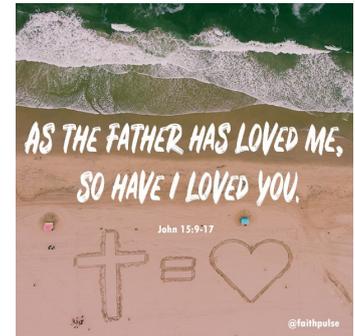


# ST JOHN OGILVIE PARISH COMMUNITY



9 MAY 2021  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTER (B)



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*This is an American story but the message contained in it applies to all nations.*

## SAY THE NICEST THINGS

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual. On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling. 'Really?' she heard whispered. 'I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!' and, 'I didn't know others liked me so much,' were most of the comments. No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on. Several years later, one of the students was killed in Vietnam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. 'Were you Mark's maths

teacher?' he asked. She nodded: 'yes.' Then he said: 'Mark talked about you a lot.' After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to lunch. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. 'We want to show you something,' his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. 'They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognise it.' Opening the wallet, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. 'Thank you so much for doing that,' Mark's mother said. 'As you can see, Mark treasured it.' All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, 'I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home.' Stephen's wife said, 'Stephen asked me to put his in our wedding album.' 'I have mine too,' Marilyn said. 'It's in my diary.' Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group. 'I carry this with me at all times,' Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: 'I think we all saved our lists.' That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again. Sometimes, we forget that life will end one day. And we don't know when that one day will be. So please, tell the people you love and care for, that they are special and important. Tell them, before it is too late.

## *Parish Liturgy for the coming week*

**Monday, 10th May**

*St. Mary's*  
**10.00am Funeral Mass for Thomas Joyce**  
(Live Streamed)

**Tuesday, 11th May**

*St. John Ogilvie's*  
**10.00am Mass**  
(Live Streamed)

**Wednesday, 12th May**

*No service*

**Thursday, 13th May**  
**Ascension Thursday**  
**Seat booking required through Eventbrite**

*St Marys*  
**10.00am Mass**  
(Live Streamed)

**Friday, 14th May**

*St. John Ogilvie's*  
**10.00am Funeral Mass for Irene Madine**  
(Live Streamed)

**Saturday, 15th May**

*St. John Ogilvie*  
**4.00pm Vigil Mass**

*St. Mary's*  
**6.00pm Mass**  
(Live streamed)

**Sunday, 16th May**

*St. John Ogilvie's*  
**9.30am Mass**  
(Live streamed)

*St. Mary's*  
**11.00am Mass**

**Confessions**  
By appointment.

St John Ogilvie Parish, Crofthead, Bourtrees Hill, Irvine KA11 1JX - Telephone 01294 212587 / 279130  
Parish Priest: Father Willie Boyd

Email: wh.boyd@btinternet.com Email for newsletter: sjnewsletter@gmail.com - Twitter: @St\_John\_Ogilvie

## INTENTIONS

Please keep the following in your prayers during the week:

**Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:**

**Other Intentions:**

### Collection for last week

**Envelopes:** £      **Loose coins**    £      **Standing orders (per month)**    £839.00

*Thank you for your continued support.*

### 200 Club winners

1st

2nd

3rd

### *Draws made by*

*Congratulations to all our winners! We'll make arrangements to get your winnings to you!*

---

### **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

### **WEEKLY WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS**

Dear brothers and sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider contemplative prayer. For Christians, contemplative prayer is an act of the heart by which we fix our gaze in faith upon Jesus, quietly pondering his word and his saving mysteries. As the simple farmer of Ars told Saint John Vianney: in praying before the Tabernacle, "I look at him and he looks at me". By gazing on our Lord in this way, we come to feel his loving gaze upon us and our hearts are purified. This in turn enables us to see others in the light of that truth and compassion which Jesus brings to all. Christ himself is the model for all contemplative prayer: amid the activity of his public ministry he always found time for a prayer that expressed his loving communion with the Father. At the Transfiguration, Jesus prepared the disciples for his coming passion and death by enabling them to contemplate his divine glory. Through our prayer, may we persevere in union with him on the path of love where contemplation and charity become one. For, as Saint John of the Cross, the Church's great master of contemplative prayer teaches us: one act of pure love is more useful to the Church than all the other works put together.

### **PPC MEETING**

The next Parish Pastoral Council meeting will be held on Thursday 20th May. It's hoped that we can have a face to face (socially distanced) meeting for the first time in a long time.

### **MARRIAGE MATTERS**

*Here is a thought based on today's Sunday Readings for all our couples in the Parish*

**Called to reflect God's love**

"Love one another as I have loved you". With these words Jesus spells out God's plan for marriage. As husband and wife we are called each day to give our lives to each other as completely as we are able. From today let us decide to reflect this 'sign' of God's love to our children, our family and our friends.

Thursday 13th May is Ascension Thursday. Seat booking through Eventbrite will be required for Mass attendance. Both primary schools will be watching on live stream.

