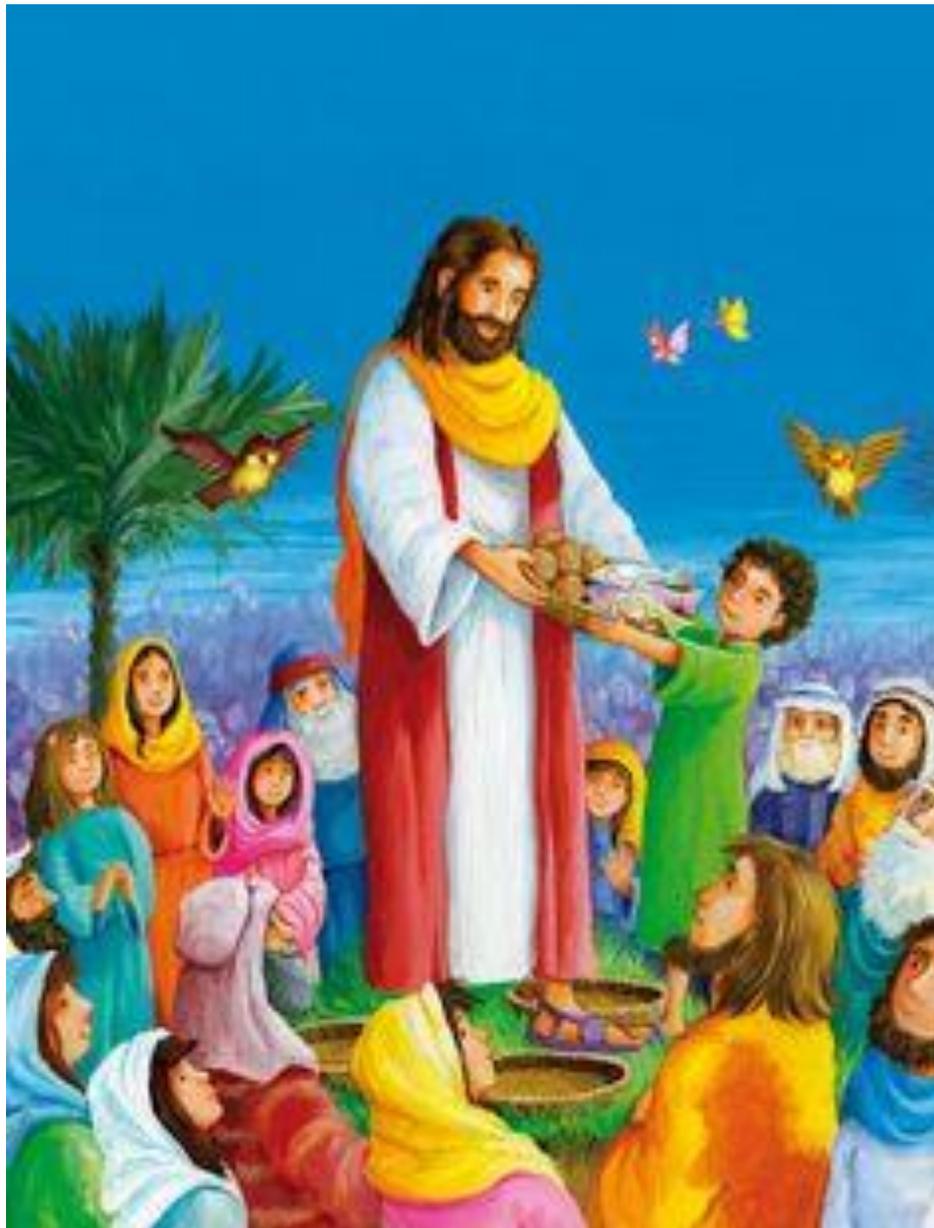


St Patrick's Parish Bulletin



8th Sunday after Trinity
2nd August 2020

The Rector is away so this week's service was led by Julie Thompson and the preacher was Stuart Lloyd.

Reading – Matthew Chapter 14 verses 13-21

Address

The telephone rings – it is bad news – the death of someone near and dear. So, the process of grieving starts, and in addition to the arrangements that have to be made and the practicalities that have to be gone through, you may want time alone to take in what has happened, to remember, and gather yourself for what lies ahead. That is how it was when my father died: I went out for a long walk on my own.

So it was for Jesus when he heard of the death of John the Baptist: a gruesome death of a cousin, a man very much tied in with Jesus's calling and work – and a reminder of the 'sticky' death that awaited him. Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place. He needed time apart: he did not get it. Crowds followed him, and when he came ashore, in what he hoped would be a quiet cove, they were there - maddening, annoying. Yet, we read he had compassion for them – remarkable! He turned from his needs and sorrow towards the crowd, their state and need. I remember advice given to me when I was a young curate “...*When you are feeling sorry for yourself, go and visit someone in need and feel sorrow for them...*”. Good advice indeed – following the example of Jesus. Is this a lesson you have found beneficial?

