



ST. COLUMBA'S DERRYVOLGIE

TO KNOW CHRIST BETTER AND TO MAKE HIM BETTER KNOWN

Hello

It has been a while since we have been able to meet up in person and I just wanted to give you an update on where we are, now considering the COVID19 situation. I am hoping to answer some of the questions that I have been receiving lately and to give us some food for thought.

Firstly, let me say that the God we worship is still in control. His sovereign nature has not diminished even though our social interaction has. Jesus has always been a God of relationship and he will always be. Often, when we find ourselves removed from our friends and family and indeed from the ones we love the most, we are drawn to ask questions. We search for meaning and purpose like never before. We want to be reassured that someone is still there. There is a little-known book in the Old Testament called Zephaniah. Zephaniah was a prophet that lived during the reign of King Josiah who at the age of 8 brought spiritual revival to his kingdom. Zephaniah's part in this story was to call people back to seeking the Lord. Reminding them that: 'The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you but will rejoice over you with singing.' What a promise, what a proclamation urging us closer to God! This verse is not just for a way back then; it is truly relevant for us today. The Lord is still mighty, he still saves, and he is still rejoicing in those who seek him, so much so that he is singing over us. May you use this time wisely as you seek the Lord.

Continuing to connect

There are lots of ways that you continue to connect with us. We hope that there is something that works for you. If you have any ideas of how we could improve or add to these please let us know.

- Need help – email info@derryvolgie.com or phone (028) 9252 8242
- Keep up to date – visit our website, Facebook page or sign up for our Newsletter or WhatsApp groups.
- Watch Sunday services – on Facebook @Derryvolgie and our website.
- Don't have internet access? – phone (028) 9227 0922 and simply listen to the latest Sunday service – these calls will be charged at your standard network rate or included in many packages.
- Stories and familiar faces – hopefully you have benefited from the little videos that we have been uploading and have been encouraged to see familiar faces take part. A big thank you to all who have done so and maybe your turn will be coming soon.

Pastoral Support

We continue to walk with you through all seasons of your life. However this may be different as we follow the guidelines set out by the Government and Church Authorities. If you need to speak to the Rector, you can use the contact information below or phone the Rectory on (028) 9267 1662.

Children

While we continue to have a short talk for the children during our Sunday broadcasts we realise that there is so much more that we can do. Recently we set up a Google Classroom for the children. This is a medium many of them will be using for their schoolwork at present and so is very familiar. This is a safe space for us to upload videos, activities and stories which they can interact with and even more importantly interact with each other. If you have children who normally attend our programmes and you haven't got an invite to join yet it might be that we don't have your email. Please let us have your address and we will forward you the invite.

Finances

We have been asked a lot recently about finances, especially by those who contribute through Free Will Offering. Can I firstly say Thank You for your concern. Like many homes and businesses our parish continues to incur the monthly bills that need to be paid to ensure the safe and efficient functioning of seeking God's Kingdom in our community. In conversation with the Treasurer we are proposing the following options:

1. Keep a note of your weekly offering and you can place it in the plate when we get back together.
2. You can give by standing order.
3. You can make a bank transfer.
4. You can send a cheque to: Derryvolgie Parish C/O 19 Dalboyne Park, Lisburn, BT28 3BU.

Please note that the parish is not intending to send someone to collect your FWO. So please watch out for any scams that may be circulating at present.

Our bank details are: Derryvolgie Parish Church
Sort Code 98-09-60
Account Number 40516024

Finally can I encourage you to stay safe and connected, look out for others and continue to seek the Lord.

Every Blessing



Rev James Boyd
Rector

30th April 2020