### **MEANING OF THE ASCENSION**

It is fitting to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We rejoice to see the holy city roll out the red carpet and hail Jesus as the promised Messiah. The problem is, however, that the only crown they gave their king was a crown of thorns. This week the Church recalls a far more important victory procession. The Solemnity of the Ascension celebrates the triumphal entry into the heavenly Jerusalem, the true and eternal City of God. All during his public ministry, he had spoken of some mysterious "Kingdom of God." He was speaking not so much of a place, but of a new era, the period of the "Reign of God." The Ascension celebrates this momentous occasion. Talk, as they say, is cheap. Jesus did not just talk about Good News, he was good news changing sadness around him to joy, darkness to light. So his preaching was accompanied by signs and wonders. In this week's gospel, Jesus describes signs that will accompany those who believe and carry the good news to others. Our job is simply to use the authority and power that has been given to each one of us to the very best of our ability, remembering that to those faithful in small matters, even greater things are given.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Next weekend we will have a second collection for Communications. Please put your donations in an envelope clearly marked 'Communications'. A basket will be placed in the narthex for collection of your donations.

**Please deliver a copy of this newsletter to our sick and housebound parishioners**

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

*(Taken from Sunday Connection)*

Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or *gnosis*, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well - and Jesus says that his disciples do know him - will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is *agape*. The second is *philia*. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, *philia*. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen - one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

## **HOW TO BOOK SEATS FOR MASS**

- Visit SJO website
- From menu select seat bookings
- Choose the required hyperlink (SJO / SM / Cry Room)
- Select the date required
- Click on register
- Select number of seats required (1 or 2)
- Click on register again
- Complete the contact details boxes
- Complete the ticket 1 details
- Complete the ticket 2 details (if booking 2 seats)
- Select register
- Tickets booked!

## **LAUDATO SI' WEEK**

Laudato Si' Week 2021, to be held May 16-25, will be the crowning event of the Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion.

Laudato Si' Week 2021 will also be a time to reflect on what the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us and prepare for the future with hope.

<https://laudatosiweek.org> has a calendar of daily events.

## **AND FINALLY ..... JUST FOR A LAUGH**

### **It's The Thought That Counts**

Choosing a gift for an elderly mother... Three sons left home, went out on their own and prospered. Getting back together, they discussed the gifts that they were able to give their elderly mother.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beaten. You remember how mum enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. So I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took the parish council in the Church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mum just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it."

Soon thereafter, mum sent out her letters of thanks:

"David," she wrote to one son, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house."

"John," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes. And the driver is so rude!"

"Dearest Jeffrey," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious."



**GERRY McKENNA**  
**Plumbing & Heating**

24 hour service

Gas Safe approved Installer  
(32016)  
Bathroom Specialist

Central Heating Installers  
Free estimates

Telephone: 07850 786035



In the hall every  
Thursday evening.  
Good fun and a great  
way to keep fit.  
Why not give it a try!  
Starts at 6:30pm

**R. B. STEELE**  
**FUNERAL SERVICES**

5 Ballot Road, Irvine  
Rest rooms &  
Funeral Parlours

DAY & NIGHT SERVICE  
Telephone: 273236

**BONNYTON**  
**FISH & CHIPS**



Fast, friendly service

**5 Bonnyton Place,**  
**Kilmarnock**  
**Tel: 01563 550497**

**KEVIN T. BLADES**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

166 High St.  
Irvine

**24 HOUR SERVICE**  
**01294 313402**

**Funerals from £1560**

**Modern**  
**Mercedes Benz fleet**

**MacDougall**  
**Memorials**

- ◆ Family run business
- ◆ 50 headstones on show
- ◆ Headstones to your requirements
- ◆ Inscriptions added
- ◆ Loose headstones repaired
- ◆ Paperwork and permits arranged

29 Queens Drive Kilmarnock KA1 3XF  
Tel. 01563 523142  
mail [macdougallmemorials@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:macdougallmemorials@yahoo.co.uk)  
web [www.macdougallmemorials.co.uk](http://www.macdougallmemorials.co.uk)

**SAFEGUARDING**

All components of the Catholic Church in Scotland, especially those in positions of leadership and responsibility, value the lives, wholeness, safety and well-being of each individual person within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to uphold the highest safeguarding standards in our relationships with people of all ages who are involved in whatever capacity with the Church and its organisations. And therefore, as a Church community, we accept that it is the responsibility of all of us - ordained, professed, employed and voluntary members - to work together to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or harm.



Every Sunday evening in  
the Church Hall  
Eyes down 7.30  
Give this worthwhile social  
event your support please!

**GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION**

The Regulation came into force on Friday **25th May 2018**, and gives individuals greater rights and control over the use of their personal information. **Your privacy is important to the Parish Communities of St. John's and St. Mary's.** We use the personal data, provided by you for Pastoral support and the administration of weekly collections. The information is held securely and confidentially in electronic or paper format. We will not share this information with third parties without your prior consent. A fuller Privacy Notice is now available on the Diocesan website. [www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr](http://www.gallowaydiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy-and-gdpr)

**Baptism:**

Infant Baptisms are generally celebrated during Sunday Mass. Parents and Godparents are asked to participate in a pre-baptismal meeting. Infants should be baptised within the first few weeks after birth. Please contact Father Boyd.

**Weddings:**

Congratulations on your engagement! A minimum of six months advanced planning and preparation is required. Please contact Father Willie Boyd for more information.

**Holy Communion to the Sick or Housebound:**

Please inform us if someone is needing Holy Communion at home, or wishes to receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Thank you!

**Hall Bookings**

Would you like to book the hall for that special function?

Contact 07534 626621

**Crosshouse Deacan**

Rev Bill Corbett  
01292 521208