



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



**The Church of
St John the Evangelist
Parish of Malone ~ Diocese of Connor**



The Eucharist & Confirmation
Celebrant: The Right Reverend George Davison,
Bishop of Connor

Before the service begins please pray for those to be confirmed today:
Alexandra Duckett; Alexandra Heron; Fiona Keehan ;
Katie Keehan ; Charlotte Robinson

Sunday 4th June 2023 at 10:30am
Trinity Sunday

Please refrain from taking photographs during the service.

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Stand for the processional hymn

Hymn 294

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn~
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

GREETING

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you all
and also with you.

The bishop may introduce the service with these or other suitable words:

Brothers and sisters, we meet today to support and to pray for those who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith and who now intend, in the presence of God and of this congregation, to make the promises of their baptism their own.

At the heart of this Confirmation service are two distinct, yet related, acts of confirming.

First the candidates will profess their faith in Christ, confirming their desire to serve God throughout their lives, to turn to Christ and to renounce all evil. Then, as bishop, I will lay my hand on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them as they strive, each day of their lives, to live up to the solemn commitment they will make today.

It is our privilege and joy as the people of God to hear the candidates' response to God's call and to renew our own baptismal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be our responsibility to encourage the newly confirmed in their discipleship, so that the Christian family may be built up, recognizing the diverse gifts of all its members.

On this their Confirmation day, let us pray in silence for....so that, increasing in the Holy Spirit more and more, they may experience God's wisdom and love for ever.

PENITENCE

Penitential Kyries

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess that we need forgiveness.

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.

Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *sung*

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. *The community prays silently*

Heavenly Father, by water and the Holy Spirit you give your faithful people new life: Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

For Trinity Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
Keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 40: 12 – 17, 27- 31

- ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?
- ¹³ Who has directed the spirit of the Lord,
or as his counsellor has instructed him?
- ¹⁴ Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice?
Who taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?
- ¹⁵ Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as dust on the scales;
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.
- ¹⁶ Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,
nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.
- ¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him;
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
- ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
- ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 8 (Second Version) *Domine, Dominus noster*

- 1 *O / Lord our / governor, //*
how glorious is your / name in / all the / world!
- 2 Your majesty above the | heavens • is | praised ||
out of the | mouths of | babes • at the | breast.
- † 3 You have founded a stronghold a|gainst your | foes, ||
that you might still the | enemy | and • the a|venger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the | work of • your | fingers, ||
the moon and the | stars that | you • have or|dained,
- 5 What are mortals, that you should be | mindful • of | them; ||
mere human beings, that | you should | seek them | out?
- 6 You have made them little | lower • than the | angels ||
and | crown them • with | glory • and | honour.
- 7 You have given them dominion over the | works of • your | hands ||
and put | all things | under their | feet,
- 8 All | sheep and | oxen, ||
even the | wild | beasts • of the | field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the | fish • of the | sea ||
and whatsoever | moves • in the | paths • of the | sea.
- 10 *O / Lord our / governor, //*
how glorious is your / name in / all the / world!

Gloria

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 478

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take:
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call:
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell where still the darkness lies;
in wealth and want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which care for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! The doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts – let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all the nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore.

The Holy Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 28, beginning at verse 16

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. *Sung*

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.** *sung*

The Sermon - The Rt Rev. George Davison

The Presentation

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

Where appropriate, they are presented by their godparents or sponsors and the bishop may say

Who presents these persons for confirmation?

We do.

The bishop asks the candidates

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The bishop asks the clergy who have been responsible for pastoral care of the candidates

Have these persons been carefully prepared in their understanding of the Christian faith?

I believe they have.

The Decision

The bishop says to the candidates

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow

Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The bishop says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The bishop shall ask the following question of all the candidates.

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptized? [Name] **I do**

The bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE CONFIRMATION

The bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.

Silence

The bishop prays the confirmation prayer

Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ was crucified and rose again to break the power of sin and death: We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Holy Spirit by whom your servants have been born again and made your children. Grant that in the power of the same Holy Spirit they may continue to grow in the knowledge and likeness of Christ; increase in them your gracious gifts, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and inward strength, the spirit of knowledge and godly living; and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of reverence for you.

Those who are to be confirmed stand before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying

Confirm . . . , O Lord, with your heavenly grace,
that she may continue to be yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until she comes
to your eternal kingdom.

And each one of them answers **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for your servants upon whom we have now laid our hands, after the example of the apostles, to assure them by this sign of your favour towards them. May your fatherly hand ever be over them. Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them. Lead them to know and obey your word, and keep them in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All say **Amen.**

The Commission

The bishop may use this commission:

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

The Peace *All stand. The Peace is introduced.*

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The bishop says

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Offertory Hymn 6 the collection will be received for **The Bishop of Connor's Ministry Fund.**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish; but nought changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

The table may be prepared by a deacon. Gifts of money may be brought forward and presented.

