HYMN 80 Great is thy faithfulness *Joyce and Ian*

*Richard*

*Page 201* **THE GREETING**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**and also with you.**

**SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**HYMN** 557 Rock of ages *St Nicholas’ Choir, Dundalk*

**WELCOME**

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. The service was recorded in St Nicholas' Church, Dundalk, Collon Church, St Mary’s Church, Castlebellingham, Dunleer Church and in parishioners' homes. The service continues on page 201 of the Prayer Book.

**THE COLLECT FOR PURITY** *Victor*

[Let us pray]

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS *page 222*

*Richard*

Hear these commandments which God has given to his people, and take them to heart:

l. I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD; YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BUT ME.

*Joyce*

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength.

2. YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF ANY IDOL.

 God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

3. YOU SHALL NOT DISHONOUR THE NAME OF THE LORD YOUR GOD.

 You shall worship him with awe and reverence.

4. REMEMBER THE LORD'S DAY AND KEEP IT HOLY.

 Christ is risen from the dead: set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth.

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

5. HONOUR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.

 Live as servants of God, honour all people, love your brothers and sisters in Christ.

6. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER.

 Be reconciled to your brother and sister; overcome evil with good.

7. YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

 Know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

8. YOU SHALL NOT STEAL.

 Be honest in all that you do and care for those in need.

9. YOU SHALL NOT BE A FALSE WITNESS.

 Let everyone speak the truth.

10. YOU SHALL NOT COVET ANYTHING WHICH BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOUR.

 Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: It is more blessed to give than to receive. Love your neighbour as yourself, for love is the fulfilling of the law.

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write all these your laws in our hearts.**

**PRAYERS OF PENITENCE** *Victor*

In the wilderness we find your grace: you love us with an everlasting love. Lord, have mercy

There is none but you to uphold our cause. Christ, have mercy

Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed.

Restore us and we shall know your joy. Lord, have mercy

21ST March COLLECTS of the FIFTH SUNDAY in LENT *David*

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
Grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*David*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord

**THE FIRST READING** **Jeremiah 31: 31-34**

*Eileen McClean ARDEE*

The first reading is from the Book of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 31 beginning at verse 31

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband,\* says the Lord.

*Heather Campbell Ballymascanlan*

33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM  51** *Lord Bellew*

1  Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦︎
   according to the abundance of your compassion
      blot out my offences.
2  Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦︎
   and cleanse me from my sin.
3  For I acknowledge my faults ♦︎
   and my sin is ever before me.
4  Against you only have I sinned ♦︎
   and done what is evil in your sight,
5  So that you are justified in your sentence ♦︎
   and righteous in your judgement.
6  I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦︎
   a sinner when my mother conceived me.
7  Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦︎
   and shall make me understand wisdom
      in the depths of my heart.
8  Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦︎
   wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
9  Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦︎
   that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
10  Turn your face from my sins ♦︎
   and blot out all my misdeeds.
11  Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦︎
   and renew a right spirit within me.
12  Cast me not away from your presence ♦︎
   and take not your holy spirit from me.
13  Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦︎
   and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

**THE EPISTLE READING** **Hebrews 5: 5-10**

*Mike Buchanan, DUNLEER*

The Epistle is written in the Epistle to the Hebrews, in the fifth chapter, beginning at the fifth verse

5 So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
‘You are my Son,
   today I have begotten you’;
6as he says also in another place,
‘You are a priest for ever,
   according to the order of Melchizedek.’

*Heather Christmas, BUSH*

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus\* offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN 553 Jesus, lover of my soul *Wendy*

**THE GOSPEL READING John 12: 20-33**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St John, in the twelfth chapter, beginning at verse 20

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ 22Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

27 ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ 29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ 30Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people\* to myself.’ 33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*David* COLLECT of the WORD

O God,
our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:
renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

**SERMON** *Joyce*

HYMN 237 O my Saviour, lifted *Sandra*

 **THE NICENE CREED** *Stand*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Diane Wilson CREGGAN*

Let us pray to the Lord for courage to give up our normality, to forsake our comfort, to relinquish our fears, and to give ourselves to him. Grant that your church in all the world may shine as a light to lighten the paths of all.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Jean O’Kelly CASTLEBELLINGHAM*

We pray for our church in all the world, for our diocese, for John, our Archbishop: give him strength, faith and continued wisdom in all that he says and does. We pray for this group of parishes, for all who minister, for the nominators whose task it is to select a new pastor, for Rita as she prepares for OLM ministry training, for David and Mike as they continue their ministry training.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Ruth Higgins, ARDEE/COLLON*

