

St Patrick's Parish Bulletin



9th Sunday after Trinity
9th 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 22-33

Address

I was in a small rowing boat on Lough Neagh many years ago, on a fine summer's night, when a sudden squall came up - and I was no sailor. Suddenly, I was struggling, and fear was rising. Now think of Lake Galilee, and professional fishermen used to all the conditions. Battered by wind and waves they, too, were struggling, and, to make things worse, it was night time. How did they feel? Were they confident in their own abilities? Were they making any headway? Were they fearful?

I wonder if we might, in any sense, be in that boat, finding ourselves in difficult circumstances, not making any headway and rather fearful of how we are going to cope. We can find ourselves in family difficulties and unable to sort things out. People find themselves slipping into debt and overwhelmed by bills that keep coming. The pain of bereavement can also come in waves that keep rolling in, and we wonder how we can keep our heads above water. Sometimes depression comes and we feel ourselves sinking. Making no headway – that is how it can feel like as well out in society. Reducing hospital waiting lists, tackling the drugs problem, homelessness or combatting domestic violence. With all these, and many other issues, it seems as if there is no possibility of headway. It can be the same on the world stage; the refugee problem, the plight of millions in poverty, the ongoing threat of terrorism, the unending conflicts, the problem of global warming and despoliation of the earth. We can appear to be in troubled waters and making no headway – in danger of going under, like those fishermen.

Last week I spoke of a Zoom conference I attended, where the speaker posed four challenges – health, economy, environment and institutional racism. He concluded the world needed a change of heart for these and other challenges to be met successfully. Man's poor record in changing heart means despondency has descended on all of us. Given all the difficulties facing the future, who among us would not be fearful? From man's perspective it is understandable, but from God's perspective – that of the reality of his Kingdom and its coming – we are able to overcome our fears and to go forward in faith. Of course, we will always find ourselves in difficult conditions, but we can now keep our focus on the vision of the Kingdom, and trust that we are being carried towards it.

The fishermen on the lake may well have been confident in their own abilities and felt they could cope, but then they found out they were helpless, and could do nothing about the forces of nature. Maybe we, too, have come to

realise that these days. With all its sophistication, technology, and all the 'firepower' available to us, we have found ourselves helpless in the face of a virus, and in danger of going under. Our helplessness and vulnerability become clear. We might fear in the face of virus threats and many other threats, but, if we have a God who is bringing in his Kingdom, who is always coming to his world to help and save, who is always drawing in love, drawing creation to himself, cannot our faith in this God subdue our fears? So, Jesus came to those fishermen and declared "...*Take heart, it is I, be not afraid...*". Just as he now comes to our troubled world with the same declaration, it comes down to a matter of faith. Will our faith trump fear?

Well, what about Peter? Jesus came to these fishermen in their troubled situation, in the dark and, not unnaturally, they thought he was a ghost and they were terrified. We are not sure how they took his words of assurance: they may well have helped, but they almost certainly remained frightened. Characteristically, Peter launched forth "...*If it is you, command me to come to you...*". His motive was to connect with Jesus, but he also had pride, wanting to be able to do as Jesus did – walk on water. "...*Come...*" said Jesus: the moment of truth. And, give him his due, Peter stepped out in faith, left whatever security and comfort the boat provided, and headed towards Jesus. However, he soon focused on the wind, waves and everything beneath. His fear rose up to overwhelm his faith, and he began to sink. "...*Lord save me...*": he looked again in the right direction and his cry was not in vain. Saved, he heard the words of Jesus – surely a gentle rebuke and an encouragement to greater faith "...*You, of little faith, why did you doubt...*"?

What do we learn from this story? Like Peter, the need to step out in faith, out of the comfort and security of a boat – in response to wherever or whatever Jesus may be calling us. And, I, for one, find it difficult to exercise faith and to leave my comfort and security 'zone'. We also learn the importance of not focusing on all those things which might cause us to fear, but to look to Him who is the source of our hope. It is so tempting to look down and not to look up. Again, we learn not to lose heart. Yes, our faith may be quite limited, but Jesus is not dismissive, but rather encourages us on to greater faith. May that be our desire, and may we reiterate what another man in the gospels declared "...*I believe, help thou my unbelief...*".

