

**CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : [www.holycrossedinburgh.org](http://www.holycrossedinburgh.org)**

**Congregational e-news for the Fourth Sunday of Lent**

Sunday 14 March 2021

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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Dear friends at Holy Cross,

Last week we had the good news that Churches may re-open from Friday 26 March, with the usual coronavirus precautions, and a maximum of 50 people per service if 2 metre distancing allows it. Someone in the congregation very wisely said “you can’t have Easter without Good Friday” and this means we can also have the main Holy Week services, beginning with Palm Sunday – details below.

Pauline has started to draw up a rota for the essential jobs of welcoming and the simple cleaning required after the service. ***If you are coming to the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter Vigil services, please let me know if you can help with welcoming or cleaning.***

Today is Mothering Sunday and in addition to our worship video you might like to the national Scottish Episcopalian Children’s Chapel worship video for young children and their families, part-led by Izzy Holmes of Holy Cross, which will appear at 8am on Sunday on the Scottish Episcopal Church YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtv9H\\_4N4c3JKM57zOj7GXw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtv9H_4N4c3JKM57zOj7GXw)

Our last Holy Cross worship video will be next Sunday. Thanks to all who took part and for all the helpful feedback I received. Not everyone will be able to return to Holy Cross at first and so I will share details of the Scottish Episcopal Church worship video each week on the SEC YouTube channel. You can see whether the Bishops do a better job than Holy Cross!

The Lent Groups are going well, Andrew Vass will have an article in the April magazine telling us more about them. To join us, the Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86397901502>

On the April magazine, Margaret tells me she hopes to have paper copies ready for Palm Sunday so the FIERCE DEADLINE is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

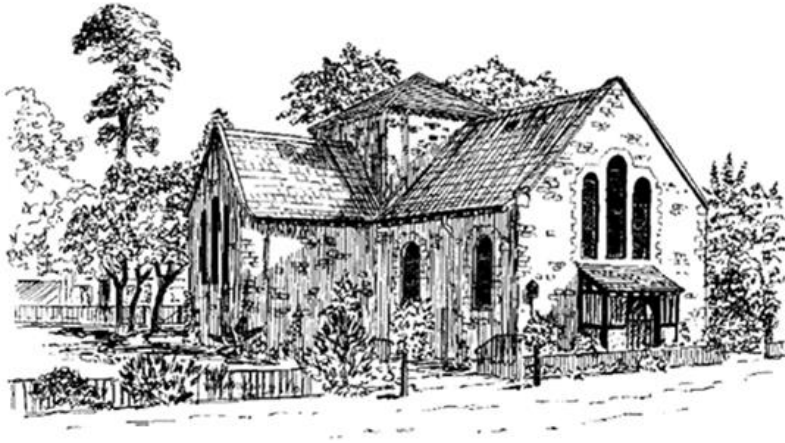
A number of you have said you appreciated the prayers for the departed members of the congregation on their anniversaries. The current *Kalendar of Remembrance* was partly taken from the burial register and so some of the dates of death are wrong. I attach a copy of it and would be grateful if you could look through it and let me know by email of any mistakes or people who have been left out.

Finally, it is a joy to see things getting better in the pandemic and hope rising with the new flowers and new vaccinations. The virus is, however, still about and some of us (the Young Ones) are still unvaccinated, so we will need to maintain our care for each other by remaining strict about using sanitiser, wearing masks, and keeping two metres apart (hands-face-space). We should also respect those who don’t feel ready yet to come back to public worship. I do, however, look forward to seeing you as soon as it is possible!

With love in Christ,

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## SERVICES AT HOLY CROSS



At Holy Cross we agreed that we would open as soon as possible so our first public service in Church will be at **10.30am on Palm Sunday, 28 March**. Other services will be:

**Maundy Thursday, 1 April, Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, 7pm** – a Eucharist followed by the stripping of the altar and a watch before the altar of repose.

**Good Friday, 2 April, Liturgy of the Passion, 2pm** – reading of the Passion according to John, prayers and the veneration of the cross, and holy communion from the reserved sacrament (the sacraments are not celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday).

**Holy Saturday, 3 April, the Easter Vigil, starting at 9pm** and lasting for about 2 hours and ending with the first Eucharist of Easter.