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for leaders everywhere: give them wisdom, courage and compassion to care for all under their rule. We pray for Michael our President, Micheál our Taoiseach and for all in authority whose honesty, realism and statesmanship give the example that is essential. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of medical, political and military decisions to be made.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Emma Harte DUNDALK*

We pray for all who are ill, in mind or body or spirit. We remember all who are prisoners, confined by illness, bound by chains of addiction, all who are in prison because of injustice or bad choices. Lay your healing hand upon them, give them light and peace; send down your blessing on all who labour to relieve suffering and to forward your purposes of love.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Phyllis Adair, HEYNESTOWN*

In this time of separation we pray for absent friends:

O God, who art present in every place. Mercifully hear our prayers for those whom we love, now absent from us. Watch over them we beseech thee, and protect them in all anxiety, danger and temptation. Teach us and them to know that thou art always near and that we are one in thee forever.

Lord, meet us in the silence, give us strength and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*Margaret Dagg, DROGHEDA*

We remember those who are bereaved by the deaths of Victor, Oliver, Adele and Jim. We give thanks for the memory of all who have died and who now worship where death has no more dominion. We pray that we may share with them the joys of your eternal kingdom.

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

**PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS**

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

*Iain*

**THE PEACE**

Jesus said: A new commandment I give you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

 **AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

How can I repay the Lord for all the benefits he has give not me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord. I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

*Stand. The Presiding Minister takes the bread and wine and may say*

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us

**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour, thanks and praise be given to you at all times and in all places, Lord, Holy Father, true and living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is your eternal Word through whom you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin; and he gives us strength to control our desires, and to walk in his way of love.

In obedience to your will, your Son our Saviour offered himself a perfect sacrifice, and died on the cross for our redemption. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin and reconciled us to yourself, our God and Father.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

*Sung:***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.** *Joyce*

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in the fellowship of the holy Spirit in obedience to our Saviour Christ in remembrance of his death and passion my be partakers of his body and his blood, who on the night he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

\* Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

After supper \* he took the cup; and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying, Drink from this, all of you \* This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Father, with this bread and this cup we do as our Saviour has commanded:

We celebrate the redemption he has won for us; we proclaim his perfect sacrifice, made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and we look for his coming to fulfil all things according to your will.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of you Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

**THE COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

HYMN DURING COMMUNION 396 According to thy gracious word *Joyce*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

**THE GREAT SILENCE**

*David* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of hope, in this eucharist we have tasted the promise of your heavenly banquet and the richness of eternal life. May we who bear witness to the death of your Son, also proclaim the glory of his resurrection, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

*Richard and Joyce*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**.

HYMN 32 How great thou art *St Nicholas’ Choir, Dundalk*

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN O sacred head *Flugelhorn Gillian Sheils*

 **John 12: 20-33**

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ 22Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

27 ‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ 29The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ 30Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people\* to myself.’ 33He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Today is Passion Sunday: the Gospel is sombre; there is foreboding but also purpose.

24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

32And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people\* to myself.’

Today is almost exactly a year since we put our first service online. A year ago, iMovie and Garage band were icons on my computer, icons that I wasn’t interested in. Now, every week, I use both with familiarity, every week to produce the services and some of the music. You might reasonably say: ‘So what?’ This not very important change in my knowledge base came about because of loss: loss of church life, loss of ways of worshipping in familiar surroundings, loss of seeing the roll of the seasons reflected in the readings, loss of singing hymns that were that comforting and uplifting.; most of all, fear of losing contact with parishioners. Out of loss has come the opportunity to illustrate words and music with images that I hope will enhance the meaning. Out of loss has come the possibility of reaching many more people than a normal church service.

This is a fairly trivial example of what Jesus meant when he said:

24Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Sometimes out of our greatest loss or greatest failure can grow something that is valuable and precious.

The definition of ‘almighty’ is being able to bring good out of apparent evil. When those fearful disciples looked from a distance at their beloved Lord and Master as he hung in crucified agony, they must have felt utter despair, utter sorrow. As you and I travel around this land, there are everywhere stark reminders of what crucifixion is. But however valuable a lesson the image of a crucifix teaches us, it tells only half the story. That cross was the instrument that destroyed death. Because of the cross, because Jesus rose again, the tomb, the grave, become, not final resting places, but as the funeral liturgy says, a ‘gate’ through which we pass to eternal life.

Jesus said:

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people\* to myself.”

First, we are drawn in wondering sorrow at the sight of such suffering. That sight must surely bring us to our knees. When we worship on our knees, we see glory when we look up and the glory is of the risen Christ, drawing all people to himself.