

PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you that in your redeeming love you have drawn us together as members of your Church. We pray that you would deepen our love for you, strengthen our fellowship with each other and help us to worship you in spirit and in truth. We pray that during this time of change, we will keep our eyes fixed on you and trust you for the future. Help us to be faithful in our prayers for the continuing ministry in this community and guide us in all things to know and do your will, for the honour and glory of your name. Amen

Parish Prayer Line 07553 404 711 (New)

During the vacancy the Rural Dean, the Rev Canon Kevin Graham, Rector of St Bartholomew's, will be in charge of the parish, with Canon Ken continuing in his usual role.

Contact details are as follows:

Canon Graham 07964 663 745
Canon Ken 07922 358 091
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Today

Canon Graham had planned to record Morning Prayer from St Barnabas Parish Church this week and had invited St Aidan's parishioners to log in and listen to it on Facebook.

However due to family illness he will not be doing the recording this week but the Archdeacon of Connor has given us the following link to use if we would like to join in worship from All Saints, Antrim. **Here is the link <http://antrim.connor.anglican.org>**

Canon Ken will also be posting a meditation on Facebook. This should be available from 11.00 a.m. onwards and the link is **www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow**

St Aidan's Parish Church Enabling people to find a Living Faith in a Loving God by Serving 'Christ in the Community'

Sunday 29th November 2020 : 1st Sunday of Advent

Obviously St Aidan's is closed to public worship just now - hopefully not for very long - and that is sad, especially during this special season of Advent.



However true worship is not confined to within our church walls. We can also worship God in the confines of our homes, because the worship of God is essentially an interaction of our spirits with the Spirit of God.

Jesus was confronted with a delicate question once about where the true centre of worship should be - in Jerusalem or on Mount Gerizim. It was delicate because of the traditional differences that existed between Jewish and Samaritan believers who each had their 'special religious location'.

But Jesus was more concerned about the quality of worship than the location of worship and what he actually said was "A time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4.23&24)

I hope that as you worship God this week you will experience a real spiritual encounter with Him. Perhaps your living room or your bedroom will be for you that 'special place'?

Canon Ken

Collect & Bible Readings for the 1st Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Psalm 80

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might; come and save us.
Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smoulder
against the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.
You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours,
and our enemies mock us.
Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.
You transplanted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches.
Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.
Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?
Boars from the forest ravage it, and insects from the fields feed on it.
Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!
Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.
Your vine is cut down, it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.
Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.
Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, LORD God Almighty;
make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Isaiah 64: 1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.
Yet you, LORD, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our
sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

Mark 13: 24-37

“But in those days, following that distress,
“the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;
the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’
“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great
power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from
the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.
“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender
and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when
you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the
door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all
these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my
words will never pass away.
“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in
heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do
not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves
his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task,
and tells the one at the door to keep watch.
“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the
house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when
the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find
you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”