AT THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us

Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give our thanks and praise

Father, Lord of all creation,
we praise you for your goodness and your love.
When we turned away you did not reject us.
You came to meet us in your Son,
welcomed us as your children
and prepared a table where we might feast with you.
In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened wide his arms upon the cross and,
with love stronger than death,
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,
on the night before you died
you came to table with your friends.
Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it
and gave it to them saying,
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper
you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you:
you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:
**dying, you destroyed our death,
rising, you restored our life;
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life,
come upon us now;
may this bread and wine be to us
the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.
**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us, who know our need of grace,
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:
with your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,
for ever praising you and saying:
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, (*Sanctus is sung*)
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *all kneel*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven:

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread which we break is a sharing in the Body of Christ

We, being many, are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei O Lamb of God (*sung*)

THE COMMUNION

During Communion: Motets ~ God be in my head –by Walford Davies; O Trinity, Most Blessed Light - Archer;

The Great Silence

When all have received communion, the bishop and people keep silence for reflection. When the Bishop stands, the following is sung

Post Communion Hymn 593

O Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end;

be thou for ever near me, my Master and my Friend.

I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,

nor wander from the pathway, if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me: the world is ever near;

I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;

my foes are ever near me, around me and within;

but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control:
O speak and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory, there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks, and in them plant my own;
my hope to follow duly is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me, uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me, my Saviour and my Friend.

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Post Communion Prayer

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service: stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All say

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Blessing

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ: Fantasia in G Major – J S Bach



The congregation are welcome to join one another over refreshments in the L'Estrange hall afterward the service.

The doctrine of the Trinity can, at times to some, feel like an awkward and embarrassing Christian belief. It is also, almost certainly, a deeply misunderstood one. For this reason, Trinity Sunday may well be one of the days in the year where we are tempted to depart from the Lectionary and focus our meditations elsewhere. If, however, we can resist all these temptations, and embrace the mystery and majesty of this day, the worship we enjoy, springing from our reflections on our Trinitarian God, can be deep, transforming and deeply inspiring.

May we find new creativity and connectedness as we gather to worship the God who is revealed to us as Divine Parent, Incarnate Child and Ubiquitous Spirit.

READINGS:

Psalm 8: The Psalmist ponders how the great God who created all things nevertheless cares for human beings and gives men and women a place of stewardship over creation.

2 Corinthians 13:11-13: Paul closes his letter to the Corinthian church with the famous benediction invoking Christ's grace, God's love and the Spirit's presence.

Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus commissions his disciples to serve the nations and to baptise them in the name of the Triune God.

REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

This year the focus of Trinity Sunday is on two complementary themes. In the first, we are called to recognise and open ourselves to the work of the Triune God in creation – in the act of creating, in revealing God’s self to humanity, and in empowering humanity to participate with God in the care of the universe. The Psalm reflects this theme. In the second theme we are called to recognise the uniting, community-creating work of the God who is, within God’s self, a Triune community. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians speaks of the unity of the church and of the Trinity’s gifts to bring us together and in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to bring others into the community of faith, giving them a place of belonging through the act of baptism in the name of the Triune God. Both themes – God’s work in creation, and God’s work in community – lead us to a recognition of the connectedness of all things, and of God’s presence and life in all things. God is always creating and always connecting (or revealing the connections that are always there), and so we are called to participate in God’s work by participating in God’s community and bringing others – including all of creation – into the gracious, growing, interconnected, life-sharing, just and creative communion of the Trinity.

Notices:

- Samples of **Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes** are available each quarter for the year. Please consider taking some. Please speak to or email to Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- **Welcome** to all our visitors whether you’re joining us in the building or online. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens. Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.
- **Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of cognitive or mental health issues. There is a hearing loop installed in the church for those who need it. Step-free access to church is available through the north porch door and to the halls via the Seaver Hall main door.
- **Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the

service, you are welcome to go to the back of the church if you need to settle – or to Sunday School in the halls where there is lots of space. Our toilets have baby change facilities. A confirmation class will also meet during the year.

- **Welcome** to all experiences of race, colour or language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of your first language to our worship. You are also welcome if you are LGBTQIA+
- **Welcome** if you are unsure about faith, **Welcome** if you are exploring, **Welcome** if you are here for someone else. We run study courses through the year. These are notified here, in the parish magazine or on Facebook or on our parish website.
- If you need to reach out to our **Safeguarding** team please contact Stephen, Patricia or Tony. malone@connor.anglican.org (Rector's email) or see the info posters in the halls.
- We are collecting for South Belfast Food Bank again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email or add the name(s) on the list in the side chapel.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

The Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Parish of Malone

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: secstjohns@btconnect.com

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)

e-mail : malone@connor.anglican.org



If you are considering donating any items to the foodbank then we would really appreciate any of the following...

Tinned meat Tinned potatoes/ Smash Long life juice Tinned soup Toiletries Toilet roll Washing up liquid Washing powder You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank.

We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm.

Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR

Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk

ITEMS REQUIRED AT PRESENT: *Please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.*

Rice, Pasta sauce, Instant Mash, Tinned Custard, Tinned fruit, Coffee, Toilet roll, Toiletries

Household Cleaning Items



Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.

www.malone.connor.anglican.org