

St Canice's News

16 February 2025



3rd Sunday before Lent

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

A church once placed beds in the aisles so those who liked a lie-in on Sunday could benefit!



Perhaps this was rather too literal an interpretation of Jesus' command in today's gospel reading to "Take up your bed and walk!" We have to admire the faith of the paralyzed man who did just that. But what is faith, and how do we exercise it?

NEXT SUNDAY

10am: JAM children's activity in the mobile

11am: Holy Communion

BIBLE STUDY

Tomorrow, Monday, at 2pm - the next of our fortnightly Bible Studies takes place in the Mobile - open to everyone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please keep free dates for the following:

Pre-Paddy's Day Lunch after church on 9th March. Stew/apple tart/tea/ coffee etc. £12. Bookings taken today. Feel free to bring friends.

Save the Date

Fashion Show and

Daffodil Tea – Friday 11th April

Music in May Concert – date to be confirmed.

PRAYER INITIATIVE FOR LENT

Bishop Andrew is inviting parishioners to join him online for a special diocesan prayer initiative this Lent. Six services of prayer and reflection will be recorded at a variety of locations and then made available on Facebook at 4.00pm each Sunday in Lent, with the first scheduled for Sunday 9th March.

YOUTH

Spark Youth Fellowship meets 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month between 6:30 – 8.00pm for everyone of secondary school age.

Junior Fuel Youth Group for everyone in P5, P6 and P7 is 6.00pm – 7.00pm on the 4th Sunday of every month starting 23 Feb.

Senior Fuel Youth Group for secondary school age 7.00pm – 8.30pm also on the 4th Sunday

All groups in the Presbyterian Hall.

Confirmation Day Saturday 22 Feb in Limavady between 10.00am-3.00pm.

DRY Youth Weekend 28-30 March at Gartan – see the Rector for details.

BEETLE DRIVE

Please support us on Friday 28th February at 7.30pm when we will be holding a Beetle Drive and Games Night in the Orange Hall. This was a huge success the last time we ran it. Open to all ages – children absolutely love it!

BEETLE DRIVE



CINEMA CLUB

Does anyone want to join us on Tuesday 25th Feb, to see "Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy"? 7.30pm Brunswick Moviebowl. Tickets are just £4. Lifts can be arranged.

EASTER GENERAL VESTRY

Our annual meeting will be held on Sun 6th April. To play a full part in the meeting, you must be registered as a general vestry person for the parish. If you're not sure if you're on the register, please speak to Elaine Way, Secretary to the Vestry or email her on elaine.way25@gmail.com, and she can check

FAITH EMPOWERED

Our diocese is planning to run a course to help church members think about how the church reaches out to those around it. The course consists of ten sessions over a year.

- gathering around food,
- reflecting on Scripture together,
- exploring key themes and thinkers in mission and evangelism
- through prayer for one another

The aim is to help participants to implement what they learn in their own context, by planning outreach and mission events. This is especially relevant, as we plan how to use our new Canice Centre for mission. Please speak to the Rector for more information.

CIEF NEWSLETTER

The Church of Ireland Evangelical Fellowship has launched a new quarterly e-newsletter that will be featuring good news stories, events, resources, and opinions aimed at members of the Church of Ireland. Sign up is simple (just name and email) and the newsletter will be emailed 4 times per year. Visit www.cief.church for information.

PRAYER CHAIN

For confidential prayer for anyone (including yourself), please call/text Ann 07542520782.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"Lord God, we turn to you in these trying times when conflict is a daily reality for so many caught up in conflicts across the world. We pray for peace and reconciliation, strengthened by Your presence in our midst. Help us become beacons of hope for just and peaceful societies across the world. Amen"

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM.

PSALM 34:8

OCCASIONS

Please let the Rector know of any special occasions.

The Collect and Readings

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: Give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise; that, among the many changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Mark 2: 1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat, and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

RECTOR

Canon Paul plans to be off on Thursday this week.

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