

February 2022

Dear friend,

I'm looking forward to enjoying some wonderful pancakes on Tuesday 1st March, Pancake Day. I remember coming home from school on Pancake Tuesdays and sitting down to eat the lovely warm pancakes my mum had made. More recently, it was sitting down with Joan and our daughters to enjoy the pancakes they had made with her, when they came home from school.

Pancakes

People have many different preferences and tastes when it comes to eating pancakes.

Are they thick or thin, smothered in butter or with lemon and sugar, sweet or savoury, with fruit or part of a bacon stack? No matter how you like your pancakes, I do hope you'll be able to enjoy some on Pancake Tuesday.

Originally, making pancakes on Pancake Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, was a way of using up rich fatty foods before the beginning of Lent, on the next day, Ash Wednesday. During the season of Lent, which is from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, people traditionally would have abstained from these types of food.

The forty days of Lent remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, prior to the beginning of His public ministry. His time in the wilderness, where He fasted and prayed, was time of preparation for His public ministry which would ultimately lead to the cross.

Preparation

We may or may not give up something(s) for Lent, that's our personal choice, but I do encourage you to use the season of Lent as a time of preparation, as we look forward to Good Friday and Easter. Let's use Lent to refocus our attention on God, the One who loves us and calls us into a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

The past two years have been tough and traumatic in many different ways, but be assured of this, God loves you and cares for you. He knows your life experiences. In this season of Lent, I encourage you, I urge you, to draw closer to Him in prayer. Talk to Him about what's on your heart and on your mind.

Prayer

Ask God to comfort and encourage you, to help you overcome your fears with faith. In repentance, acknowledge the ways you fail to listen to Him and respond to Him, ask Him to forgive you and renew your relationship with Him. Ask Him to influence and shape your attitudes, thoughts, words and actions through His Word and by His Spirit. (Please see 40 Days of Prayer overleaf.)

Please, please use this season of Lent as a time of preparation as we move towards Good Friday and Easter. Be intentional in developing your relationship with God, as you pray, as you read the Bible, as you join with us to worship the Lord. Choose to follow Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit become more like Christ, as you conform to His image, submit to His authority and live out your faith in daily life.

I pray that you will know the full extent of God's love for you, and that you will love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Blessings

Roderic

(Please see overleaf and the other enclosure for further information and March Bible Readings.)

Andrew Irwin

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Andrew following his appointment as curate of the Parish of St Paul and St Barnabas, York Street, Belfast, in Connor Diocese.

Please pray for Andrew in this time of change and transition and for the parishioners of St Paul and St Barnabas. The date for his service of introduction to be arranged.

Anna Williams

Anna continues to recover, although her foot is still in plaster. Please pray for her and for healing and recovery.

Lent Alpha Course

Begins Thursday 3rd March at 7.30pm | Holy Trinity Church Hall

An opportunity to gather in person, to connect with others, to discover and learn more about the Christian faith, about Jesus, about the Holy Spirit, ...

Each session begins with tea and coffee etc., followed by an engaging film clip, and the opportunity for questions and discussion. Come and join us, invite others!



Wednesday Evening Lent Services – Prayers from the Psalms

Begins on Ash Wednesday 2nd March in Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm

This year we have the opportunity to meet in-person for this Lent Series as we look at some of the prayers expressed in the Psalms.

Forty Days of Prayer

Please join me in 40 Days of Prayer during Lent using part of the Psalm or part of one of the readings for the day as a basis for our prayers. (See Readings for March 2022 enclosed with this mailing.)

On Ash Wednesday, 2nd March, you could use part or all of Psalm 51 as a prayer.

On Thursday 3rd March you could use Psalm 25:4-5 or another part of the Psalm as prayer.

On Friday 4th March, based on Psalm 39, you could ask God to watch over your life, to guide you in what you do and say.

These are suggestions but, as we read the Psalm or other readings for each day of Lent, may they prompt our thinking and our prayers, as we bring our requests and offer our thanksgiving to Him. As we pray, may we be drawn closer to God and develop our intimacy with Him.

Mothering Sunday | 23rd March

Join us at our services as we acknowledge and thank God for all the women who are a positive influence in our lives. There will be a special gift for all ladies.

Confirmation in 2022

We are thrilled to have started a new confirmation course and look forward to joining the Diocesan Team at Castlewellan Castle for the confirmation weekend. The dates of the Confirmation Weekend have been changed to 22-24th April. To register go to the Diocese of Down & Dromore Eventbrite or contact Ava. (ava@bchurch.co.uk.) Young people do not have to be getting confirmed to attend the weekend.

Adults who are considering being confirmed are asked to contact the Rector or the Parish Office.

Financial Update

We are pleased to be able to report that our income through Weekly Envelopes, Standing Orders, and Loose Collections in 2021 was £185,836 – an increase of £6,515 from 2020. This increase doesn't bring us back to our pre-covid level of income in 2019, but we are getting there. Thank you to everyone who gives of their money, time and skills.

We give generously because first God gave to us. We give generously because of the example of Jesus. We give generously because without our contributions of time, money and skills, we wouldn't be able to function as a Church, providing pastoral care and support, involved in ministry and mission as we partner with God in the work of His Kingdom.