



# A PENITENTIAL CHORAL EUCHARIST FOR ASH WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 7.30pm

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast. Following the downgrading of Covid restrictions to guidelines we respectfully ask you to wear a face covering when inside the building during the service, but especially when singing the hymns. Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens.

## A Note about the Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. Once again, this year, because of the risk of Covid transmission and the continued caution through social distancing, a Cross of Ash will be made in the cathedral to represent the mark of ash often received in person.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Baptised members of Christian churches are welcome to join in this Eucharist.

It is the Lord's table and this invitation is given in his name.

The Eucharist will be celebrated and distributed in accordance with Covid precautions as laid down by the Church of Ireland.

If you wish to receive communion, please move to the Quire Steps when directed by the cathedral wardens. Those seated on the North (left) side of the Nave will move first, then those seated on the South (right) side afterwards.

We have resumed distribution of Communion in both kinds. The wine will be consecrated in common cruets and will then be distributed into individual cups. When you approach the clergy you will receive the wafer bread, which you should consume immediately. There are tables on the north and south aisles where you will receive the wine. Please approach the table on the side on which you are seated. Empty cups should be placed in the basin provided.

Seating is by alternate rows. Please keep Im social distance at all times and continue wearing your face covering until you return to your seat. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free wafer, or if you require Communion to be brought to your seat.

If you wish to receive a blessing only, please indicate by crossing your arms across your chest.



## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE



Please stand to sing HYMN 554\*:





Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me, With care and woe opprest; Let me thy loving servant be, And taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Amid the battle's strife; In all my pain and misery Be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray; Though darkness and perplexity Point thou the heavenly way.

Words: Synesius of Cyrene (375-430) tr. A.W. Chatfield (1808-96) Tune NEH 70: SOUTHWELL Adapted from The Psalmes in English Meter (1579) by William Damon (1540-91)

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.

# Lord, have mercy.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting. At first the season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of Lent, all Christian people could take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord to observe this season of Lent, by self-examination and turning back to God. This may be giving something up, or by taking something up in prayer, fasting, or self-denial; or by reading, times of reflection or by your additional service to others.

Please remain standing whilst the choir sings the **KYRIE ELEISON:** 

Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Setting: Mass for four voices William Byrd (1540-1623)

## Please remain standing for the **LENTEN COLLECT**:

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully:

Almighty and everlasting God you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we may be truly sorry for our sins and obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD



Please sit for the EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to sing HYMN 630\*:



Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see our God; the secret of the Lord is theirs, their soul is Christ's abode.

Still to the lowly soul he doth himself impart and for his dwelling and his throne chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek; may ours this blessing be; give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for thee.

Words: vv. 1 & 3 John Keble (1792-1866) vv. 2 & 4 W.J. Hall (1703-1861) based on Matthew 5:8 Tune NEH 341: FRANCONIA From a six-line melody in J.B. Konig's Hermonischer Liederschatz (1738) adpt. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870)

Please remain standing to sing the GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Make me a clean heart, O God: O give me the comfort of thy help again. Ps 50:10. 12

Please remain standing and turn towards the Gospel reader

The **GOSPEL READING**: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew.



Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit for the ADDRESS by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast



# THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE



Let us now call to mind our need for penitence in the words of The Litany.

## **THE LITANY**

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God the Father, creator of heaven and earth: have mercy upon us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit, giver of life: have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God: have mercy upon us.

Save us, good Lord, from all sin and wickedness, from pride, hypocrisy and conceit, from envy, hatred and malice, and all uncharitableness, **save us, good Lord.** 

From sins of thought, word and deed, from the lusts of the flesh, from the deceits of the world and the snares of the devil: save us, good Lord.

From fire, storm and flood, from disease, pestilence and want, from war and murder, and from dying unprepared: save us, good Lord.

From all false doctrine, from hardness of heart, from contempt of your word and commandment, and from the evil of schism: save us, good Lord.

