

18th SUNDAY after PENTECOST

1st October 2023



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

Charity Number SC010781

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

The Most Rev'd Mark Strange,

Bishop of Moray, Ross & Caithness

Interim Rector

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For a fuller newsletter, please contact Isla Cruden:

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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, O Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

+ **FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32. The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord

is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according, iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord

+ Psalm: 25:1-8

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies' triumph over me.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore, he teaches sinners in his way. He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

+ SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. 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,¹ 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. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord

+ **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew:

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (2-7)

MON : 7:00 Prayer Group

TUE : 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus'

WED : 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via Zoom (to join please contact

annegilliannevman@gmail.com)

10:00am Charity Shop

10:00am Bible Study Group

THU : 10:00am Eucharist in St Andrew's

FRI :

SAT : 10:00am Charity Shop

Sunday 8th October 2023

19th Sunday after Pentecost

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

9:45am in St Regulus' with +Mark
(Readings to be confirmed)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

11:30am in St Andrew's with +Mark

RESERVED SACRAMENT

9:45am in St John's with Jean & Ann

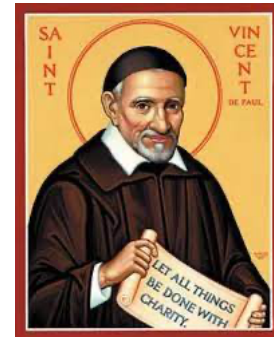
(Readings : Is 5:1-7, / Ps 80:7-14 / Phil
3:4b-14/ Matt 21:33-46)

HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK

(We 'newbie' newsletter creators are still learning and got a bit confused about which Saint in which week. We couldn't ignore St Francis, but we also have a bonus offering – some information on St. Vincent de Paul. With thanks to Sally Ann for the extra work!)

St Vincent de Paul

(27 Sept)



St Vincent de Paul was born in southern France in 1581 to a poor family.

Growing up, he was ashamed of his family and their poverty.

He became a priest at the young age of 19 to get security and respect. He spent most of his time surrounding himself with the elite.

In 1605, during a sea voyage, he was captured by pirates, auctioned, and sold into slavery. It was during this time that his life began to change. He prayed fervently to God and promised he would dedicate his life to the poor and suffering if he could be set free, which he was after two years in slavery.

He wrote in his diary "Suffering is a great grace; through suffering the soul becomes like the Saviour;" "The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it,"

De Paul's connections with the wealthy aided him in his quest to help others. He instituted the Confraternities of Charity, an association of wealthy lay women who visited and cared for the poor, providing them with food and medicine.

In 1633, de Paul founded the Daughters of Charity, an apostolic religious association of women that was dedicated to active charity.

De Paul would later become the superior of the Congregation of the Mission. The ignorance and laxity among the men was prevalent when de Paul entered. Through teaching and discipline, under his leadership, they gave their lives instead to the service of others. His work continues. Many organisations, set up by the Vincentians or Lazarists, around the world derive from those established by de Paul, including hospitals, universities, schools, and societies for the relief of poverty, support of the vulnerable, visits to the lonely and to oppose injustice in society, such as the Society of Vincent de St Paul in the UK (svp.org.uk).

“We should strive to keep our hearts open to the suffering and wretchedness of people and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.” Amen
He died on 27th September 1660.

St. Francis of Assisi (4 Oct)



Born around 1181, Francis grew up in a rich family. By age 14, he had left school and become known as a rebellious young man who ate luxuriously, drank, partied, and broke the city curfew. His father, a wealthy cloth merchant, wanted his son to continue the family business but Francis wanted to be a knight, a war hero of the legends of the time. When war broke out between Assisi and Perugia, he took his place in the cavalry. Francis was taken prisoner as he could secure a good ransom. For a year he was kept in terrible conditions in prison until his father paid the ransom. During this time, he began having visions from God. He returned home a changed man. In the church of San Damiano while praying in front of an old Byzantine crucifix, he heard the voice of Christ telling him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. The church at the time was tremendously rich, much as were the people leading it, and Francis with many others was troubled by this and wanted a return to Jesus Christ's own original values. His radical lifestyle of Christlike poverty challenged the church. Francis taught the people of a personal relationship with God in an everyday manner that could be understood by all. He even preached to animals which earned him the title of “God's fool”! Despite this, today he is beloved by many and is associated with the patronage of

animals and it has become customary to hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day. Thousands heard him and many joined in his way of life: He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St Clare, the Third Order of St Francis, and the Custody of the Holy Land. Once his community was authorized, he withdrew increasingly from external affairs.

