

~ Notices ~

**Church services** - Sadly due to Level 5 Covid restrictions in-church services are suspended for the next six Sundays. You are prayed for everyday and our online services will continue.

**Prayers** - Prayers are said daily for the welfare of our community, our nation and the world. If you have any particular issue that you would like to be prayed for, do please email me on [frkevinobrien@me.com](mailto:frkevinobrien@me.com) or call me on 065 672 4721.

**Website** - Our website <https://clareanglicans.ie> has significantly developed, so please do scroll down the opening page to explore the new sections and information.

- Worship - a number of videos of services
- Pray - leaflets and resources on ways of praying
- Explore - videos of some inspiring speakers
- Think Question Believe - a parish podcast
- Viewpoint - videos on the basics of Christianity
- Rector's Blog - articles, thoughts, opinions

**YouTube** - our YouTube channel now has over 105 videos, comprising services, talks and sermons. Please do visit the channel by searching for **St Columba's Church Ennis** and do *subscribe* if you can, we are aiming to reach 100 subscribers before Christmas. Also visit our **Facebook** page: **Drumcliffe Church of Ireland Ennis**

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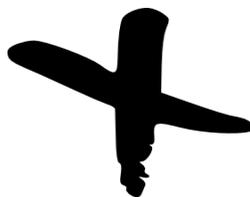
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Wilfred Owen  
1893-1918

*"The Parable of the  
Old Man  
and the Young"*

*So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,  
And took the fire with him, and a knife.  
And as they sojourned both of them together,  
Isaac the first-born spoke and said, My Father,  
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,  
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?  
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,  
And builded parapets and trenches there,  
And stretched forth the knife to slay his son.  
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,  
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,  
Neither do anything to him.  
Behold, A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;  
Offer the ram of Pride instead of him.*

*But the old man would not so, but slew his son,  
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.*



## Remembrance Sunday (Year A)

**Collect**

God, our refuge and strength,  
bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and  
pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Suggested Hymns** - For the online service you might  
like to view these hymns with lyrics on YouTube.

- 1) O God our help in ages past  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssr-Ga3Mz6Q>
- 2) Abide with me  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzmvagnGTYT>
- 3) Be still my Soul  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V66kw5QznC0>
- 4) In Christ there is no East or West  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfNlBxvXbus>

**Isaiah 10:33 - 11:9**

Look, the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts,  
will lop the boughs with terrifying power;  
the tallest trees will be cut down,  
and the lofty will be brought low.  
He will hack down the thickets of the forest with an axe,  
and Lebanon with its majestic trees will fall.  
A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

**Psalms 46**

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
'Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth.'  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

#### **Romans 8: 31-39**

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### **John 15: 9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

#### **Commentary**

##### **Isaiah 11:1-10**

In 745 BC, Tiglath-pileser III became king of Assyria; he was bent on conquering all of the west, including Israel. Isaiah wrote these words soon after. In the preceding verses, he has used tree imagery; he continues to do so here. "Jesse" was David's father. A new "branch" will grow, a king descended from Jesse and David, but of a new kind. God's "spirit" (v. 2) rested on Moses, David and other leaders, enabling them to do the seemingly impossible. Six gifts of the spirit which God will give this king are listed here (v. 2): "wisdom", "understanding" and "counsel" will make him independent of foolish advisers; he will have "might" to defend his people, "knowledge" of God's ways and "fear" (awe), i.e. proper respect for God. This ideal future king will both be able to understand God's purposes for his people and have the power to bring them to effect. He will also exercise justice, thus aiding the underdog and those who hold God in awe ("the meek", v. 4). He will use his chastening "rod" and hot lethal "breath" to destroy the ungodly. In v. 5 "belt" appears twice; both are underwear. This king will hold justice and fidelity to his people as close to him as his underwear!

In vv. 6-8, the images of peace among animals speak of the restoration of the ideal state of harmony God originally intended, before humans revolted against him. (The "asp", v. 8, and the "adder" are poisonous snakes.) Harmony will also be restored between animals and humans. No one in the whole of ("all") God's domain (not just Jerusalem, "my holy mountain", v. 9) will be in danger, because all will know God, i.e. observe his will, as surely as "the waters cover the sea". This king ("root of Jesse", v. 10) will be a rallying point not just for Judah but for all peoples: they will see his achievements and "inquire" of God's glory as reflected in him.

#### **Psalm 46**

This psalm tells of God's protection and defence of his people. Perhaps the psalmist thinks of Isaiah 8:6-7; there "streams" (v. 4) are what God provides to the godly. The "city of God" is Jerusalem, God's dwelling place on earth. Even if natural disasters (earthquakes, vv. 2-3) or political turmoil (v. 6) occur, or earth returns to its primordial chaotic state ("waters", v. 3), God will remain ("not be moved", v. 5), answering night-long prayer in the "morning". Israel has suffered "desolations" (v. 8) for not doing God's will. In a liturgy, a priest or prophet invites participants to consider God's deeds: he ends political turmoil, bringing peace (v. 9). Recognize that God is supreme over all the earth! (v. 10) He is with his people and keeps them safe (v. 11).

#### **Romans 8:26-39**

Paul examines in detail how certain can we be that God will complete the execution of his plan of salvation. What, he asks, "are we to say about these things" (v. 31), especially "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (8:1). He puts his questions in the language of the law court. God is so "for us" (v. 31) that he gave us his very Son, so he will surely follow through with the rest of his plan. God has passed a favourable sentence on us ("justifies", v. 33) so who is there to accuse us of anything? We have Christ, in his place of power and authority ("at the right hand of God", v. 34) pleading for us. (He is also the judge: see 2:16.) No hardship can separate the true Christian from Christ's love for us (v. 35). Psalm 44:22 foretold the sufferings of Christians (v. 36); in them we are winning a resounding victory ("more than conquerors", v. 37). Whether dead or alive at the Last Day, nothing – whether spiritual powers ("angels ... rulers ... powers", v. 38) or astrological powers (commonly believed to control human destiny, "height, nor depth", v. 39) or anything else – can separate us from God's love – and defeat God's purpose for us.

#### **John 15:9-17**

Jesus continues to prepare his disciples for his physical departure from them. He has told them that he is the "true" (v. 1) vine, the Father's agent, and that they are the "fruit" (v. 2), "the branches" (v. 5). They represent him in the world – to bear fruit, to do in his name. This is how God's power will be extended among humans. He has loved them as the Father has loved him; they are to continue to love him, by being obedient to his "commandments" (v. 10); he has been obedient, even to death on the cross. He continues to be in a loving relationship with the Father. This kind of love leads to "joy" (v. 11), ultimate joy. Jesus, the model for our behaviour, loved us so much that he gave his life for us, his "friends" (v. 13). To be a servant (v. 15) of God was an honour in Old Testament times, but a servant was not normally admitted to the counsel of his master while "friends" were: his disciples know all that the Father has told him. Jesus has taken the initiative in choosing them and appointing them to seek converts who will be deeply and lastingly committed to him (v. 16).