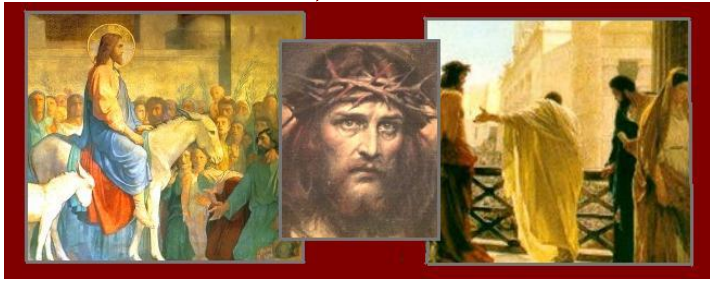


PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION

5 April 2020



Eaglais Easbaigeach na h-Alba san Eilean Dubh
The Scottish Episcopal Church on the Black Isle

Charity Number SC010781

St Regulus' Cromarty + St John's, Arpafeelie + St Andrew's, Fortrose

The Rev'd Canon (Father) Mel Langille

Priest & Rector

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RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE WHO IS BAPTISED IS WELCOME

to share with us in Communion at all services.

There is no need to be a member of the Episcopal Church. Please feel free to celebrate with us.

If you are not baptised or would prefer, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing

(simply come forward with hands together and head bowed as a sign to the priest).

+ + +

AT THE BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion,

Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread

them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

+ First Reading : Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens--wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?

Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?

Let them confront me.

It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

+ Psalm 31:9-16

9 Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *

my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors, a dismay to those of my acquaintance; * when they see me in the street they avoid me.

12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; * I am as useless as a broken pot.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *

they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. * I have said, "You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

+ **Second Reading : Philippians 2:5-11**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gradual Hymn

+ **The PASSION according to ST MATTHEW**
(26:14- 27:66)

One of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he

gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,
the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

And so said all the disciples.

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do."

Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, in whose house the scribes and the elders had gathered. But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest; and going inside, he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you,

From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They answered, "He deserves death." Then they spat in his face and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?"

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do

not know the man." After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now

the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am

God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes & heart in the world...that we all may LIVE and BE the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

For all suffering with Coronavirus, all working for a cure and all living in fear of it. For healing and peace among all nations. For an end to terrorism and hatred in all its forms. For our fellow Christians and all who are persecuted for their faith.

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters & brothers of the Church of the Indian Ocean : Archbishop James Wong.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Valerie C, Rebekah C, Joshua C, Lisa C, Jackie F, Paul H, Ross J, their families and all who are studying for Ordination or Readership...for their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop. For our brothers & sisters of St Ninian's, Glenurquhart. For Inverness Street Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

For one another as we live through this challenging time. For the good health and safety of all. For Grace to keep a Holy Lent. For Isaac & family. For Mark W & loved ones. For Janet S as she studies for ordination. For those whose relationships / marriages are struggling. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. Pray for our Sunday Club in St Regulus'. For our Teen Gatherings. For James and his work in Biblical translation in Nigeria. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

Let us pray humbly to the Saviour of all. He went up to Jerusalem to endure the passion and enter into his glory.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.* Christ our Redeemer, let us share in your passion by works of penance; let us attain the glory of your resurrection.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.* Grant us the protection of your Mother, the comforter of the afflicted; help us to extend to others the consolation you have given us.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.*

Take care of those we have discouraged and those we have wronged; help us to learn from our sufferings so that justice and love may prevail in the end.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.* You humbled yourself even to accepting death, death on a cross; grant to your servants obedience and patience.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.* Share with the dead your bodily glory; let us rejoice one day with them in the fellowship of the saints.

– *Sanctify the people you redeemed by your blood.*

In a moment of silence, call to mind the concerns of your own heart with those listed above and lift them up to God. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

THE BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL



Bishop Mark has indicated that funds raised over this Lent will be sent in support of **Inverness Street Pastors**...a most worthy cause that

touches the lives of many in our Highland Capital! Please give generously! (Please forward cheques to Peter? And he will forward to the Diocese...It would be good to know how much we, as a Joint Charge raise!)

LET US UNITE IN PRAYER FROM OUR HOMES

Dear All,

Holy Week is upon us! What a strange week it is shaping up to be! I hope we can all manage to keep it Holy and spend time in prayer each day as we reflect on and celebrate the great events that have wrought our salvation and that of the whole world!