His message still resonates with millions across the globe. Today followers can be found in every walk of life and on every continent. Theirs is a common vision: identification with the poor; care for creation as a sacred trust; embrace of each person in relationship as sister or brother; and commitment to building peace with justice for all. Quite a legacy for a man who died in 1226 at the age of only 44.

JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE



Dear all, our next Monthly Joint Prayer meeting for the Black Isle Charge will be **Monday 2nd October at the home of Rev Christine in Fortrose.** All are welcome to this Contemplative Prayer group. Commencing at **7pm.** Look forward to seeing you there.

INDOOR PICNIC FUNDRAISER

Many, many thanks to all those who attended or supported the Indoor Picnic in aid of the emergency appeals for Morocco and Libya. A cheque for £305.00 is on its way to the British Red Cross Disaster Fund.

Rev Christine

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

OUR WORLD

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 and brothers of the Anglican Episcopal Church In Japan.

OUR DIOCESE

For our Sisters and Brothers of Aberdeen & Orkney Diocese. For our brothers & sisters in the Porvoo Communion of Churches. For all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, for Fr Mel as he makes the transition from Rector to retirement,

and all, priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum. For the congregations of St. Mary, the Virgin, Ullapool; St. Gilbert's Kinlochbervie; St. Gilbert's Lochinver; St. Boniface Achiltibuie: Clare Caley, David Higgon. John Green. For our sister Dioceses of Québec, Canada & Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, Ireland.

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

For our three congregations, those who can join us in public worship and those joining us in spirit at home. For the Eilean Dubh care home & all care homes and for our church members who are living in them. For Laura S, Stuart T & all studying for ordination & readership. For Igor, Oleksii & Families. For all who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Pray for our Granny in Guatemala: Santos De La Cruz Mendez. For all we know to be in need of our prayers.

A DAILY PRAYER for the WEEK

Spend a moment in silence and call to mind any particular concerns... then pray:

Through Christ we are sons and daughters of God: in him we see what we shall be when we come to the Father. With confidence we pray:

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Guide leaders and governments: give them wisdom and integrity and inspire them to make the right decisions for all the people.

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

You are the Lord and source of our freedom: bring those in captivity of mind or body to the freedom of the children of God,

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Give courage and strength. To the young. Help them to choose their work and make the right decisions for their future.

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Give patient tolerance to all who are no longer young: open the hearts of the young to accept from them understanding and love.

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Receive the departed into your eternal kingdom: sustain our hope to reign with you for ever.

- **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

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.

A note from Rev Christine to all Merry widows, widowers and live-aloners.

If you would like to spend a Sunday afternoon in company rather than on your own, join us for lunch on Sunday 8 October at 1.00 pm, at the Home of

Elizabeth Waters – St Catherine's, Union Street, Fortrose. **Booking essential** at christinemylne67@gmail.com or on 01381 621975. No need to bring anything, but ... a SMALL contribution towards cost would be appreciated. Please let me know if you have any **food allergies**.

A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

My dearest friends,

I don't know where to start!

Sunday's gathering, Eucharist and luncheon has left me speechless.

I could hardly look up for fear of bursting into tears.

I have rarely ever felt so loved and supported.

Thank you to all who made it such an amazing event.

To those who served, read, prayed, greeted, sang, played the organ, prepared, and served food and drink....and everyone else.... I am fighting tears even as I write this.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The beautiful card and gifts. The cake! The messages and photos in the beautiful book! The painting of my Patron! Thank you!

Tomorrow I am due to receive the beautiful chair.... I can't wait!

I have discovered myself written up in the Ross-shire, Sutherland and Inverness papers! And am told I was even mentioned on the BBC!

I really do not know what to say except

THANK YOU ALL FROM THE VERY CORE OF MY HEART.

I have always loved you and I ever shall.

My prayers are with you. Please keep me in yours.