It might take us almost a lifetime to truly grasp that faith is the vital key. We are saved by the grace of God through faith: it is the 'oxygen' we need to breathe to truly believe. Imagine the difference it makes to really believe that, in the face of everything, God is bringing in his Kingdom and all is well? We long to be able to say with more and more conviction "...*I trust in Him, I trust in Him and, unafraid, go on...*".

Amen

Prayers

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for you are a very present help in trouble. You are ready to hear our cry and come to our aid.

Lord, help us not to be afraid but to put our trust and hope in you. May we ever rejoice in your love and care. Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God for ever.

Lord, you have created us out of love and for your love. We ask for your protection in the troubles and storms of life. Bless all Christians who are struggling against great odds. We pray for those who are suffering from persecution, violence or ridicule.

We remember those whose lives are at risk and those who are exhausted.

We give you thanks for the safety and protection of our homes.

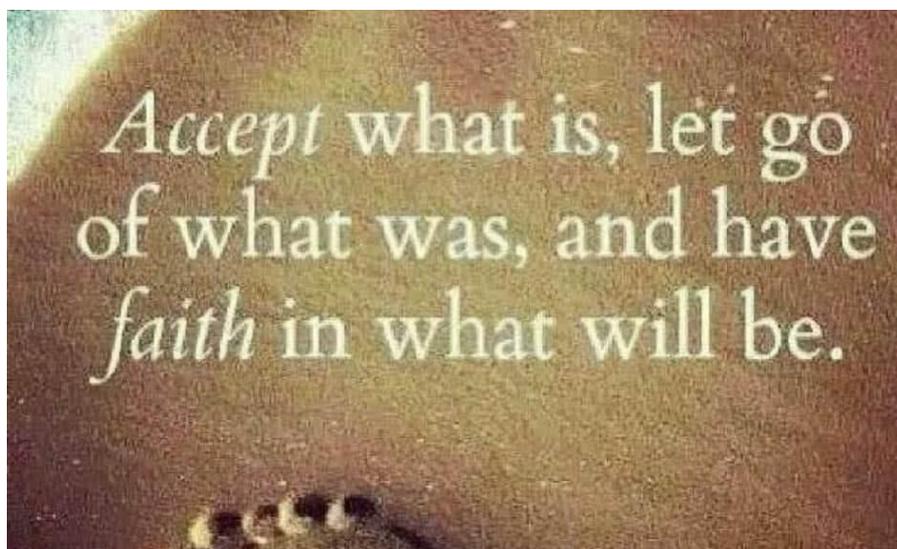
We pray for all who are struggling with problems of debt, relationship breakdown, or problems in the home. In this time of crisis, we ask your safety on all essential workers, remembering those who risk their safety in order to keep us safe. We bring before you all medical staff, doctors, nurses, paramedics and support workers. We remember the police service and fire brigade, and we pray for our armed forces serving at home and abroad.

We pray for those caught up in the tragic explosion in Lebanon, and ask that you would use your church to bring your support.

Lord, we pray for your blessing upon the world-weary, the worried and worn, all who feel overwhelmed and unable to cope. We remember all who are ill, remembering you Freda, Jean, Katie, David, Helen, Kate, Elenor, Dani, Derek and Desi. And we lift before you the Hamilton family, as they mourn the loss of Walter.

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

Amen





We are 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 continue on
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?



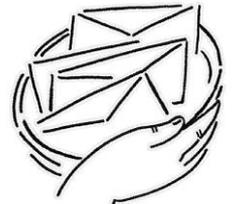
Would you consider setting up a Standing Order instead of envelopes? If so, please contact

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.

