

21st SUNDAY after PENTECOST

22nd 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

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THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Collect

Almighty and merciful God: in your goodness keep from us all that is harmful; that, being ready both in body and soul, we may freely accomplish your will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

+FIRST READING: Isaiah 45, 1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

+PSALM 96: 1-9

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

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Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

Oh, the power and the splendour of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

Ascribe to the Lord the honour due his name.

+SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

+Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us,

then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (23-29)

MON:

TUE: 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus'

WED: 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via

Zoom (to join please contact

annegillianneyman@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 29th October 2023

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

FIFTH SUNDAY GATHERING

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

11.00am in St John's

Followed by

A BRING AND SHARE LUNCH

(Readings: Lev 19.1-2,15-18, Ps 1, 1 Th 2.1-8
Mt 22.34-46)

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. For all those affected by the recent actions in Israel & Gaza and for those involved in this week's peace discussions. For all in Ukraine and those in Afghanistan continuing to experience earthquakes

OUR COMMUNION

Pray for the peace and unity of the Church. Pray for our sisters and brothers of The Anglian Church of Korea.

OUR 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, and all priests, lay readers and Eucharistic Ministers, helping to maintain our cycle of worship during the interregnum and especially for Christine's recovery from Covid. For

the congregation of St. Columba, Nairn: Alison Simpson, Marion Keston, Blayne Peacock. 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 our local farmers as they struggle against the elements at this crucial harvest time. 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:

The will of Christ is for us all to be saved. Let us pray that this will be done.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Lord, by your sacrifice on the cross you redeemed us from the slavery of sin: lead us to the freedom and glory of the sons and daughters of God.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Be with our bishop Mark, and all the bishops of your church: grant them courage and compassion in their ministry.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

Help those who seek the truth to find it: let them be consecrated in truth.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

We pray especially for peace in family life, and for those orphaned and widowed: Comfort them in your love.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

May our departed brothers and sisters come to the heavenly city: there, with the Father and the Holy Spirit you will reign forever.

- ***Draw all people to yourself, Lord.***

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 PRAYER FOR THE ISRAEL PALESTINE CONFLICT

(from <https://www.englishcathedrals.co.uk>)

God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength, We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.

We pray for those killed and injured by rockets from Gaza in southern Israel. May your rod and staff

comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving. May they know your ever-present help.

We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil.

We pray for the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth.

And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. May you guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit.

Amen.

HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK



St Regulus

(17 Oct)

(This should have been last week's newsletter, but we are remembering our folks and Church in Cromarty today. Ed)

Saint Regulus or Saint Rule (Old Gaelic: Riagal) was a monk of Patras who, in the fourth century, according to a Scottish legend that became current during the twelfth century, fled to Scotland with the bones of Saint Andrew, and deposited them at St Andrews. His feast day in the Aberdeen Breviary is October 17.

Saint Regulus was galvanized into action by a visionary dream that Emperor Constantine had decided to remove Saint Andrew's relics from Patras to Constantinople. Warned by an angel, was to move as many bones as far away as he could to the 'ends of the earth' for safekeeping.

He was shipwrecked on the shore of Fife at the spot called Kilrymont, which is now St. Andrews, and was welcomed by a Pictish king, Hungus or Angus, who was actually of the eighth or ninth century. The monastery claimed to have three fingers of the saint's right hand, the upper bone of an arm, one kneecap, and one of his teeth. Within the grounds of the cathedral is the tower of St Regulus, which is all that remains of a late pre-Norman church.

The legend served to authenticate the apostle Andrew as patron saint of Scotland. "The Regulus legend was publicised by Scottish kings, nobles and churchmen from the 12th century onwards for political reasons. Scottish independence had come under threat from England since the late 11th century, and the Scottish Church was contesting a claim to primacy by the archbishop of York. In the medieval world precedence was important. By promoting the story of Saint Andrew's choice of Scotland in the 4th century, the Scots acquired a top-rank patron saint, a separate identity from England, and a date for the supposed foundation of the Scottish Church, predating the conversion of England and Ireland to Christianity by several centuries."

