

# Holy Trinity Dunoon & St Paul's Rothesay

## Scottish Episcopal Churches

### 'Spiritual Communion' on Easter Sunday, 10.30am

The practice of 'spiritual communion' (the intentional act of linking one's prayer with the whole Church, and receiving Communion in the Holy Spirit, either because one is physically unable to receive it in Bread and Wine or because physical circumstances prevent being physically present), has a long tradition going back to the early church (especially in times of persecution). This practice does not require bread and wine to be present in your own home: only the celebrant would have physical elements. If you wish to participate, please **do not** use bread and wine in your home to join in with the 'spiritual communion'. One can receive Spiritual Communion at the point where the celebrant receives by using a prayer such as:

*God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour, who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour. Amen*



## An Easter message from the Rector

As I write this, I can look out of the Rectory window and see the daffodils shining brightly in the Spring sunshine, and I can recall seeing the lambs in the field – before travel was curtailed by the lock-down. So the association of Easter with new life is evident as plants and flowers have burst into life and lambs are all around. This association with new life or new birth is often symbolised with images of eggs and chicks, and is one of the reasons why we give and receive eggs and maybe cards with pictures of spring sunshine or new-born chicks at Easter. But Easter shouldn't really be about eggs or chicks. It should be about Jesus!

The real reason that we think about new life at Easter is because Jesus, who was crucified on that first Good Friday, rose to new life on the first Easter Sunday. This is not just a wonderful story, it is a part of history. Jesus' body was never found and his resurrection never disproved. This was despite the best efforts of the mighty Roman Empire and the committed and powerful Jewish leaders to destroy the early church and discredit their belief.

The early disciples were changed from a frightened and disillusioned group to men and women who stood up against the authorities and eventually gave their lives for what they believed – for what they knew to be true – that Jesus came back to life on Easter Sunday. New life for Jesus leading to new life in his disciples.

The impact of what happened that first Easter is still relevant today – even though Jesus barely gets a mention in the commercial and secular Easter 'holiday'. When Jesus died and rose, he did it for us. He offers us new life, eternal life, with him; life that starts now, but continues beyond this life. Now that is worth celebrating!

And it is perhaps all the more important to remember this year, as we celebrate in isolation - but not on our own – as we celebrate in spirit with brothers and sisters across the world and across time. We need this message of resurrection – of the new life that follows on from death. We need this hope that after this period of isolation, anxiety and fear, there will be new life.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

## Upcoming services online

Special services for Holy Week  
and Easter

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April

10.30am Palm Sunday service

Monday to Thursday

8.00pm A meditation on 'The things He carried' followed by  
Compline

Good Friday

2.00pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

8.00pm Easter Vigil (adapted  
for online)

Easter Sunday

10.30am Easter Day Holy  
Communion in Spirit

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Then regularly until isolation ends:

*Tuesdays:*

Morning Prayer at 9.30am

*Wednesdays:*

Compline at 8.00pm

*Fridays:*

Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

*Sundays:*

Worship at 10.30am

Contact details:

Email the Rector on

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or phone: 01369 702444



During this time of isolation, of closed churches and no public worship, we are finding different ways of coming together to worship.

One of the better ways of doing this is through the use of technology – which is why I am encouraging everyone to join in worship through the week using a platform called 'Zoom'. This is a video and telephone conferencing programme that allows us to 'get together' either through a computer or tablet, or on the phone. If you are using a computer, you will be able to see the words for the service, and each other, while if you are using the phone you will be able to hear everyone who speaks, but not see them.

If you aren't already joining the services, here is a brief explanation of how you can join in.

On a computer or tablet: You will need to download the 'Zoom for client meetings' app at <https://zoom.us/download>. Once you have done that, sign up for a free account, then let me know that you would like to join the services, and you are ready to go!

A day or two before each service, I will send out an email invitation to the service.

The email will have the date and time of the service, a meeting ID, and a link to the service. If you click on the link in the email 5 or 10 minutes before the service is due to start, you will be taken to the service.

To be seen and heard, you will need to have a microphone and camera on your computer. If you don't you will still be able to see and hear everyone, although they will not see or hear you (but they will know you are there).

To join by telephone, let me know that you would like to dial in. If you have an email, I can send you the invitation by email. If you don't, I will ring you with the Meeting ID, which you will be asked for when you dial in. I will also give you a phone number to ring.

Please note that the meeting ID is different for each meeting. This is to prevent unauthorized users from joining.

That's really all there is to it – but if you need any assistance, please let me know and I will try to help.

There is a list of the upcoming services in the sidebar next to this text.

I look forward to you joining in!