In times of sorrow and in times of joy, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgement: **save us, good Lord.** 

Ш

Save us, Lord Christ, by the mystery of your holy incarnation, by your birth, childhood and obedience, by your baptism, fasting and temptation: **save us, Lord Christ** 

By your ministry in word and work, by your mighty acts of power, and by your preaching of the kingdom: save us, Lord Christ

By your agony and trial, by your cross and passion, and by your precious death and burial: save us, Lord Christ

By your mighty resurrection, by your glorious ascension, and by your sending of the Holy Spirit: save us, Lord Christ

IV

#### FOR THE CHURCH

Hear us, good Lord: govern and direct your holy Church, fill it with love and truth, and grant it that unity which is your will: **hear us, good Lord.** 

Give your Church courage to preach the gospel and to make disciples of all the nations: hear us, good Lord.

Give knowledge and understanding to bishops, priests, deacons, that by their life and teaching they may proclaim your word: hear us, good Lord.

Give all people grace to receive your word and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit: **hear us, good Lord.** 

Bring all who have erred and are deceived into the way of truth: **hear us, good Lord.** 

#### FOR THE STATE

Bless our country, and give grace, wisdom and understanding to all in authority: hear us, good Lord.

Bless and keep all who maintain peace and safety: hear us, good Lord.

Give to all nations unity, peace and concord: hear us, good Lord.

#### FOR ALL PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THEIR NEEDS

Strengthen the faithful, comfort and help the faint-hearted, raise up those who fall, and drive out all evil: hear us, good Lord.

Support and encourage all who are in poverty, unemployment or distress, protect those whose work is dangerous, and keep in safety all who travel: hear us, good Lord.

Keep fathers, mothers and children united in their family life, and give them wisdom and strength in times of stress: **hear us, good Lord.** 

Heal the sick, care for the old and lonely, and comfort the bereaved: hear us, good Lord.

Remember the poor who long to hear good news. Give us the will to strengthen them through acts of generous love: hear us, good Lord.

Show your pity on victims of strife, on the homeless and the hungry, on prisoners, and on all who live in fear: **hear us, good Lord.** 

Forgive our enemies, persecutors and slanderers, and turn their hearts: hear us, good Lord.

Guide and direct all who influence others through the written or spoken word, and inspire all who serve humanity in science, industry and art: hear us, good Lord.

Bless and keep all your people: hear us, good Lord.

Teach us to use the resources of the earth to your glory, that all may share in your goodness and praise you for your loving kindness: **hear us, good Lord.** 

V

Saviour of the world, forgive our sins, known and unknown, things done, and left undone; grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit that we may amend our lives according to your holy word, and share with all your people the joys of your eternal kingdom.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, give us thy peace.

#### Silence

Make our hearts clean, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.** 

#### THE CROSS OF ASH

## The Dean says:

Once again this year, a Cross of Ashes is made to symbolise the spirit of penitence with which we are called to keep this season of Lent.

A Cross of Ash is made with the traditional words of imposition "Remember that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return."

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality, for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.** 

God our Father, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

## The choir sings:

me.

Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam misericordiam tuam. Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam. Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea: et a peccato meo munda

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco: et peccatum meum contra me est semper.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after Thy great goodness,
According to the multitude of Thy mercies do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is ever before me.

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci: ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis, et vincas cum judicaris.

Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum: et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.
Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti: incerta et occulta sapientiae tuae manifestasti mihi.

Asperges me hysopo, et mundabor: lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.

Audi tui meo dabis gaudium et laetitiam: et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.

Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis: et omnes iniquitates meas dele.

Cor mundum crea in me, Deus: et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.

Ne proiicias me a facie tua: et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.

Redde mihi laetitiam salutaris tui: et spiritu principali confirma me. Docebo iniquos vias tuas: et impii ad te convertentur. Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus,

Deus salutis meae: et exsultabit lingua mea justitiam tuam.

Domine, labia mea aperies: et os meum annuntiabit laudem tuam. Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem utique: holocaustis non delectaberis.

Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus: cor contritum, et humiliatum, Deus, non despicies.

Against Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified in Thy saying, and clear when Thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, Thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness: that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn Thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence: and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of Thy help again: and stablish me with Thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach Thy ways unto the wicked: and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of Thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew (= show) Thy praise.

For Thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it Thee: but Thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt Thou not despise.

Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion: ut aedificentur muri lerusalem. Tunc acceptabis sacrificium justitiae, oblationes, et holocausta: tunc imponent super altare tuum vitulos.

O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build Thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt Thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt-offerings and oblations: then shall they offer young bullocks upon Thine altar.

Words: Psalm 51 Music: Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)

## Please stand for THE PEACE

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.



