecost sermon

Psalms 15: *Show us Lord, the path of life.*

1 Peter 1:17-21: *Your ransom was paid in Christ's blood.*

You might like to read the Gospel in three separate parts today:

Luke 24: 13-35 The Emmaus journey and the meal of recognition.

Read Luke 24: 13-14, then reflect:

Imagine you are one of the two disciples on the Emmaus road, walking away from the scene of the passion in Jerusalem, what words express how you feel? Who is your companion? What does it mean to have a friend accompanying you at this time?

Now read Luke 24:15-27:

Imagine the stranger catching up with you, as you stride out. What do you tell him when he asks "What's been happening?" In response, what does he say to you, from "Moses and the Prophets?" What passages might he quote? How do you *feel* as he "explains the scriptures"?

Now read Luke 24:28-35:

What does it feel like to be *reaching home*? Why do you invite the "stranger" to stay? What is your heart saying to you as he *sits down at table*? How do you describe the feeling at the *breaking of the bread*. The recognition makes you want to return to Jerusalem. What does it feel like walking back there now, having encountered the Risen One? What is it like in the Upper Room when you meet the others?

Intercessions

Take time to voice your own personal prayers and intentions and then sum up with the Lord's Prayer.

A prayer to close

On the first day of the week, O God of Easter glory, the day on which you raised up Jesus from the dead, we, disciples on the journey, implore that same Jesus earnestly: stay with us Lord!

Though physically separated, we remain in your presence, a pilgrim Church. Keep the power of your Spirit alive in us as this week unfolds, that we may recognise Christ crucified and risen in those you call us to serve; he, who opens our minds and hearts to the scriptures and who is made known to us in the breaking of the bread, and who is our Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymns for the live-streamed Mass from Lawside Convent at 10.30am this Sunday

Opening Hymn

Majesty, worship his majesty, unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.

Majesty, kingdom, authority, flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.

So exult, lift up on high the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King. Majesty, worship his majesty;

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings!

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO! GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God

you take away our sin, have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer

GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO! GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO! GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

Preparation of gifts

Take our bread, we ask you, take our hearts, we love you,

Take our lives, oh Father, we are yours, we are yours.

Yours as we stand at the table you set, yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.

We are the signs of your life with us yet; we are yours, we are yours.

Your holy people stand washed in your blood, Spirit filled, yet hungry, we await your food.

Poor though we are, we have brought ourselves to you: we are yours, we are yours.

Communion

O bread of heaven, beneath this veil, thou dost my very God conceal.

My Jesus! Dearest treasure, hail! I love thee, and adoring, kneel.

Each loving soul by thee is fed, with thine own self in form of bread.

O food of life, thou who dost give the pledge of immortality.

I live – no, 'tis not I that live, God give me life, God lives in me.

He feeds my soul, he guides my ways, and every grief with joy repays.

O bond of love! That dost unite the servant to his living Lord.

Could I dare live and not requite such love, then death were meet reward?

I cannot live unless to prove some love for such unmeasured love.

Beloved Lord in heaven above, there Jesus, thou awaitest me,

to gaze on thee with changeless love, yes, thus I hope, thus shall it be.

For how can he deny me heaven? Who here on earth himself hath given.

Recessional The Church's Easter praise of Our Lady -

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia! Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

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