

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well during this ongoing health crisis. We are living in unprecedented and anxious times. We fear for our loved ones, our families and friends, and ask God to keep them safe. We especially fear for them if their jobs are in front-line care and services. As we watch the news day by day we are reminded of others who live in places of even greater fear and restrictions, such as Italy and Spain, and we see the daily rise of cases in Ireland and other countries around the world.

It makes us aware how very careful we must all be in following the guidelines and practising social distancing and hand-washing. It does mean that we miss having contact with one another, especially our services on Sundays; particularly during Lent and Easter, a very special time in our Christian calendar.

In this respect Social Media has proved a blessing - we can watch Revd. Jim lead us in worship on Facebook and church services are available on the Church of Ireland website, on television and radio.

Please know that I am always here if you would like a chat over the phone, or if I can help you in any way.

With my love, prayers and blessings, Phyllis x

God of love and hope,  
you made the world and care for all creation,  
but the world feels strange right now.  
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.  
Some people are worried that they might get ill.  
Others are anxious for their family and friends.  
Be with them and help them to find peace.  
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,  
and all who are working to discover the right medicines  
to help those who are ill.  
Thank you that even in these anxious times,  
you are with us.  
Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.  
**Amen.**

## Readings and Prayers for



**The week that changed the world  
continues to change our lives**



Holding our Palm Crosses  
we say:

God our Saviour, whose Son Jesus Christ entered Jerusalem as Messiah to suffer and to die, let these palms be for us signs of his victory; and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

### Scripture readings for Palm Sunday:

Old Testament: Isaiah 50 vs. 4-9a

New Testament: Matthew 21: 1-11

### Prayer:

Lord, you give us life, you give us love, you give us yourself:  
help us to give our lives, our love, ourselves to you;  
through Christ who died and rose again for us and who lives  
with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting light. Amen.

### Readings for Holy Week

Monday: OT: Isaiah 42: 1-9 NT: John 12: 1-11

Tuesday: OT: Isaiah 49: 1-7 NT: John 12: 20-36

Wednesday: OT: Isaiah 50: 4-9a NT: John 13: 21-32

Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12; 1-14 John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday: OT: Isaiah 52: 13 - end of 53 John 18: 1-end 19

Easter Eve: OT: Job 14: 1-14 / NT: 1 Peter 4: 1-8 / Matt 27: 57-  
end



Resurrection by Mary Hanrahan

White cloth draped, carelessly discarded.  
The cross abandoned, Christ elsewhere.

Empty tomb. Linen cloths crumpled.  
Left behind, the trappings of death.

He moves in gardens, on dusty roads and picnics on pebbly shores;  
sits at table with us.

And yet ... eyes and spirits blind, we haunt familiar places.  
Lost pilgrims, we sanctify shells, make shrines of empty tombs  
and pray for his return, angels' messages blocked by our litanies of  
death.

He is risen!

He lives.

And ever patient, smiling at our foibles, he waits,  
till, eyes and hearts open, the light dawns, and, like Peter,  
we run, shedding the cloak of old illusions,  
into his warm and welcoming embrace.

### Scripture readings for Easter day:

Acts 10: 34-43 Matthew 28: 1-10

### Prayer:

May the celebration of resurrected life bring new hope to your  
being.

May the victory over earthly death turn your eyes to the promises  
of heaven.

May the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of  
the cross.

So that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life  
forever.

Amen.