

## Parishes of St Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of Good Counsel

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### Fifth Sunday of Eastertide 10 May 2020

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

The Book of the **Acts of the Apostles** is of great significance in the New Testament. It is Luke's dramatic sequel to his gospel and a powerful and enlightening chronicle of the life of the early Christian community, living in the power of the Holy Spirit of the Risen Christ.

The Church appoints that this book be read in the Liturgy each day of the Easter season. This Sunday we are in the sixth chapter of Acts when seven men of good repute have hands laid on them by the Twelve and are appointed for the service of charity in the community, the origin, it seems, of our ministry of deacon.



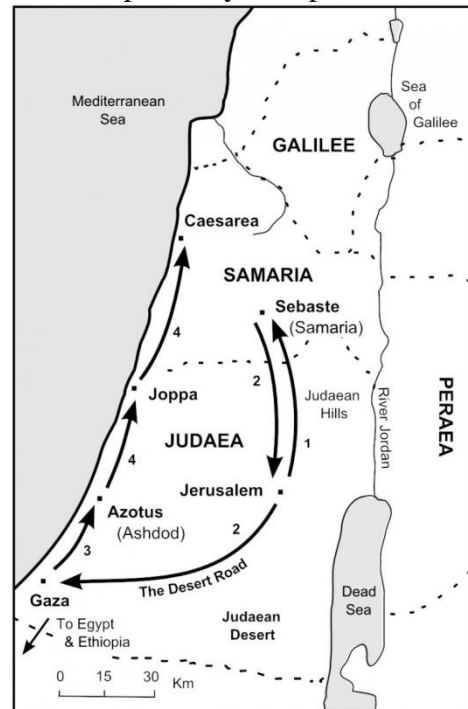
One of these seven is Philip. This deacon later travelled as a missionary servant of the Risen Christ to Samaria, among other places. His message of hope and salvation was welcomed.

From Samaria, after the divine intervention of the message of an angel, Philip went down to Gaza [see the map of his journeys in the next column and read the whole account in Acts 8:26 – 40]. At first, Philip may have wondered why he should have been called to leave his good work in Samaria to take a “desert road”, but he was not in doubt for long as to what the Lord was asking of him.

As he walked along, he was overtaken by an Ethiopian stranger, returning in his chariot from Jerusalem. This man, who was the treasurer of Queen of Ethiopia, had heard somehow in his distant home, of the Jewish religion, and had undertaken this long journey to explore it further. He also had managed to obtain a copy of the prophecies of Isaiah, and he was *devouring* this

narrative when Philip found him. One passage in particular aroused his interest: an extract from the fourth Suffering Servant song [familiar to us from the Good Friday Liturgy].

Prompted by the Spirit, Philip goes to the chariot; in conversation he learns the need for a true understanding of the text on the part of the Ethiopian, and he proclaims the Good News of Jesus to him. The Ethiopian is convinced that what he hears is the truth and a little further along the road he is baptised by Philip.



So, Philip's witness was warmly welcomed by the Ethiopian. The same witness has been handed on to us so that we too - in some way - can share it lovingly and respectfully, with those whom God sends our way. We are aware that these days are times when many feel disorientated, unsure, concerned about the future. In the midst of this, we have to remind ourselves that we still carry with us the gift of the Risen Christ's presence and have a call to proclaim him, notwithstanding the uncertainty of these times; we also have a *great cloud of witnesses* in heaven spurring us on, not least Philip and again today (c.f. the second reading) Saint Peter.

On the journey of life, when things get hardgoing or the outlook seems bleak, or when fatigue sets in or plans don't work out as we had hoped or as we think they should have done, then the Apostle Peter, who of course had his own share of doubt and despair, says strongly to us (as we hear this Sunday) that we are to always *set ourselves close to Him* (the Risen Christ) for no matter what, we remain part of his chosen race, royal priesthood and consecrated nation.

**Live stream Mass:** I shall be the celebrant for the livestream Mass this Sunday at 10.30am from Lawside Convent [www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelddiocese.co.uk)

As I do so, I shall carry all of you with me in prayer, and all your loved ones and all those for whom you are praying, especially any of your families or loved ones who are directly affected by Covid 19, and all who are working in the medical/nursing fields, all NHS staff, all those who work in the many care homes and nursing homes; those who are going to extraordinary lengths to care for others and are keeping our essential services running, and all the parents and grandparents, teachers and carers.

The **Hymns** for the Mass at the Convent this Sunday are appended to this Newsletter as well as the text of a home liturgy for those unable to take part in a livestreaming of Mass.

**Follow the reflections and music during the week on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

**Children's Liturgy:** there is a resource on the Facebook Page each week for families who would like to celebrate a Children's Liturgy at home in these different times, as we try to continue to support our young people.

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for the Fifth 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.