# **CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**



Please remain standing to sing HYMN 425\*:



Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts; thou fount of life, our lives sustain; from the best bliss that earth imparts we turn unfilled to thee again.

We taste thee, O thou living bread, and long to feast upon thee still; we drink of thee, the fountain-head, and thirst our souls from thee to fill.

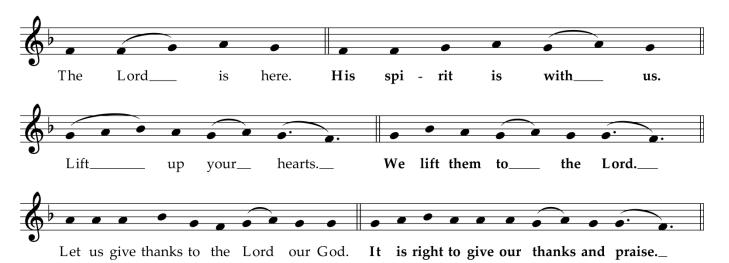
Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast; glad when thy gracious smile we see, blessed when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay; make all our moments calm and bright; chase the dark night of sin away, shed o'er the world thy holy light.

Words: 12<sup>th</sup>-centruy Latin attrib. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153) tr. Ray Palmer (1808-87) Tune ICH 425: MARYTON Henry Percy Smith (1825-98) Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest: make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.** 

#### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us therefore let us celebrate the feast.



Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to overcome all our temptations:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

## The choir sings the **SANCTUS** and **BENEDICTUS**:

Sanctus, Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Lord God of Hosts.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit

In nomine Domini.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Hosanna in the highest.

Setting: Mass for four voices William Byrd (1540-1623)

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please kneel or sit

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for 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.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Please remain seated whilst the choir sings the **AGNUS DEI**:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Setting: Mass for four voices William Byrd (1540-1623)

#### THE COMMUNION

Please observe the guidance of the Church Wardens and follow the directions as printed at the beginning of this order of service

# The choir sings the **ANTHEM:**

Emendemus in melius quae ignoranter peccavimus; ne subito praeoccupati die mortis, quaeramus spatium poenitentiae, et invenire non possimus.
Attende, Domine, et miserere; quia peccavimus tibi.
Adjuva nos, Deus salutaris noster, et propter honorem [gloriam] nominis tui libera nos.

Let us amend the sins that in our ignorance we have committed: lest the day of death come upon us suddenly, and we find no place for repentance, though we seek it. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against thee. Help us, O God of our salvation: for the glory of thy Name deliver us.

Help us, O God of our salvation, and for the honour [glory] of thy name deliver us.

Text: Matins Respond, first Sunday of Lent Music: William Byrd (1540-1623)

#### THE GREAT SILENCE

When all have received communion, the presiding minster, other ministers and people keep silence for reflection



# GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE



### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: Give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

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.

Please stand to sing **HYMN 207\***:



Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day, Chilly dewdrops nightly shed, Prowling beasts about thy way, Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us then endurance share, And awhile from joys abstain, With thee watching unto prayer, Strong with thee to suffer pain.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear, Ever constant by thy side, That with thee we may appear At the eternal Eastertide.

Words: G.H. Smyttan (1822-70) & Francis Pott (1832-1909) based on Mark 1:12-13 Tune NEH 67: HEINLEIN (AUS DER TIEFE) Melody in Nurnbergisches Gesangbuch (1676) attrib. Martin Herbst (1654-81)

## THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

#### THE DISMISSAL

Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart; that so desiring, we may seek and find you; and so finding, may love you; and so loving, may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

The service ends in silence



# Sunday 6th March 2022: The First Sunday in Lent

I I.00am Choral Eucharist
Preacher: The Reverend Janice Elsdon

3.30pm Choral Evensong

## **Lent Contemplative Prayer**

As part of your Lenten preparation, why not join us in the Chapel of Unity on the first 5 Fridays of Lent to explore Contemplative Prayer? Whether or not this is something you are familiar with, it is a great opportunity to experience it for yourself. Sessions will be led by former Dean's Vicar, Canon Raymond Fox, and will consist of some liturgical prayer followed by periods of contemplative prayer. Friday 4, 11, 18, 25 March and 1 April, 10.30-11.30am

The retiring collection this evening will go to The British Red Cross for relief towards the people of Ukraine.