JOINT PRAYER MEETING FOR THE BLACK ISLE CHARGE



The next prayer meeting will be on 6th November at Rev Christine's house in Fortrose.

OPERATION SHOEBOX – UPDATE

Dates for the diary. The next Filling Stations will be October 27th and November 3rd. More information to follow nearer the dates.

Jan

THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM AROUND THE CHARGE

And today we have a happy photo of our recently retired Rector enjoying his retirement present. For those who were aware of the saga, the stool finally arrived to be united with the chair.

Thinking he seems to be enjoying his retirement (and his present) rather too much but long may he continue to do so!



And from St John's....

For those of you who saw the recent post about Street Pastors & may want to know a little more about their excellent work.



This year Street Pastors are celebrating 15 years of service on the streets of Inverness. When the concept was first explained to local police, they were quite sceptical but agreed to give it a try. Today they see us as a welcome and useful addition to the work of keeping the city streets safe, particularly on the weekend when the emergency services can be overstretched, and Street Pastors can take some of the strain. Although there is some overlap, largely Street Pastors perform four functions, the one best known being the teams who patrol the streets from 10pm to around 3am looking out for anyone who may have had too much alcohol and need a helping hand to get home safely. This may involve walking someone home if they live close by, persuading a kind taxi driver to take them, phoning mum, dad or an obliging friend, or just sitting with them until they feel well enough to go on their way. The night-time teams are also keen to engage with those out begging, offering a listening ear, a direction towards other services, a hot drink or a meal. For young ladies who can no longer walk in their high heels flip flops are a welcome offering, many younger revellers are delighted with the offer of a lollipop. Sometimes we are approached by someone who wants to know who we are and why we do what we do. We are not out to preach but if a spiritual conversation (or occasionally a bible) we are happy to oblige. Our work is supported by prayer pastors who pray with us before we go out and for us throughout the evening, especially if we message about a particular problem. We have a team who patrol early evenings in Hilton and hopefully soon in Merkinch as well. These are mostly engaging with young people, and we sometimes get encouraging feedback about positive effects on young people's lives. Lastly, we have teams who wander the streets in the daytime, engaging with anyone who looks in need of a friendly face, and dropping in on other agencies offering a helping hand to those in need such as Ness Bank Foodstuffs and Café 1668. If you would like any more details about what we do, how you can join us or how you can support us financially contact Ann Danson at Arpafeelie who will be delighted to tell you more.

Jesus grew in wisdom and IN STATURE and IN FAVOUR WITH God and PEOPLE. (Luke 2:52)

One way to gain favour with people in God's way is by paying promptly, for the worker needs their wage.

"You shall give him his wages on the day that he earns them before the sun sets—for he is poor and is counting on it—so that he does not cry out to the LORD against you, and it becomes a sin for you." Deut 24:15

We do not often think of a worker as this needy of their wage, but we do not know their circumstances or their needs.

We should pay without quibble (the time for sorting out payment is before the worker starts: Matthew 20:1-2) for those jobs done for us.

Workers love this care and righteous behaviour of ours.

Our reputation is quickly spread abroad: "Yes you should work for this person: they pay promptly and as agreed"

Sally Ann

(Good points here re prompt payment. However, Matthew 20: verses 1-2 are but the first verses of a parable, which we heard in church recently, and which in full speaks of salvation as God's free gift to all who turn to him which we should not forget. Ed.)

"The Information Bit"

If you want to receive the newsletter regularly by email and currently do not do so, please contact Isla Cruden (isla@ricruden.net) who will arrange to add you to the circulation list.

Or you can bookmark it online at <https://episcopalblackisle.scot>

A reminder to get any information you want in the newsletter to me by email by noon on Tuesday. For the FB page, information about St Regulus' activities should go to Stuart Thomson, St Andrew's, to Alison Garraway & St John's to me.

If anyone is housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion or simply a visit, please contact a member of the Ministry team of your local church who will be happy to arrange.

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

Jean (jeanmedavis@gmail.com)