

## St. John's and St. Columba's Strathpray

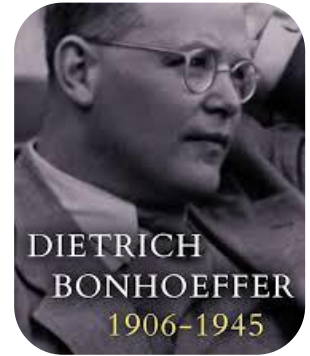
*Let us pray for one another and for the world ...*

### Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter.

***'This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'*** Acts 4:11-12.

*Before he was put to death in Hitler's Germany Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote:*

*'I am so certain of the guidance of God's hand that I hope to be maintained always in this certainty. You must never doubt that I walk thankfully and joyfully this path in which I am being led. My life in the past has been filled to overflowing with God's goodness, and above guilt stands the overflowing love of him who was crucified. I am most thankful of all for the people whom I have known, and hope that they will never have to sorrow over me, and that they too will gratefully always be certain only of the kindness and forgiveness of God.'*



Lord, help us to adopt a positive attitude to life: to express our gratitude for the past and affirm our faith for the future. You have poured so many blessings upon us that as we look back over the years we can only say, again and again, Thanks! And as we face the unknown days ahead, may we do so in a spirit of trust, accepting whatever is to come with a fearless Yes! Amen.

We pray for the congregations of Christ Church, Huntly; Holy Trinity, Keith; Gordon Chapel, Fochabers; St. Michael, Dufftown and St. Marnan's, Aberchirder: Michael Last, Peter Shaw. Lay Reader: Megan Cambridge.

### Monday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

***'Pray all the time, asking for what you need.'*** Ephesians 6:18.

*'Brother Lawrence wrote, "Talk to God about everything. Seek his help before attempting even the most mundane task." Having prayed, he would then open himself to receive the strength he needed for the task. Nowadays it is easy to forget that God even exists let alone remember to talk to him.*



*Another reason why some of us fail to tune in to God's ever-available love is that we are so accustomed to taking responsibility for our work that it does not occur to us to talk to God about it. It is so easy to forget that Jesus admonishes us to depend on him constantly: to "change and become like little children". Then there is the problem of pride. We imagine we can tackle any task quite competently without*

*God's help so why talk to him about it?' (Joyce Huggett – Finding God In The Fast Lane)*

Lord, I cannot get through today unless you enable me.

We pray for those who have no-one to talk to, no-one to turn to for sympathy and support.

### Tuesday April 23<sup>rd</sup>

***'How kind the Lord is! How good he is! So merciful, this God of ours! The Lord protects those of childlike faith.'*** Psalm 116:5-6.

*We can recognise beauty in the human soul, in the goodness and integrity of another human being. And this discovery also enlarges our spirit and refreshes our vision. The writer A.C.*

Benson said, "I feel more and more that the instinct for beauty – spiritual and moral as well as natural – is the most trustworthy of all instincts, and the surest sign of nearness to God." (Peter Millar)

Father of all creation, we thank you that you have given us a world rich in resources, and made us stewards of your mysteries; help us to act responsibly, not wasting or destroying what we do not need, not polluting the earth, or sea, or sky, that we may act with love towards all things, and so reflect the great love that you have for the world.

Amen.

We pray for people with failing health and those who care for them.



### **Wednesday April 24<sup>th</sup>**

***'Come near to God, and he will come near to you.'* James 4:8.**

*'If we are to witness to Christ in today's marketplace where there are constant demands on our whole person, we need silence. If we are to be always available, not only physically, but by empathy, sympathy, friendship, understanding and boundless caritas (love), we need silence. To be able to give joyous, unflagging hospitality, not only of house and food, but of mind, heart, body and soul, we need silence.'* (Catherine de Hueck Doherty – Poustinia)



Lord God, in your love you have bestowed upon us gifts such as our forefathers never knew or dreamed of. Save us from being so preoccupied with material things that we forget the things which are spiritual; lest having gained the whole world, we lose our own soul; for your mercy's sake. Amen.

We pray for the work of Christian Aid.

### **Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup> Mark, Evangelist.**

***'Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."'* Matthew 18:21- 22.**

*'Ranald Macauley wrote "Notice that commands to forgive and to forbear assume the sinfulness of others. We should expect each other to be sinful, unpleasant at times, and difficult to live with. That is what it means to be a member of the human race at present. If we expect perfection from others or from ourselves, we will only succeed in being unable to appreciate anything that anyone does, or for that matter anything we do. To expect perfection from any but God is to crush them."'*

*(Joyce Huggett – Conflict: Friend Or Foe)*

Lord God, set us free from the spirit of fear, especially the fear of other people, and give us the grace of courage: courage to get up when we are down; courage to own up when we are wrong; courage to bear up when we are weary; and at all times courage to stand up for Jesus, our Saviour and our Lord. Amen.

We pray for those who mould public opinion through the press, and other media.



## **Friday April 26<sup>th</sup>**

***'Father, why have you forsaken me?' Matthew 27:46.***

*'Jesus was hammered mercilessly on to a cross and as he hung there between heaven and earth it seemed to Jesus that heaven itself had closed its doors, that there was no one listening. His Father had left him to it. There was nowhere else to go but death. And yet Jesus still addressed his Father, still spoke to him as one who was present, even in his*



*absence. He just wanted to know why his Father had gone silent. He wanted to protest with every ounce of strength he had left, to cry to heaven, "Why? Why?" but still he spoke. Will we still speak into the darkness?' (John Pritchard – God Lost and Found)*

To your cross, O Lord, we come for healing. We come with the broken-hearted and broken-spirited. We come with those with broken relationships. We come with the broken in body or in mind. We come with the weak and the handicapped. We come with the sinners and guilty. We come, for you alone can make us whole. Amen.

We pray for those who live in troubled or disadvantaged communities.

## **Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

***'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' Hebrews 12:1-2.***

*'See yourself now as part of a long line of Christians, stretching back to the time of Christ himself. Give thanks for those who have passed on the faith through the centuries, so that you might come to faith now. Plant yourself firmly in the good soil of your tradition, nourished by it and enabled to grow by it. We are heirs to so much, and impoverished if we only look at today's scene, today's story. So recall some figures from your own history of faith who have been important. Start perhaps with someone you actually knew, and gradually work back into history. And give thanks.'* (Helen Julian – *The Lindisfarne Icon*)

Thank you, God, for the sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. May we walk wisely in their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. We commit to continue their legacy of walking in The Way. May new generations find us worthy to be called saints in your kingdom. Amen.

We pray for those who have others dependent upon them.



