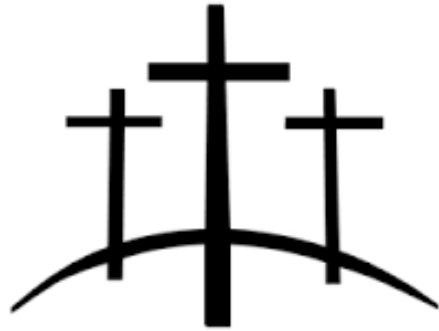


Sunday 12th April 2020
Easter Sunday

He is not here, for he
has risen, as he said
Matthew 28:6



*We hope this bulletin finds you well.
As we pass through this
unprecedented time in history, we
want you know to know that
although we cannot meet together
as a church family, that you are
loved, cared for and very much in
the prayers of all who bear
responsibility for the congregation.*

You can access the Church Facebook page
here: www.facebook.com/FirstPortadown.
You will be able to watch it both live and after
the live recording is finished.
Please also check the Church website for
updated material – www.firstportadown.org

New City Catechism

Question 41:

What is the Lord's Prayer?

Answer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be
your name, your kingdom come, your
will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as
we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil.

In the absence of regular Midweek
Fellowship Rev Robin Brown will be
uploading a series of talks on the
Prophecy of Amos.

These can be found on both the Church
Facebook page as well as the Website.

Contact numbers:

Minister: Rev Robin Brown

Tel: 028 3815 7196 Mobile: 07740 677481
e-mail: rbrown@presbyterianireland.org

Family Discipleship Worker: Scott McMenemy

Mobile: 07929248507 email: scottmcmenemy@gmail.com.

Lay Visitor: Mrs Margaret Hynes

Mobile: 07704646541

Church Office: 028 3839 3773 or mail@firstportadown.org

Over the next days, weeks and months
if, because of self-isolation or self-
distancing, you need help with
groceries or collecting prescriptions,
you're lonely and want a chat, or you
have specific prayer requests or
questions, please don't hesitate to
contact your District Elder, Committee
member, or a member of the Pastoral
Team. We will endeavour to help you
or put you in contact with someone
who would be able to assist you.

If you know someone who has no
means to access the sermon online
please let us know at
mail@firstportadown.org so we can
ensure they receive a recording of the
sermon.

What a good parent says...

As many of us enter into another week,
limited to our homes with our children it can
be far too easy to lose patience as well as
stamina.

Scott has shared an article called "7 things a
good Dad says" although written for Dads, it
is equally true of Mums too – and in the
coming months when we are all back
together, something Grandparents can also
practice.

You can find this article here;

<https://www.challies.com/christian-living/7-things-a-good-dad-says/>

Electronic banking

If you would like to contribute by online banking, please use these account details:

Freewill Offering

Sort code 90-23-54
Account number 40567431
Please use reference **FWO** followed by the 3-digit number from your envelope.

Property Fund

Sort code 90-23-54
Account number 40567458
Please use reference **PF** followed by the 3-digit number from your envelope.

Missionary Fund

Sort code 90-23-54
Account number 40567474
Please use reference **MF** followed by the 3-digit number from your envelope.

Please ensure when contributing online you add the **3 digit number** from your set of envelopes as well as the **reference** for which account you wish you contribute towards e.g. MF, PF or FWO. Without these details it will not be possible to identify who is giving and where they want their money to go.

Help is available

mail@firstportadown.org

028 3839 3773

Family Fellowship

As well as continuing **Family Fellowship** for families to learn, chat and pray together, Scott will be producing different weekly activities for children of various age groups to do themselves.

If this is something you would like to receive, contact Scott at scottmcmenemy@gmail.com or on 07929248507.



Please remember to donate items to the Food bank when shopping in Asda, Tesco or Lidl.

This is an extremely tough time for lots of people in our community, any who rely on the Food bank for their families.

All donations are greatly appreciated but items such as jams, chocolate spread, tinned fish, toiletries and sanitary products would be appreciated.