To that end I am including some daily thoughts and prayers here (more to follow) and I hope to record some videos in St Andrew's to help us participate in some small way in the Rites of the Week!

Holy Week at Home *Adaptations of the Palm Sunday Ritual for Family and Household Prayer*

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion **Introduction**

Palm Sunday celebrates two seemingly different stories. We begin the liturgy by commemorating Jesus's triumphant journey to Jerusalem where he is greeted by shouts and songs of acclamation and joy. Everything seems to be going well. Jesus is hailed as a King and people

wave palm branches to show their honour for him. By the time we reach the Gospel, however, we hear the Passion of Jesus Christ, recalling the events leading up to his crucifixion and death on the cross.

It may seem strange that these two extremes are celebrated on Palm Sunday, but that is the reality of the Paschal Mystery. There is only one story.

Jesus's life, death and resurrection are all connected; It is impossible to separate them as isolated events. The same is true for our lives. Everything we do is united with Christ, the good times and the difficult ones. Even when God seems distant and far away, we know that we are always connected to the story of Jesus's life, death and resurrection. We are always connected to Christ.

As we begin Holy Week, take a moment to recall this narrative of Christ alone or with your family.

What are some events from Jesus's life that stand out to you?

Do you have a favourite parable or story of healing?

It is important to remember that the Jesus who walked and taught and ate is the same Jesus who dies and rises again. Think too about your own life.

What are some of the significant events you have experienced this past year?

Recall some of these moments aloud as continue to share the story of your family, which is also the story of Christ!

Ritual at Home

Perhaps the most memorable part of the Palm Sunday liturgy is the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem. To help us celebrate, the church invites us to carry palm branches as we gather for prayer today.

Even so, we remember that liturgy is not a recreation of a past events. Rather, it is an anamnesis, an active remembering of the past so that we may live those realities today.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, As we come to the beginning of Holy Week, we remember your triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We sing your praises, shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David." You alone are the true King, the leader greater than all others. Even so, in your great mercy you chose to become like us, taking on human form and living among us. As we celebrate and shout "Hosanna" today, may we remember what will soon follow. Keep us faithful

in word and deed, and help us love you to the best of our ability. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Procession:

We, too, welcome Jesus, the Son of David, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Holding our palm branches, let us acclaim Christ, the Lord.

If circumstances allow, a short procession around the house (inside or outside!) would be appropriate, with all responding, "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

Children may wish to make banners or streamers to wave in the procession and play tambourines or other percussion instruments. You can use palms from last year that you might still have, other tree leaves, or even homemade crafted leaves.

To Jesus, the True Light, who illumines the darkness and brings us hope during difficult times.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who models compassion and inclusion, sensitivity and goodwill.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Master Teacher, who shows by example how to accompany others, offering gentle guidance and direction.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Great Healer, who cares for the sick with tenderness and mercy, showing love to heal body, mind, and spirit.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

To Jesus, the Paschal Victim, who dies so that we might rise to new life.

Hosanna to the Son of David!

Intercessions:

Confident that Jesus Christ hears our prayer, let us offer our petitions with open hearts.

For Mark our Bishop and Primus, and all church leaders: May they continue to boldly lead, offering prophetic witness to the Gospel.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

For all people in positions of leadership: May they work tirelessly for peace and justice to ensure the common good for all.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

For all families and communities, especially those longing for intimacy and communion: May they know the tenderness of compassion and joy of inclusion.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

For our own needs this day:

Prayers may be offered aloud.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

For all who have died: May they rest and rise in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, *Hear our prayer.*

Gathering these prayers together, as well as those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray in the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father . . .

Prayer:

Loving God, We praise you in a special way today as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Be with us as we begin our journey through Holy Week, that we may more closely align our lives with yours, knowing suffering and death, yet remaining hopeful in the life you promise. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Things to ponder...

1. What images, words, or phrases do you associate with Palm Sunday?
2. The Palm Sunday liturgy shows the fickleness of humanity. One minute we shout someone's praises, and soon after we yell, "Crucify him!" When in your own life have you been inconsistent in your actions or beliefs?

3. What is your prayer as you begin Holy Week?

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PLEASE KEEP PRAYING!

I share, once again, information re how to join with me in prayer each day during this time...

