

17th SUNDAY after PENTECOST
24th September 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 God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image.

Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; 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: Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so, Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

The word of the Lord.

+ Psalm 145:1-8

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your Name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your Name for ever and ever.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty and all your marvellous works.

They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness.

The Lord is great and full of compassion.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion.

+ SECOND READING: Philippians 1: 21-30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for

you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

+ **HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

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.

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily

wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Praise to Christ our Lord.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (24-29)

MON :

TUE : 7:00pm Eucharist in St Regulus'

WED : 9:00am Celtic Morning Prayer via

Zoom (to join please contact

annegillianewman@gmail.com)

10:00am Charity Shop

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

FRI :

SAT : 10:00am Charity Shop

Sunday 1st October 2023

18th Sunday after Pentecost

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

9:45am in St John's with Fr Arthur

11:30am in St Andrew's with Rev Christine

RESERVED SACRAMENT

9:45am in St Regulus with Jill & Simon

(Readings : Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32 / Ps 25:1-8 /
Phil 2:1-13/ Matt 21:23-32)

HELP NEEDED!



Dear Everyone,

As you are all fully aware, our dear Mel is retiring on Sunday (24th). We are, as you are all aware too, making his last Sunday like a Fifth Sunday service, starting at 11am and then a 'bring and share' lunch afterwards, to have a gathering and fellowship. We could really do with some help on Saturday 23rd at 17:30 at St Andrew's putting up the marquee and table and chairs. Also, for some dear folk to stay after the Sunday's service to put all the above away when all is said and done.

It's great fun, and good team building to put up a marquee with people at each pole etc, lifting at the same time! If only Bruce Forsyth were there, he

would be uttering the immortal words "Good game, good game"!! We would welcome donations of food, savoury and sweet, whichever you would like to bring and share. Refreshments will be provided.

God bless, love Jan xx

FR MEL'S LEAVING GIFT

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection for a gift for Fr Mel. Decisions on what to buy are so difficult especially when downsizing but we have chosen an armchair and stool he particularly liked. Somewhere for him to sit and hopefully remember us all kindly! The stool was delivered on Monday and the chair comes next week. Hopefully Mel will share some photos when all set up but meanwhile a couple of photos to show everyone what they contributed to.



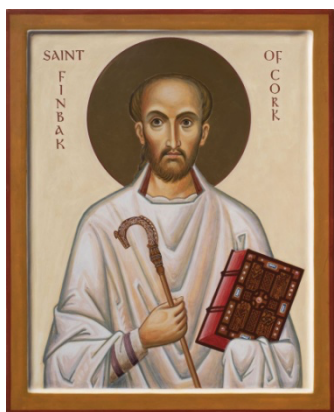
HOLY DAYS THIS WEEK

Saint Finnbar of Dornoch (25 Sept)

He was the son of an artisan and a lady of the Irish royal court. Born in Connaught, Ireland, and baptized Lochan, he was educated at Kilmacahil,

Kilkenny, where the monks named him Fionnbharr (white head) because of his light hair; he is also known as Bairre and Barr. He went on pilgrimage to Rome with some of the monks, visiting St. David in Wales on the way back.

Supposedly, on another visit to Rome the Pope wanted to consecrate him a bishop but was deterred by a vision, notifying the pope that God had reserved that honour to Himself, and Finnbar was consecrated from heaven and then returned to Ireland. Finnbar was



the first to preach the Gospel in Dornoch, Sutherland and undoubtedly elsewhere in Scotland as well as other places. The Isle of Barra is named for him. He worked in southern Ireland, lived as a hermit on a small island at Lough Eiroe, and then, on the river Lee, founded a monastery that developed into the city of Cork, of which he was the first bishop. His monastery became famous in southern Ireland and attracted numerous disciples. Many extravagant miracles are attributed to him, and supposedly, the sun did not set for two weeks after he died at Cloyne about the year 633. His feast day is September 25th.

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For a greater love for our Lord in the Eucharist and for Grace to remember that the Presence of Christ we receive in every Communion must be carried forth into the world and lived in love. For grace to be Jesus' hands, feet, voice, eyes and heart in the world...that we all may LIVE and BE the GOOD NEWS.

OUR WORLD

We pray for Morocco and Libya and those affected by the earthquake and the aftereffects of Storm Daniel. We pray for our sisters and brothers in Sudan in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Nigeria, throughout the Middle East and in all the troubled places of the world. For peace throughout the world. 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 Church of Ireland.

OUR DIOCESE

For our Sisters and Brothers of Aberdeen & Orkney Diocese. For our brothers & sisters in the

Porvoo Communion of Churches. For Anne Macd, Eilidh P, Helen R, Ross S-Y, Margaret W, Lana W, Cn Graham T, their families and all who are studying for Ordination or Readership. For their instructors & all who support them. For Mark, our Bishop, and for our brothers and sisters of the Mid Ross Charge - St. Anne, Strathpeffer; Dingwall Town Chaplaincy. For our sister Dioceses of Québec, Canada & Tuam, Limerick & Killaloe, Ireland.

OUR CHURCH & COMMUNITY FAMILY & FRIENDS

For the Eilean Dubh & all care homes and for our church members who are living in them. For a special intention. For Mark W & family. For Helen K. For Tom & Isla. For Gail & Phil. For Helen C. For Laura S, Stuart T & all studying for ordination & readership. For Louise J. For Barbara J. For Jeremy & Julie P. For Marina, Val & Families. 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 light shines out in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. Let us thank our Lord for bringing his light to our lives.