**Easter Day, 4 April, Easter Eucharist at 10.30am**, and then on all following Sundays.

The **Wednesday Eucharist** will resume in Church on **Wednesday 21 April**.

### **Holy Cross Sunday Zoom Coffee**

This happens each Sunday at 11.30am, but will probably end when we resume worship in Church. Just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73331381911?pwd=Vzk3bmN3bjM3MHkzNnpEL3VZTVB2QT09>

David Townhill is the Zoom host and here are the details: Meeting ID: 733 3138 1911; Passcode: bQKp59

### **Holy Cross Thursday Zoom Evening Prayer**

This is now a 'recurring meeting' and happens each Thursday at 5pm. It will continue for the time being and those of us who take part will discuss its future – it is a great way of praying together without making the journey to the Church. To join us just click on this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78181732182?pwd=T3VmVWhCTFBUS0NRbTh4Q0s4cWNuUT09>

The Rector will send out the order of service each week to those who wish to join us, it is also shared on the screen. Meeting ID: 781 8173 2182; Passcode: Ez0b6e.

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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*This is the hymn by Fred Kaan used in today's Holy Cross video.*

God of Eve and God of Mary,  
God of love and mother earth,  
thank you for the ones who with us  
shared their life and gave us birth.

As you came to earth in Jesus,  
so you come to us today;  
you are present in our caring  
that prepares us for life's way.

Thank you, that the Church, our Mother,  
gives us bread and fills our cup,  
and the comfort of the Spirit  
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

God of Eve and God of Mary,  
Christ our Brother, human Son,  
Spirit, caring like a Mother,  
take our love and make us one.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,  
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,  
and for those who have no children,  
yet are parents under God.

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## LITURGICAL QUESTION BOX

This week it is an anticipation of a question. The Bishops have approved a few minor changes to the 1982 Scottish Liturgy which we use at Holy Cross and these will be introduced as we produce new worship sheets and booklets.

The one we will probably most notice is in the Creed, where it is said that Jesus “was made **human**” rather than “was made **man**”. Some will welcome this and others will see it as another example of feminist ‘wokeness’, but it actually makes perfect sense.

I regret the loss of the generic use of ‘Man’ to mean ‘humanity’, as there is no suitable word to take its place, but ‘man’ is generally held today, especially by the under-50s, to apply to the male of the species. In the womb of Mary, Jesus certainly became a male human being, but the Creed says that he became a human being, which is the most important fact of the incarnation.

The Greek word in the Creed translated by “was made human” is “enanthrōpēsanta” which means taking on a complete human nature, soul and body and mind, and all characteristics of a human being apart from sin. It is from the Greek word anthrōpos meaning ‘human being’, not the Greek word for a male (anēr, andros – hence ‘androgynous’), and so in a modern language liturgy it is best translated “was made human”.

Of course, when we use traditional language liturgies it is taken for granted that we understand the word ‘man’ to be used in the generic sense of ‘human’ so there will be no change there...

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## MARCH KALENDAR & PRAYER LIST

This includes the daily Lent Readings. A 2021 Scottish Episcopalian kalendar with readings for every day, produced by the Provost of Glasgow Cathedral can be purchased here: <https://thurible.net/product/a-scottish-kalendar-for-2021/> The Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle [can be downloaded here](#).

## **SUNDAY 14 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mothering Sunday) – Eucharist 10.30am** **John 3.14-21**

*Collect:* Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, Amen.