Love,

Mel +

NEWSLETTER, FB & CHARGE WEBSITE

A reminder to get any information you want in next week's newsletter to me by email by **noon on Tuesday**.

If you want a particular person mentioned in our **prayers**, please let me know & I will add them for the remainder of that calendar month.

For the **FB page**. Information about St Regulus' and Cromarty activities should go to Stuart Thomson, St Andrew's, and Fortrose to Alison Garraway & St John's to me.

Jean

jeanmedavis@gmail.com

OPERATION SHOEBOX – UPDATE

On Friday 22nd, I had the pleasure of addressing the Culbokie Primary children and teachers at their assembly. What a lovely school, full of joy and kindness towards others. I had built up a tower of wrapped Christmas boxes and displayed a large, laminated photo of a filled box. My slides from

Blythswood and wee video were already at the school, sent by Blythswood head office, and all set to go. I always start by outlining the history of Blythswood and the Shoebox appeal, which is now in its 30th year, and who knew that the first Jurassic Park film came out 30 years ago!!! I ask the children questions all to do with activities of daily living, and what we take for granted, and then putting another side of the story to them, with the help of the slides, and showing children of their age, and adults in poverty stricken or war-torn areas, and how they would feel.

The kind, thoughtful ideas and suggestions that come from the cross-legged children in front of me never ceases to amaze and how they know that by being kind to others less fortunate than themselves makes them happy. We had a lot of meaningful discussions on the toiletry/winter wear essentials and gifts, and how they could help by wrapping and filling boxes of hope and love to be sent out. I am sure that these youngsters will grow up to be thoughtful and kind adults in the future. The video that I showed clearly demonstrates the impact of joy that this work has on the poorest and war-torn areas of Eastern Europe which is where our boxes are delivered.

Ms MacLeod and Mrs McGregor will keep me informed of the total they fill this year!! Well done, Culbokie!!!



We are busy making more scarves for the adults and will be buying the last lot of toiletries essentials and finishing the sewing kits for the ladies too. I am sure that with October 27th and November 3rd as the next filling station days, we will complete our total. Please continue to pray for all those who need these boxes, and that the recipient receives just what they need in their box.

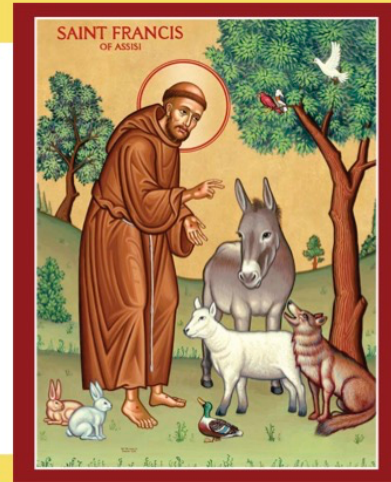
Jan MacLennan xx

PET BLESSING

**At
Munlochy Animal Aid,
Woodend,
Inverness IV1 3XD
Sunday 1st October at 3pm**

**All (pets & human carers) welcome!
Donations of money or pet food also welcome.**

BLESSING OF PETS



Sunday October 1st at 3pm

Munlochy Animal Aid

**Bring your pets for a short service
and blessing followed by
refreshments**

Jesus grew in WISDOM and in stature and in favour with God and people. Luke 2:52

Do we love our possessions?

Can we give good excuses for keeping them? To clean, to tidy, to organise, from this day forward till death do us part?

It is wise to store our treasure in heaven, Matthew 6:19-21, to travel light. Matthew 10:10, to hear Jesus' words and do them. Matthew 7:21

“Sell your possessions and give to the poor...”

Matthew 19:21

Moving house is a great opportunity to sift out what we need from what we don't. But we don't have to move house. We can start right now.

Bit by bit by Christmas our homes can be lightened of many possessions.

I call it the “Marmite principle”: we WILL get to the bottom of the jar, bit by bit.

Ask the question: “Do I need it?”

A friend of mine every year would take to a charity shop anything she hadn't worn for a year. That's an idea.

For a simple life see 2 Kings 4:10 for Elisha's needs. Let's start right away!

Here's to a brighter, lighter future!

Sally Ann

Ps I trust the reader is Berean (Acts 17:11) and looks up all the scripture references!