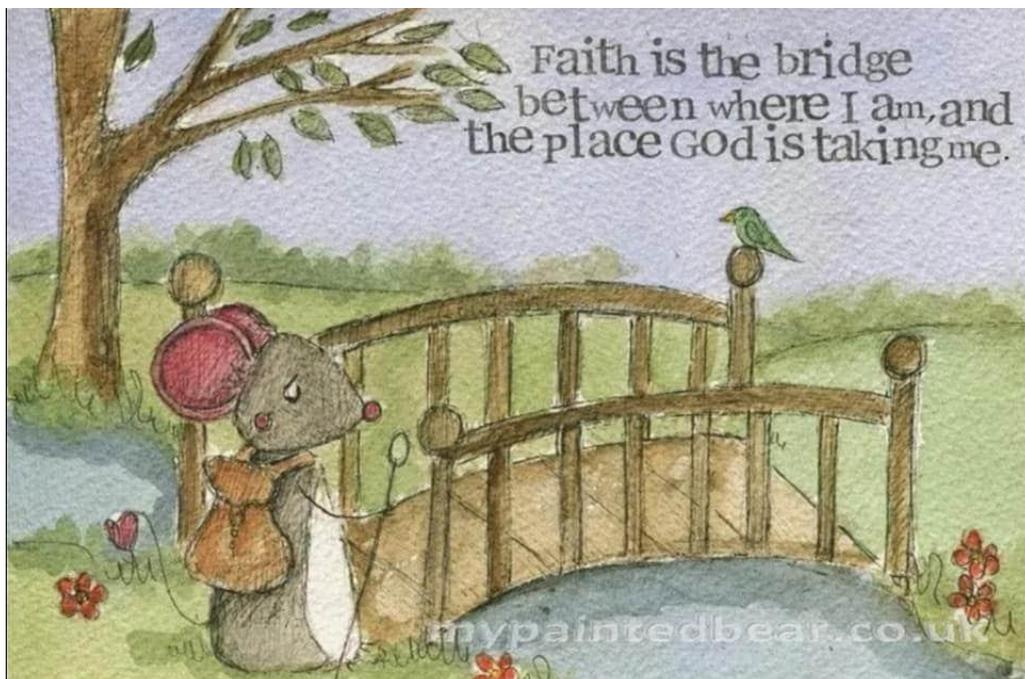


St Patrick's catches up with Connor Diocese Holiday Bible Club's 'Cabin Fever'

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.

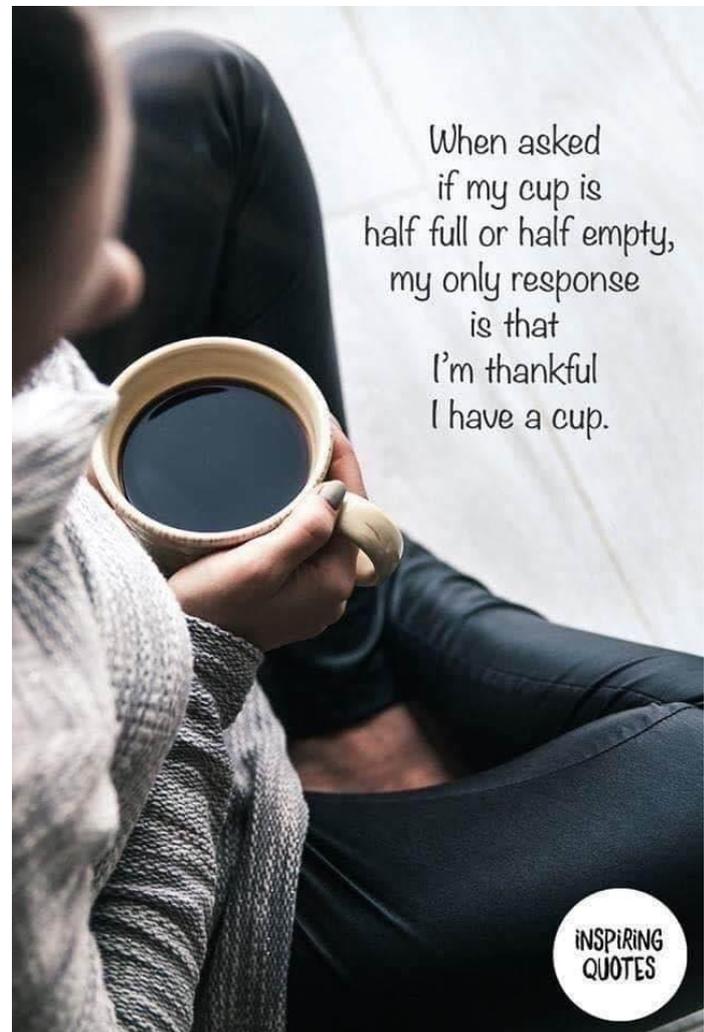
Make 'Cabin Fever' part of your August!!



I Dream A World

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its paths adorn
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!