In this moment

A prayer for an extraordinary Easter

Lord of cross, grave and empty tomb,
I can't ever remember an Easter quite like this one.

Encircled with darkness and overshadowed by death.

Eerily quiet and filled with inactivity.

Expectant of your living presence,
but not in the usual recognisable rhythms and readings of worship.

And yet, when I stop to think of it,

how like that first Easter,
of cross, grave and empty tomb.

This extraordinary Easter:

in the enveloping gloom,
turn our gaze again to that first Good Friday,
to see Jesus, suffering and dying for this
sinful and broken world;

in the jarring silence,
tune our ears to the silence of that first
Easter Saturday,

to hear the Father's silent lament for his only begotten son;

in the unfamiliarity of days like none of us have ever experienced before,
tether our hearts to the hope of that first Easter Sunday morning,
to know the shining glory of the resurrection of Christ.

Lord of cross, grave and empty tomb,
thank you for the reminder of another Easter so much like this one,
and for how it resonates with reality in our situation today.

*See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;*

Let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,

For her Lord is living, death has lost its sting:

Thine be the glory,

Risen, conqu'ring Son,

Endless is the victory,

Thou o'er death has won.

Amen.

Sunday 12 April

Marking Easter Sunday

- *Pray that Christians all over the world this Easter Sunday would know the presence of the risen Christ in a very real and meaningful way as they celebrate his victory in strange, unusual and varied circumstances arising from the Coronavirus pandemic.*
- *Pray for those who cannot access a service of worship this Easter Sunday, asking God that they would find comfort and strength in the foundations of personal faith built up over previous years and through reading the Word and prayer.*

Monday 13 April

Those being treated for Coronavirus and those whose treatment has been postponed

- *Pray for those receiving treatment for Coronavirus as the anticipated peak in cases occurs, that they will know God's comfort, strength and healing touch. Particularly remember NHS and HSE staff who have contracted the virus and the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnston.*
- *Pray for those in need of regular therapy and treatments that must now be postponed, that God would help them stay patient and positive and that their conditions would not deteriorate.*

Tuesday 14 April

Business owners and the self employed

- *Pray for leaders and owners of businesses having to make difficult decisions that*

affect the lives of their employees, that God would give them wisdom and grace.

- *Pray for the self-employed who have been hit particularly hard by loss of business and often have fewer reserves to fall back upon, that God would give them peace and supply their needs.*

Wednesday 15 April

PCI Global Mission Workers

- *Pray for PCI's global mission workers that they will be able to model and adopt appropriate social distancing techniques that will increase protection for them and for those in the particular culture in which they are ministering.*
- *Pray for the Council for Global Mission staff that they will be given wisdom and energy to support and encourage every global mission worker in their variety of situations in this fast-moving pandemic.*

Thursday 16 April

Chaplaincy

- *Pray for units of the UK Army's Covid Support Force who have been redeployed to the construction of several Nightingale Hospitals across the UK and for chaplains to these units, who may be deployed in support.*
- *Pray for Rev Graeme Stockdale, lead chaplain in Maghaberry Prison, as he seeks to respond to concerns and anxieties among staff and the prison population. The prison cannot close – so pray for wisdom for the Prison Service as they manage the challenges of the situation.*

Friday 17 April

Media and Society

- *Pray for those who determine and filter media content, that they would provide an effective balance of up-to-date information without unnecessarily increasing anxiety.*
- *Pray for society as a whole, that it might respond in a way that is measured and wise, rather than react to unfolding events with fear, panic or carelessness.*

Saturday 18 April

For weak and strong; older and younger

- *Pray for those who are especially vulnerable in these days – the elderly, those with underlying health issues, the isolated, poor and homeless – that God would be their peace and provider.*
 - *Pray for the young, active and strong who feel especially restricted by the lockdown, that God would give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading the virus and envision and inspire them with ways to serve and help others.*
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