**Monday 15**

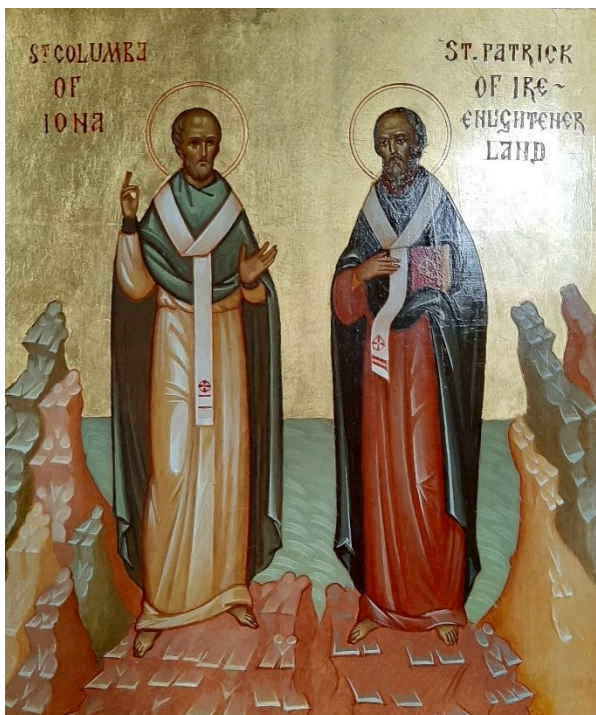
**John 4:43-54**

**Tuesday 16** Boniface of Ross, Bishop, c.710

**John 5:1-18**

A Pict named Curitan who helped the Pictish King Nechtan reform the Church. He had studied in Rome and there received the new name Boniface, not because of his bonny face but because he did good deeds, 'bonum facere'. He first settled at Restenneth and then moved north to Rosemarkie where he functioned as Bishop of Ross.

**Wednesday 17** PATRICK, Bishop, Patron of Ireland, c. 461 – **Eucharist 10.30am**



**Matthew 28:16-20**

A post-Roman Briton from somewhere on the West coast, he was captured by Irish pirates and later returned to Ireland where he preached the Gospel and made many converts.

The St Patrick and St Columba icon at Holy Cross is pictured to the left.

**Thursday 18** Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Teacher of the Faith, 386 – **Evening Prayer on Zoom 5pm**

**John 5:31-47**

A Bishop of Jerusalem famous for the instruction he gave to those preparing for baptism – which is still worth reading.

**Friday 19** JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**Saturday 20** Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, 687

**John 7:40-52**

The great Saint of Northumbria, which in his time included Lothian, so he is a local Saint. A monk of Melrose (the Northumbrian Abbey, not the Cistercian monastery in the town), he moved to Lindisfarne and became Bishop but preferred the life of a hermit on the Farne Islands. His body is still preserved at Durham Cathedral and he appears in the East Window at Holy Cross.

**SUNDAY 21 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Passion Sunday) – Eucharist 10.30am**

Lent changes gear this week as we enter Passiontide. The images in the Church are veiled and we fix our attention more firmly on Jesus' Cross and Resurrection.

**John 12:20-33**

Collect: 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 Christ our Lord, Amen

## HOLY CROSS WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

**Sunday** - Jennie C; Nancy M; Queen Elizabeth and the Governments in Westminster and Holyrood; Deacon Elias and the Syrian Orthodox congregation at Holy Cross; for all living and working in care homes; those who have died recently and their families. Those whose anniversaries are this week, Frank Kirton, Michael Yorston, Jane Williams and Nicholas Randall.

**Monday** - Graeme H; Robert M; thanksgiving for the birth of Robin to Helen and Henry; our local schools, all children, parents and teachers; all expectant mothers and new-born babies; China; Cramond Kirk, as it seeks a new Minister.

**Tuesday** – Andy & Julia; Mike Holmes, Matthew Kirkpatrick, Cathy Gwinnell and all recovering from operations; all our benefactors; those worried about their jobs, businesses & their financial situation; good use of our Church garden and all who work in it; the departed, especially our relatives friends and benefactors.

**Wednesday** - John; Andrew; Naomi; those working from home, Fr Peter & St Margaret's RC Church; Ireland and all Irish people; the Reindeer play group, After School Club and all our partner organisations and hall users affected by the lockdown.

**Thursday** - Lucy; Katrine; Alan Clark, the earth and the environmental crisis; the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers; Armenia and the Caucasus; those awaiting surgery or the results of tests.

**Friday** - Margaret M; Minmin Yu; Carole Dyson (sister of Mother Mary Agnes SOLI of Shetland); those who live around us especially those who are finding life difficult and people with mental health problems; the USA; the departed, especially our relatives friends and benefactors.

**Saturday** - Molly; Isobel W-I; those suffering from Covid-19 and their families around the world; students and teachers at Universities and Colleges coping with the current restrictions; Rev Dan Robertson and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; persecuted Christians.