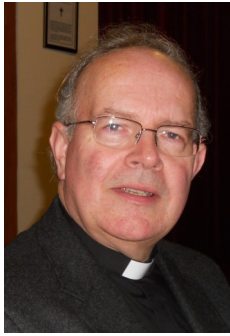


## FROM THE RECTOR



**We are now some weeks into this Coronavirus Crisis, and it may be some time yet before the lock-down procedures can be relaxed.**

Not only are we staying at home (with a great many of us completely on our own), but our church is closed to public worship and each and every organisation has ceased to meet for both public and private worship.

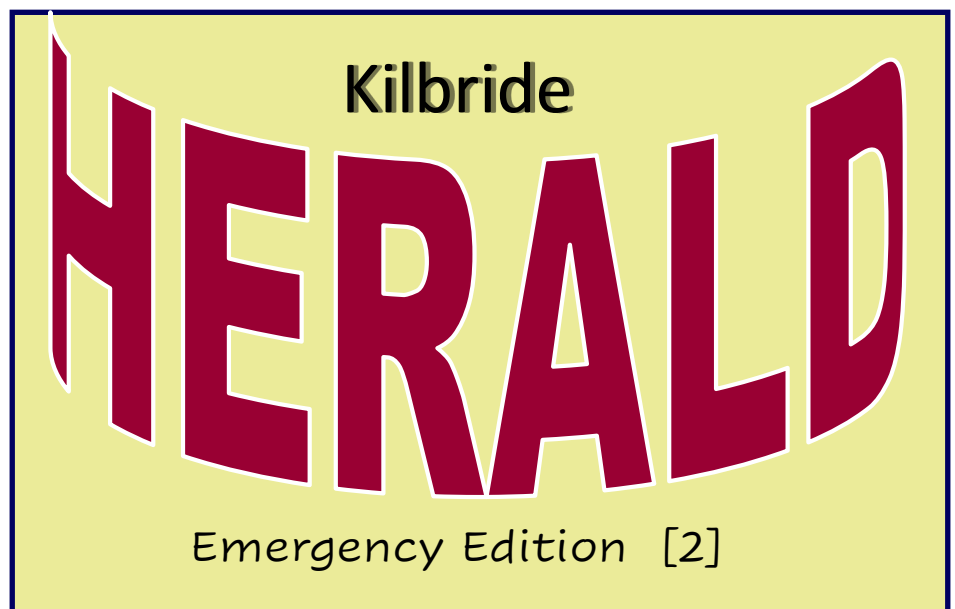
Although this is a difficult situation, we now fully realise the need for these measures, which have been taken to try to reduce the impact of the virus on the population.

However, while the situation is far from easy to bear, we at St Bride's are working in different ways to try to maintain contact with all our people.

Please remember that if you have access to the Internet, you can worship with us by going to our website: [kilbrideparishchurch.org](http://kilbrideparishchurch.org) and clicking on the Prayer and Worship link on the homepage.

For those who might not be computer-literate, we're doing our best to keep in contact, at least through emergency editions of The Herald.

We are also heavily involved in trying to find other creative ways to stay in touch. But above all, please remember that you are not forgotten, and that through our prayers we are all together as members of THE CHURCH.



**First of all, thanks a million to those folks who made sure we got their FWO envelopes.** We had originally suggested that people could place them on the plate inside the door of the church each Sunday, but restrictions were tightened and we weren't allowed to open the church doors.

Several parishioners have just recently taken out a Standing Order, so that the money they previously paid using envelopes now automatically goes from their bank account into the church bank account.

Some envelopes have been put through the Parish Room letter box and the Rectory letter box, and some other people have posted their money, either to the Rectory, or direct to the Treasurer.

It is important that we get as many envelopes as possible, because the bills keep coming in, and they have to be paid.

**Do you know of anyone who genuinely needs help? Some of our parishioners have become involved in getting help to those who can't manage themselves; others have offered to do what they can.**

**If you know of anyone in a bit of a predicament, tell us. Give the Rector a call, or phone someone else who can tell him!**

The Rector has been trying to contact some of our parishioners who live alone. If he hasn't contacted you, maybe he doesn't have your phone number.

On Thursdays he tries to take his exercise at 8.00pm, when many of us are at our front doors, clapping for the brilliant NHS.



Take a look out on Thursdays. He can't be in all the streets at once, but he might be outside your window, giving you the thumbs-up!

# COPING IN THE STORM

*'Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.'* (Mark 4:39).

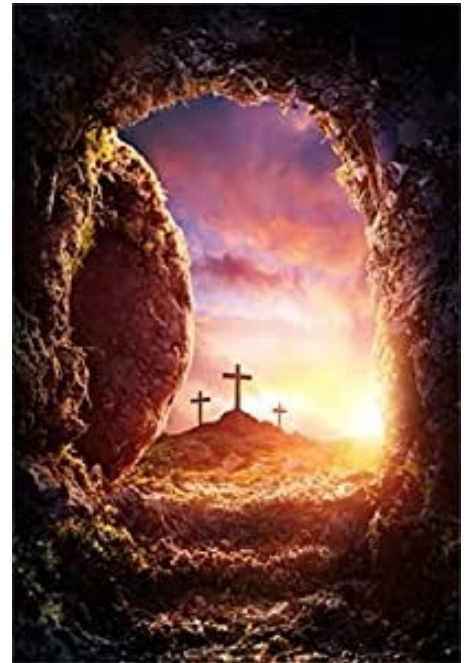


What started out for the disciples as a routine trip across the Sea of Galilee, ended up with a storm threatening to overwhelm their boat! Jesus was asleep in the boat, so little wonder they feared for their lives: *'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'* (38).