The next set of **Day by Day Booklets** have arrived and I hope to post them out this week. Give me an email or a call if you'd like one.

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

**Our Prayers for those who have died recently:**

Johanna Daniels, David Beattie, Monsignor Charles Hendry, Father George Greig, Eva Fyffe;

**those whose anniversaries fall at this time:** Cathie Gourlay, William Walker, James Cunningham, Annette Clark Kelly, Frances McGregor, Ken Barnett, Pauline McGowan, Alice Moorhead McCarry, Margaret McCabe, Gordon Robertson;

**all those who are sick:** Sharon McInally, 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.

### **Hymns for the Mass from Lawside**

#### **Opening Hymn**

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it! This the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it!  
This is the day that the Lord has made.

This is the day, this is the day when he rose again when he rose again. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day when he rose again, we will rejoice and be glad in it! This is the day when he rose again!

This is the day, this is the day of the Easter light, of the Easter light,  
no more we walk, no more we walk in the dark of night, in the dark of night.

This is the day of the Easter light,  
no more we walk in the dark of night.  
This is the day of the Easter light!

#### **Glory to God in the highest**

and on earth peace to people of goodwill.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.  
**GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**  
Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father;  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

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.

#### **Preparation of gifts**

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain.  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been  
**Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.**  
In the grave they laid him, Love, whom men had slain,  
Thinking that never he would wake again.  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain.  
Quick from the dead, my Risen Lord is seen:

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again.  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

#### **Communion**

Love is his word, love is his way,  
feasting with all, fasting alone,  
living and dying, rising again,  
love, only love, is his way:  
**Richer than gold is the love of my Lord,  
better than splendour and wealth.**

Love is his way, love is his mark,  
sharing his last Passover feast,  
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,  
love, only love, is his mark:

#### **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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## *Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy*

### **A prayer to begin**

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have revealed to the nations  
your saving power, and filled all ages  
with the words of a new song.  
Hear the echo of this hymn.  
Give us voice to sing your praise  
throughout this season of joy.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Read the Scriptures of the day**

#### **Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7:**

*The word of the Lord continued to spread,  
seven men elected and hands laid on them.*

**Psalm 32:** *May your love be upon us O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.*

**1 Peter 2:4-9:** *You are a chosen race, a people  
set apart sing the praise of God.*

#### **Alleluia**

#### **Gospel of John 14:1-12:**

*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.*

### **For reflection**

Imagine the **scene** of these words of Jesus. It is Holy Thursday in the Upper Room; the feet of those at the supper have been washed, including Peter, including Judas. The Lord has told them that this is what it means to be his disciples, to “copy what I have done to you”. It seems that for John the fledgling Church is being brought to birth this evening. Jesus has then shown himself to be *troubled in spirit* and confesses that one of their number will betray him. Jesus personally sets the drama of his passion in motion, by taking the morsel and handing it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. Judas takes the bread and leaves the gathering. And then John poignantly states: *Night had fallen.*

It would not be too long now before they have to leave the Upper Room and cross the Kedron Valley. But there is still much to be done. Jesus has much teaching to impart, and this teaching is recorded in John 13:33- 17:26. These are Jesus’ *farewell* discourses, teachings which flow from his heart of love, words addressed to those gathered around him, and words addressed to his Father in fervent prayer. Many of these words are familiar to us, such as the passage from 14:1-12 which we read in the Liturgy today.

It might be helpful to divide the text into three sections:

#### **a) 14:1-6: “His departure to the Father”**

This is what is approaching, and there is no going back. His words are of encouragement and comfort as he goes to *prepare a place* for them. The words of Thomas allow Jesus to once again use the divine name revealed to Moses and apply it to himself: **(I AM – Yahweh)**.

#### **b) 14:7-11: “Seeing the Father and his work”.**

Jesus is pointing beyond himself; he is the revelation of the Father. Disciples are asked to believe in the oneness that exists between Father and Son, or at least to believe in Jesus on account of the works he does. He has “worked” unceasingly throughout this gospel narrative.

#### **c) 14:12-14 “To believe and to do”.**

The unity between Father and Son is extended. Those who are disciples will share and do the same works as Jesus has done. The opening “work” of this evening has been the washing of their feet. Will the Church being born in the Upper Room be faithful and copy the example he has given?



### **Intercessions**

Take time to voice your own prayers then sum up with the **Our Father...**

### **A prayer to close**

Father of us all, in Christ our Master and Redeemer, you have shown to us your own face. He is the cornerstone of our lives, and yet he was rejected. But, chosen and precious in your sight, he is now the head of the body, the Church, and we - his disciples – are the living parts of that body. As we have listened to your Word, and look forward to the day when we can once again be together at your Table, keep us truly as “living stones” in the building of your kingdom and good witnesses to your truth. Amen.