

The DAY of PENTECOST

31 May 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

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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).

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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of

life eternal: keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

+ First Reading : Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs-- in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

`In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' "

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to number,
creatures both small and great.

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of it.
All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand,
and they are filled with good things.

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

You hide your face, and they are terrified;
you take away their breath,
and they die and return to their dust.
You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
He looks at the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.
May these words of mine please him;
I will rejoice in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Hallelujah!

**Send forth your Spirit, O Lord
and renew the face of the earth.**

+ Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit,

to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Gradual Hymn

+ The Holy Gospel : John 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit into our hearts. 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 in leadership in health care and government and for the Spirit's guidance re the ending of lockdown. For all suffering with Covid 19, for all our healthcare workers, for all working for a cure, for all shop workers, lorry drivers, all we are depending on for our safety, health and protection 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 Melanesia : Archbishop Leonard Dawea.

OUR DIOCESE

For all our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Janet S, David T, Jaime W, Rachael W, Sandra W, Bp Kevin, Dr McNeil Scott, Fr Ian, 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 Mary in the Fields, Culloden. For Inverness Street

Pastors. For our sister Dioceses (Quebec, Canada & Tuam, Killala and Achonry, Ireland).

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY

FAMILY & FRIENDS

For all touched by the recent sadness here on the Black Isle...for the lad, his family and friends. Pray for all whose weddings and baptisms have had to be postponed. For one another as we live through this challenging time...especially those who are experiencing a profound loneliness. For the good health and safety of all. 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

We know that the Father is with us because of the Spirit he has given us. With this confidence we turn to you in prayer.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

Father, unite all your children by baptism in the Spirit; draw all believers together in mind and heart.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

You sent the Spirit to fill the earth with your love; let us all build the human city in justice and peace.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

Lord God, Father of all, bring to your scattered children unity of faith: make the world alive with the power of your Spirit.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

By the work of the Spirit you create all minds afresh: heal the sick, comfort the afflicted, and bring us all to salvation.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

Through the Holy Spirit you raised your Son from the dead. Raise us by the power of your Spirit when we come to your kingdom.

– *Father, send your Spirit into the Church!*

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.



FOODBANK

It would be very helpful if donations of tinned vegetables could be made for the Foodbank. That seems to be a major need at this time!!!!

AS THE CHURCH DEPLOYED...

LET US UNITE IN PRAYER

FROM OUR HOMES

Dear All,

“When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.”

These words that begin the telling of the story of the first Day of Pentecost challenge us in a special way this year. We are all scattered to our various safe places and so, sadly, we are not together in one place. Or are we not?

Throughout Eastertide we are reminded again and again of our Baptism and its meaning in our lives. Baptism is not just a lovely symbol and rite of passage...nor simply a cause for a party and celebration, though, in a sense, it is all of the above. Baptism is a Sacrament given to us by Christ. It is a symbol, yes, but it represents something that is very real. It actually conveys and bestows what it represents. Baptism makes us children of God...his daughters and sons through adoption and grace. It makes us inheritors of everlasting life. It makes us members of the Body of Christ - his Church. We are one Body with Christ himself as our Head! And so, while Covid 19 requires lockdown and we are unable to gather in our buildings, in the mystery that is our faith, we **ARE TOGETHER AND IN ONE PLACE**...because we are in Christ.

We are reminded that **WE** are the Church...and not the buildings we have built to serve as convenient meeting places! This does not mean that we do not long to gather with one another in our beautiful worship spaces...to participate fully in the offering of the Eucharist ...and join our voices in praise as we receive our Lord in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood, but

it does challenge us to remember WE ARE THE CHURCH and the CHURCH IS NEVER CLOSED!

May I will you all a truly blessed Pentecost and may we all experience that fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit for which we have been praying!

Much love to all!

Mel +

RE DAILY PRAYER...

FACEBOOK : many have been joining me daily as I stream the Morning and Evening Offices live on Facebook from my home...I think we have to be friends in FB for you to access that but I will certainly welcome you!

ALSO:

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:

7 am : Invitatory & Office of Readings

9 am : Morning Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

6 pm : Evening Prayer (Facebook Live Stream)

10 pm : Night Prayer aka Compline

7 pm Eucharist on Tuesdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Thursdays (Facebook Messenger)

10 am Eucharist on Sundays (Facebook livestream and emailed link to all)

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!**

MORE USEFUL PRAYERS...

From World Vision...

Pray for the Covid 19 to stop spreading.

Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ...—Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

Pray for people who are infected with COVID-19 or facing quarantine.

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.—Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

Pray for protection for people at higher risk of developing the disease.

Dear Lord, we lift to You our concern for people who are more likely than others to become severely ill from COVID-19 — the elderly and people with chronic health conditions. Protect them from harm and be their comfort in this time of uncertainty and, for many, preventive isolation from loved ones.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.—1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)

Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting Covid 19

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job. Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.—Psalm 23:4 (NIV)

Pray for leaders responsible for making decisions about Covid 19

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly — with each other and with the public — and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers ...—2 Corinthians 1:10-11 (NIV)

Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.—Psalm 57:1 (NIV)

Pray for business owners and families facing financial stress.

Jesus, we thank You for Your faithfulness in how you have guided and equipped people in their jobs and have provided in the past. It can be scary and overwhelming not knowing how bills and obligations will be met or to not be able to provide for families. As people feel financial strain during the uncertainty, bring them comfort and peace, reminding them that You are there for them. Provide for them in their times of need.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.—John 14:27 (NIV)

Pray for grocery store workers and delivery drivers.

Lord, we are so grateful for all the people who continue to work each day so that people are able to eat. We ask that You bless and protect them as they serve. Give them grace to handle disgruntled customers during supplies shortages. Keep their bodies healthy as they unload and stock boxes of supplies. Keep their cars and trucks running smoothly as they deliver needed supplies and food people have ordered online. And please protect them all from contracting the new coronavirus.

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.—Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)