When asked
if my cup is
half full or half empty,
my only response
is that
I'm thankful
I have a cup.

INSPIRING
QUOTES

One day at a time is all we
should be dealing with. We
can't go back to yesterday and
we can't control tomorrow,
so live for today.

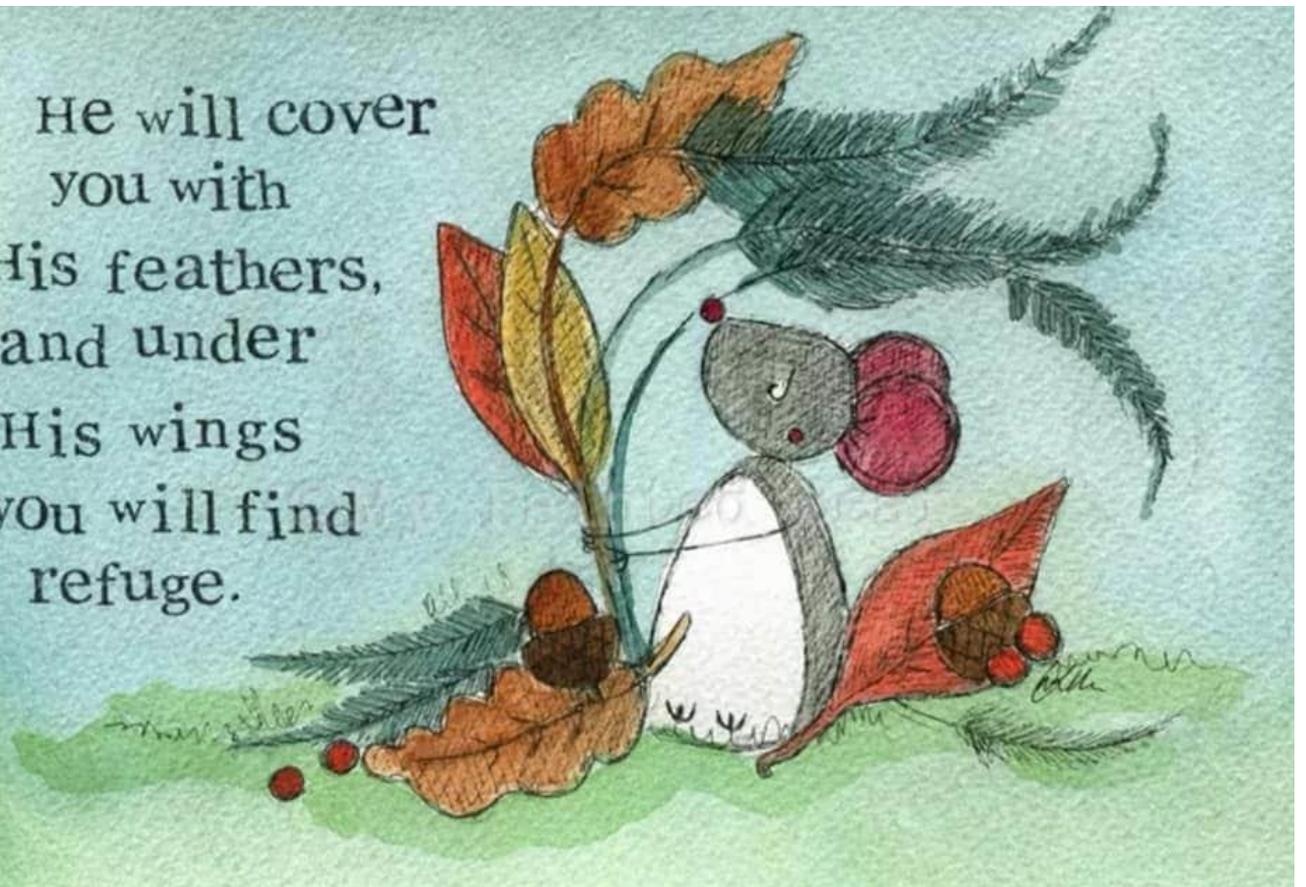


Accept what is,
let go of what was, and
make changes towards
what will be. Life's about
taking action.

—Kristen Butler



He will cover
you with
His feathers,
and under
His wings
you will find
refuge.



May God hold you in
the PALM of
His HAND.