If you have a tablet, computer or smart phone you are able to join me. The Offices are found at :

universalis.com

Look up Office of Readings, Morning Prayer etc on the site....and even the daily Eucharist readings.

I will be offering these prayers at:

7am : Invitatory & Office of Readings

9:am : Morning Prayer

12noon : Eucharist

6pm : Evening Prayer

10pm : Night Prayer aka Compline

It is part of my duty as a priest to pray the Office and to offer the Mass for you....so that will not cease! Please join me, if you can, from your homes for even one of those prayer times.

Also, the Sunday Readings will be included, like today, in the emailed Newsletter.

PLEASE, let us all do what we can to be safe and sound....**BUT**, let us also do all we can to support and encourage one another.

IN THE MIDST OF THE CURRENT CRISIS

Let's not forget to love and take care of one another.

We are a community...a good one...

Let loving kindness and generosity

be our rule...as always!!!

If you need anything or just a friendly voice, ring me at 01381 622 241 (or 07780 512 990)...and I will do my utmost!

PRAYERS in the MIDST of PANDEMIC

God of Love, we turn to you with prayerful hearts and with confidence in your loving presence among us now and in every moment of our lives. We stand before you as a people of hope, trusting in your care and protection. May we be comforted by your love in these anxious times.

Generous and Merciful God, fill us with compassion and concern for others, young and old; that we may look after each other in these challenging times, especially those among us who are vulnerable. May your example give us the courage we need to go to the margins, wherever they may be. Heal us of our fear.

Healing God, bring healing to those who are sick with the Coronavirus and be with their families and neighbours. We pray especially for those who are isolated, that they may know your love. Stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

God of Strength, accompany all those who serve us with such love and generosity in the medical profession and in all our healthcare facilities... NHS workers, emergency services, shop workers, lorry, bus & train drivers. All the folk keeping our infrastructure together. We give thanks for their continued work in the service of people. We ask you to bless them, strengthen them and guide them with your abundant goodness.

God of Wisdom, we ask you to guide the leaders in healthcare and governance; that they may make the right decisions for the wellbeing of people.

O God of creation and God of life, we, your people here in the Black Isle, throughout the

Highlands, Scotland, the UK and the world,
place ourselves in your protection and love.
May your peace be with us and enfold us
today, tomorrow and during the time ahead.
We make our prayer through the intercession
of Mary our Mother, and all the saints.
St Joseph, pray for us.
St Andrew, pray for us.
St Peter & St Boniface, pray for us.
St Moluag & St Kessog, pray for us.
May all the saints of God, pray for us, Amen!

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from
home remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap
our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to
be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.
As fear grips so many around us,
let us always choose love.
Amen.

A PRAYER IN THE MIDST OF PANDEMIC

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and
villages “curing every disease and illness.” At
your command, the sick were made well. Come to
our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of
the coronavirus, that we may experience your
healing love.
Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they
regain their strength and health through quality
medical care.
Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations
from working together and neighbours from
helping one another.
Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim
invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.
Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this
time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May
they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.
Be with the families of those who are sick or have
died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from
illness and despair. May they know your peace.
Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all
medical professionals who seek to heal and help
those affected and who put themselves at risk in
the process. Be present also with all our shop
workers, emergency services personnel, lorry
delivery men and women. May they know your
protection and peace.
Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the
foresight to act with charity and true concern for
the well-being of the people they are meant to
serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-
term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent
future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as
they work together to achieve it on earth.
Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by
many people suffering from this illness or only a
few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and
mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our
anxiety, give us your peace.
Jesus Christ, heal us. Amen

IN THE MIDST OF CONFUSION

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty
and merciful, out of love for us
You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of
our souls and our bodies, look upon your children
who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay
in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to
you seeking strength, salvation and relief, deliver
us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort
their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy
and reward to our doctors, nurses and volunteers,
eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the
moment of trial but deliver us from all evil.
We ask this of Thee, who with the Son and the
Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

FOR HEALING AND PROTECTION

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or
watch, or weep this day/night, and give your
angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick,
Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the
dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted,
shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to

your protection, implored your help, or sought
your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence,

I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

To you I come, before you I stand,
sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate,

despise not my petitions,

but in your mercy, hear and answer. Amen.

FOR QUIET CONFIDENCE

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in
returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness
and in confidence shall be our strength: By the
might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy
presence, where we may be still and know that
thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.