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

Word of God, you have brought the light of eternity to the darkened world: may it open the minds and hearts of all the children of the Church,

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

Show your care for all who dedicate their lives to the service of others: may your grace inspire their actions and sustain them to the end.

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

Lord, you healed the paralytic and forgave him his sins: pardon all our guilt and heal the wounds of our sins.

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

As we follow the light to new knowledge and discovery: may we use your gifts to serve the whole human family, and so give glory to you.

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

Lead the dead from darkness into your wonderful light: in your mercy show them the radiance of your glory.

- Lord Jesus Christ, you are our light

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 THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful week just passed!

Cromarty young people moved me to tears on Wednesday as they planted a plum tree on the grounds of St Regulus in my honour. They said such kind and generous things. I was so very moved! Then, knowing one of my loves, they gifted me with a chocolate cake hahaha and beautiful handmade cards with beautiful messages.

The New Start Highland lads arrived on Thursday morning to pack me up and shift me to Dunain Square. They are an amazing troop and their efficiency and care are the stuff of legends. Dropping everything off at the new place, they departed. There I was! Surrounded by mountains of boxes and furniture. Ewan, Fiona and Hugh Henderson and John Allan all arrived to continue laying patio slabs in the new garden and begin helping me to unpack. I am so blessed!

And so, I spent my first night as an Invernesian! I was shocked to discover the new neighbourhood is much quieter than Fortrose at night and I slept the best sleep I had in ages.

Friday I continued to unpack. So much stuff! Despite the rather brutal downsizing over the past few months...I still have so much stuff! Too much stuff! New Start dropped by late in the day and took a great heap of emptied boxes. They'll take the rest tomorrow (Wednesday) morning. Bless them.

This evening I will celebrate the Eucharist for the last time in St Regulus'. Dare say it will be as emotional as it was on Sunday in St John's. God help me on Sunday when I celebrate for the last time as Rector of our wonderful Joint Charge! Prayers, please!

Sunday morning we celebrated the baptism of Alice in St Andrew's. From her first visit she was overwhelmed by the friendliness and warmth of our gang! Then in the evening Bishop Mark celebrated the Eucharist and commissioned (re-commissioned 4) 15 Eucharistic Ministers! What a joy-filled and uplifting end to a very full Sunday!

Friday I will have my last assembly with Cromarty Primary. And I look forward with joy (and great lashings of dread too) to our gathering in Sunday

at 11am in St Andrew's. Before then I have a wedding to celebrate and my siblings to welcome.

My sincerest love to you all.

Mel +

NEWSLETTER, FACEBOOK & CHARGE WEBSITE

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

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

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**.

LIBYA & MOROCCO

Flood and Earthquake

A message from Rev Christine

The recent earthquake and floods have left millions in need.

To support the International relief effort I will be holding

AN INDOOR PICNIC
on
Friday 22nd September, at my house,
from 1200 noon until 2.00 pm.

Everyone welcome.
Just pop in.

All donations to the Disaster Appeal.

Please join Rev Christine to support the relief effort for Morocco & Libya. If you are unable to join her on the day, information about organisations raising money to support these crises can be found here: - <https://www.dec.org.uk/monitoring>

OPERATION SHOEBOX - UPDATE

Last Friday, on the 15th we managed to fill the rest of the teenage children, so now that's 300 children all ready, and the adults are to be filled next!! It was so enjoyable, placing all the lovingly made hats, gloves and scarves, with the toiletry essentials, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shower gel, shampoo, facecloths, the gifts of Rubik's cubes, juggling balls, or craft kits, hairbrushes or combs, and sweets with underwear, socks, and pens, pencils and notebooks for their use inside. Knowing that these boxes will reach the most vulnerable and needy of the poorest Eastern European countries, like Moldova, and especially Ukraine in the midst of the war is showing the love that Jesus taught us to share. Our shoeboxes are taken into hospitals if they are needed there. For some, this will be the only gift they get this Christmas, for some, it will be the first gift they have ever been given. Some of our boxes will contain just what's been needed by the person or child receiving it by the person who has given it. The toothpaste might get used up, the candles burned out, the socks grown out, but the hope and love from a shoebox gift goes on. Our boxes make a difference that lasts.



We need to make the scarves for the adult boxes, and buy the toiletry needs, and the underwear, and gifts, so our next filling stations will be October 27th, and November 3rd, and praying that all will be made and bought and sourced by then. That's 200 adults, making a total of 500 boxes. Let us pray for the vulnerable, the wartorn countries and their people. Let's make a difference and show God's love.

God bless you, Jan Maclellan.

PET BLESSING

**Sunday 1st October at 3pm.
Rev Christine will be Blessing Pets at
Munlochy Animal Aid,
Woodend,
Inverness IV1 3XD**

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

**(Meet my previous fur babies Ralf & Rio - with Munlochy
Animal Aid help all can be cared for & spoiled like they were!
Jean)**



**Jesus grew in WISDOM and in stature and in
favour with God and people.**

Luke 2:52

Obedience to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit is wisdom. Jesus says: "Follow me."

A big obstacle to our freedom to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and single-mindedly is our possessions.

John the Baptist said: "The person who has two coats must give to one who has none." Luke 3:11

Jesus said, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven.

Then come, follow me. Matthew 19:21

If every time we thought to buy something we heard God say to us, "Do you need it?" and we answer "No" and then give what we would have paid to the poor instead; or in our homes, we answer, "No, Lord, I don't need it" and give it away, surely we will store treasures in heaven.

Matthew 6:19:21.

Hebrews 12:1. Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off every hindrance ... and with endurance run the race set before us. Amen

Sally Ann