Who would have thought two months ago that the world would be overwhelmed by the Coronavirus pandemic and our lives turned upside down! Self-isolating and self-distancing are now part of our daily vocabulary, as we live in an uncertain world. What does this story say to us in our circumstances?

Firstly, we read that Jesus calmed the storm: *'He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!''* (39). He is the Lord of the storm and holds our circumstances in His hands. We are called to trust, not fear, being assured that He is with us to protect us. *'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'* (40). Nothing is outside of His control.

Secondly, despite the calm, the disciples were still terrified: *'They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!''* (41). Like us, the disciples were asking why Jesus, who loved them, had allowed the storm to happen! Our circumstances provide us with an opportunity to understand more deeply who Jesus is. We can't control Him and we don't always understand His bigger plans for us and His world. We are called to overcome fear and insecurity, by living lives of peace, faith and hope. How contagious can we be for Jesus in a stormy world?



**The best news the world ever had came from a graveyard.**

## A humble suggestion in this time of crisis:

Make the most of your family. Your children may drive you crazy at times but think about it: this is the only chance you may ever have to spend so much time with them.

So do some home projects together, play games together, study together and cook together.

Read the Bible with them, pray with them and TALK to them. How well do you actually know your own family?



*Our church warden is not letting people into the church just now*

Thank you to all those people who are keeping the Parish moving.

**THANK YOU**

Don't think that everyone is sitting back, just waiting for things to get better!

Quite a few folk are working away, doing the things they're good at, or doing what needs done, to keep the wheels turning.

So a big thank you to all of those people!



Parishioners of Kilbride are among those who like to follow the Church's Calendar, so we're trying to include a little bit of information which will help you to worship the Lord with us. In the 40 days after Easter we remember what the Bible says about our Lord's Resurrection appearances to various disciples and groups of disciples.

Then we have Ascension Day when we celebrate the return of Jesus to his Father's throne, followed by the Feast of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit came powerfully upon the followers of Jesus who were gathered together.

After that we remember the doctrine of the Holy Trinity—God the Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

Remember that we're trying to place on the parish website a short video which should help us to observe each and every Sunday, and other Feast Days of the Church.

Coming up soon...

**Thursday 21 May—ASCENSION DAY**

**Sunday 31 May—FEAST OF PENTECOST**

**Sunday 7 June—TRINITY SUNDAY**



Hey, did you see all the work going on at the church just before the lock-down?

What? You mean you missed it? Oh well, you'd better take a look at these photos! We're not telling you any more at the moment—you'll have to wait until we're back to normal, then you can see the finished project!



There's not much "parish news" as such, because we're not meeting together!



Our thanks are due to Media Design and Print, a Belfast firm, who have been printing our magazine since it became the Kilbride Herald.

They have also printed tickets, stationery and posters, and have served the Rector for a large part of his ministry.

Their services are consistent and dependable, and even at this time of crisis they are able to print the Herald quickly and efficiently. Many thanks!



**In this time of distress:**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and  
distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious  
and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought  
low;  
that we may rejoice in your com-  
fort  
knowing that nothing can sepa-  
rate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**For strength:**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you taught us to love our neigh-  
bour,  
and to care for those in need  
as if we were caring for you.  
In this time of anxiety, give us  
strength  
to comfort the fearful, to tend the  
sick,

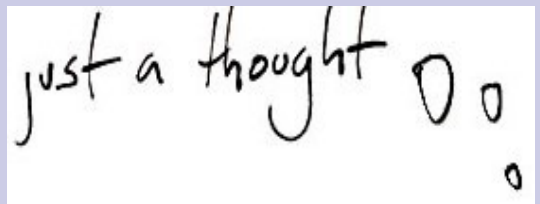
and to assure the isolated  
of our love, and your love,  
for your name's sake. Amen.

**For those who are ill:**

Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threat-  
ens  
your everlasting arms are there to  
hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and  
strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**For hospital staff and medical  
researchers**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching  
for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be  
restored to health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Doesn't the simple pleasure of going to church and exchanging the peace seem long ago now? These days, we are not even allowed into our churches!

But we can take comfort when we think back to the Apostles who were commis-  
sioned to build God's Church. After the  
first Pentecost, what did they do? They  
didn't rush out and build church buildings.  
No! Rather the people gathered together,  
in their own homes.

Clearly, we can't physically 'gather' just  
now, but we have the technology to  
'gather' together, both in real time and at a  
later time. And it is important to do so.  
There is something powerful when we  
pray together rather than alone. Try pho-  
ning a friend with the same written prayer  
and saying it together. How does that  
feel? Any different from saying it on your  
own?

So, THE Church, which is alive and well in  
you and me, will find new ways to be  
together.

Perhaps we could each sit at our dining  
table at a set time, with one or two items  
before us, such as a lit candle, stones,  
and a cross. Indeed, anything that  
reminds us of our Risen Saviour. We  
could then 'share' this time in praying the  
same prayers and knowing that we are  
part of an eternal fellowship that is only  
temporarily divided.

What will you use to reflect and encourage  
your faith? What items naturally around  
your home would bring others to your  
mind, help you to concentrate and allow  
your spirit to fly with the Holy Spirit? Who  
will you be connecting with to pray?

**JUST A FEW PHONE NUMBERS YOU MIGHT NEED IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS  
—AND YOU'VE THROWN THE LAST HERALD OUT!**

**The Rector: 028 9334 0225**

**Clarence Gibson (Rector's Churchwarden): 028 9332 3761**

**Hazel McDonald (People's Churchwarden): 028 9332 4208**

**Lillian Lyttle (Treasurer): 028 9332 3311**

**Ashley Hurst (FWO Secretary): 07890 583 962**

**Ivan Topping (Hon. Secretary): 028 9334 1916**