Another lesson: not only did he have compassion for them, but Jesus also acted for the crowd – he healed the sick and, miraculously, fed them all. It is good to feel sorry for someone – it is even better to actually help them. As we come to the Gospel account of the feeding of the five thousand, what we can profitably learn is the importance of offering what little we have, and trust God can do a great deal with it. It is good that the disciples were concerned for the crowd - deserted place, a late hour, send them away to buy food: a 'good idea' as far as they were concerned. Jesus appreciated this concern but took this 'good idea' and turned it around: “...*You give them something to eat...*”: he got them to act out their compassion. We can be concerned about a situation and feel that something should be done about it. Maybe Jesus points the finger at us – you do something about it. Needless to say, the disciples protested. How could they possibly feed that number with just a mere five loaves and two fishes? Naturally we, too, feel daunted by big challenges. It is an awful situation: I would like to be able to help, but it is beyond me. I do not have the time, the energy, the ability, the resources – sure, what could I do? No point in even considering it!

Jesus did not let the disciples off the hook “...*bring the loaves and fishes...*”. They did so, perhaps in obedient bemusement. Then something mysterious and powerful happened, and the disciples became part of a great act of sharing food. In the face of daunting tasks and challenges, we, too, are

invited by Jesus to bring what little we have, and to offer it in trust, that he can use it mysteriously and powerfully. Five thousand plus to feed; a huge challenge. Today not just five thousand or even five million – how many people in the world go to bed hungry? And then there are those who are without adequate clean water, without homes, or without access to any medical facilities. We are concerned: moved by the pictures we see and accounts we hear. Like the disciples, Jesus is pleased with our concern, but he wants us to do something. We protest that it is all beyond us, and Jesus says ‘offer what you can’. You can at least feed one person by a donation or feed more people by continuing to support a charity or mission organisation, encouraging better methods of farming, more productive and drought resistant seeds. You can write to your MP or campaign to try to bring about changes in economic and trading policies to benefit those in need. “...*You give them something to eat...*”: the words of Jesus may challenge us nearer home to get involved with food banks.

At a recent Zoom conference about how the Church should respond to the immediate challenges facing the world, a speaker outlined four ways; health, economy, environment and institutional racism. He said that unless the world has a change of heart or direction there was little chance of it meeting these challenges with any kind of success. During the current pandemic there has been talk of the need for a new way of living and dealing with the opportunities of the moment. Yet I have to say as the conference progressed, I felt a creeping despondency: from man’s perspective, it was hard to be positive. However, from God’s perspective, it is a different matter. After all, in biblical terms it is He who ultimately brings about changes of heart, and He who is bringing in a new age, He who is in charge of the coming of the Kingdom which we affirm and to which we commit every time we say the Lord’s Prayer. It is He who mysteriously and powerfully - and with success - meets the challenge of feeding five thousand people.

Faced with a challenging and uncertain future, we have a sure hope. We can discern signs of the Kingdom, even in dealing with COVID 19; the selfless service, the community outreach, and the global efforts to find a vaccine. Feeding five thousand people was, like many other miracles, a sign of the Kingdom, showing what God can accomplish. This gives us heart, a new heart, and a new way of seeing God’s perspective.

So, get up tomorrow and offer what little you can. Do the work of the Lord, maybe just small and humble acts, but with hope in your hearts. Face your challenges as God is accomplishing his purpose and bringing in his Kingdom.

Father God, help us not to be overwhelmed by the challenges facing us. May we trust in you bringing in the Kingdom, and may we offer what service we can in your cause.

Amen



Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you provide food for our daily need and for all creatures. You give food, resources and talents for us to share with others and give you glory. Blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We ask your blessing upon all who hunger and thirst. For righteousness and the coming of your Kingdom. We remember all who feel their lives are parched and dry and who suffer from spiritual hunger. May the Good News be brought to all who feel empty and that life is meaningless. We bring before you all who go out in mission and all who seek to proclaim your love.

We ask your blessing upon all who lack the necessary resources for well-being. We pray for all who are suffering from hunger and poverty, all who struggle due to injustice and greed. We ask that you would use your Church to be an instrument of justice and peace in this troubled world.

We give thanks for our loved ones, for all who have cared and provided for us. We ask your blessing upon all who work to give us what we need. We pray for all farmers and food providers, for shop workers and all who bring food to our markets. We particularly thank you for them during the lockdown as they kept providing for us. We ask your blessing upon our families and our neighbours.

We remember all who feel weary of life, drained of energy and no longer able to cope. We pray for all who struggle against the odds. We ask your blessing upon all who feel alone and mourn the loss of a loved one. We remember particularly the Hamilton family as they mourn Walter. We bring before you Freda, Jean, Katie, David, Helen, Kate, Eleanor, Dani, Derek and Desi.

Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen





From next week 2nd August, we will be on YouTube at 11.30am at www.youtube.com/channel/UC6tcPjZbMe0muLYrskLvbbQ/videos or via the website

www.stpatricksbroughshane.com. – Noticeboard then click on the Service you require

or on **Facebook** through our Facebook page

You can also listen to the Service on the **telephone** after 1pm on Sunday on **028 2517 0014** (*calls are charged at local rate*)



And every **Monday** at 12 noon on **Facebook** join us for readings and prayers.

A Question of Faith

Our new midweek talks begin on

5th August - Faith and Reason

Prof. Stephen Williams

12th August - Faith and Science

Rev Dr Ron Elsdon

19th August - Faith and the Bible

Rev Dr Peter Sanlon

26th August - Faith and Suffering - Gareth Black

Join us at 12noon on Wednesdays via the links above



JustGiving™ is a way to financially support the ministry and mission of St Patrick's Broughshane as we share God's love with the community. Click the link on the Facebook page or Google Just Giving & search for:

'St Patricks Church, Broughshane'

Weekly Collections - Standing Order, Cheque or Envelopes?



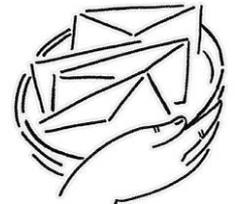
Would you consider setting up a Standing Order instead of envelopes? If so, please contact

Desi at darmstrong56@outlook.com or the Rector at revdrapcampbell@gmail.com



You could send your usual offerings by cheque.

Of course, you can continue to put your offerings in the Church envelopes and hand them in later.



Connor Diocese Holiday Bible Club

'Cabin Fever' 3rd – 7th August

on YouTube and via the Ripple & Diocesan websites and the Ripple Facebook page.

There are two parts to the club each day which will premiere at 10am and 11:30am with a short break in between. There will be activities to do at home during the break.

Science experiments, warm-ups, games, puppets, crafts, memory verses, prayer activities and drama! We will compare the story of Noah's whilst on the ark for over a year with our experiences of lockdown.

As St Patrick's Broughshane we will meet each evening on Zoom from Monday 17th – Friday 21st August to catch up with the children who have taken part to see how they are getting on.

Make 'Cabin Fever' part of your August!!



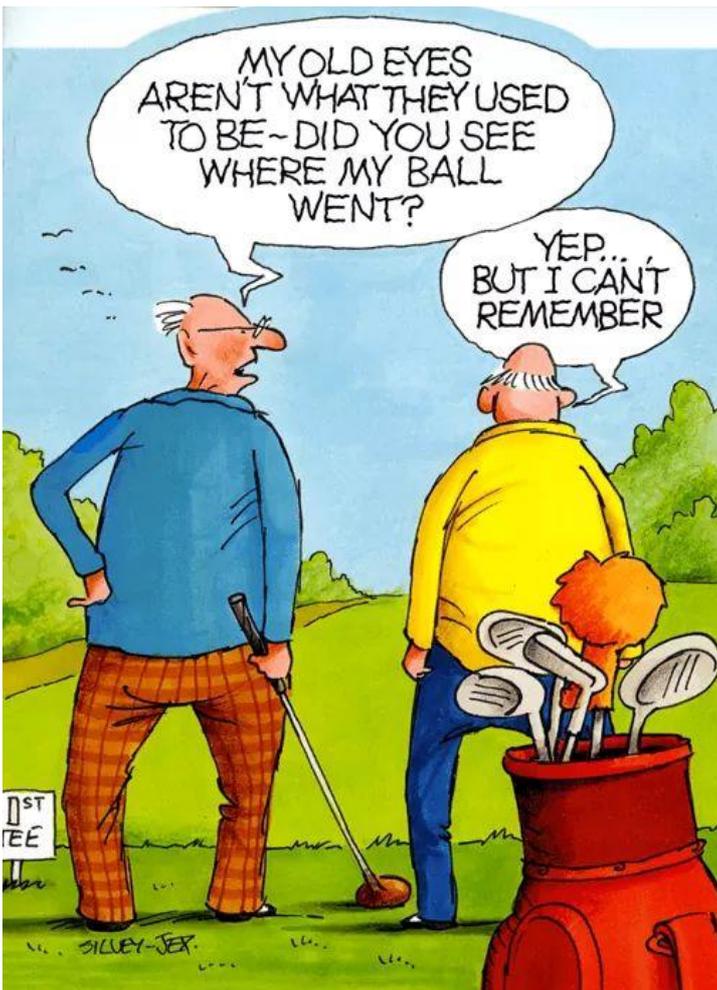
3RD-7TH AUGUST



SCAM WARNING

There is a new scam on the go where people are being emailed by their vicar to buy Amazon vouchers for church members and to photograph them and send them to the scammers.

The email address is not actually the vicars but one very similar. The serial numbers are then used by the scammers. Please be vigilant - we would not ask you to do something like this.



Never think that what you have to offer is insignificant. There will always be someone out there who needs what you have to give.

