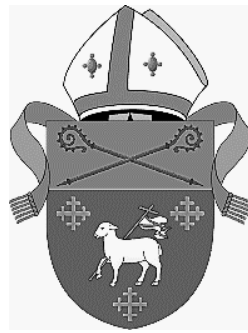




BELFAST
CATHEDRAL

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Connor

Connor Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival Service and Commissioning of the Diocesan President



Theme: Transformation – NOW!

Sunday 20th March 2022

3:30pm

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast. 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. Seating is by alternate rows. Please maintain ½m (1 seat) social distance at all times.

Please place your collection in the collection baskets ON YOUR WAY INTO THE CATHEDRAL. The collection is in support of the Dean's Lent Sit-out for the Ukraine Refugee Crisis.



Organ Prelude: Chorale Prelude on 'Christum wir sollen loben schon' *James Healey Willan (1880–1968)*

*Please stand to sing **HYMN 365**, during which the branch banners are presented and the Dean receives the Diocesan and Cathedral Banners:*



**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him.**

*Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)
Tune NEH 440: LOBE DEN HERREN Melody from Joachim Neander's Alpha and Omega (1680) as set in The
Chorale Book for England (1863)*

*Please sit for the **WELCOME** by the Dean of Belfast*



PRAYER OF PREPARATION



The Venerable Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor and Connor MU Chaplain, prays the
TRANSFORMATION PRAYER:

Loving Lord, transform our lives that we may reflect the glory of Christ. Continue in us the work of your Spirit; the miracle of transformation to reflect the glory of Christ and share his love in the world. **Amen.**

The Connor MU Chaplain introduces the **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Merciful Lord, **forgive us when we shun the security of your eternal promises and build our hope and confidence on the shifting sands of this world. Lord of steadfast security, help us to anchor our lives on you that we may place our confidence in your unfailing word and build hope that endures in those you call us to serve. Amen**

The Connor MU Chaplain, pronounces the **ABSOLUTION:**

May our loving Lord bless us with forgiveness and grace, that we may be renewed in hope and confidence to gladly serve his world. **Amen.**

Please stand for the **OPENING RESPONSES**, *sung by the Dean and Choir:*

Dean: O Lord, open thou our lips.

Choir: And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Dean: O God, make speed to save us.

Choir: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Dean: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.

Choir: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Dean: Praise ye the Lord.

Choir: The Lord's name be praised.

Setting: Thomas Ebdon (1738-1811)

Please sit while the choir sings **PSALM 104 v 24-35:**

O Lord, how manifold are thy works:

in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches.

So is the great and wide sea also:

wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan:

whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.

These wait all upon thee:

that thou mayest give them meat in due season.

When thou givest it them they gather it:
and when thou openest thy hand they are filled with good.
When thou hidest thy face they are troubled:
when thou takest away their breath they die, and are turned again to their
dust.
When thou lettest thy breath go forth they shall be made:
and thou shalt renew the face of the earth.
The glorious Majesty of the Lord shall endure for ever:
the Lord shall rejoice in his works.
The earth shall tremble at the look of him:
if he do but touch the hills, they shall smoke.
I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live:
I will praise my God while I have my being.
And so shall my words please him:
my joy shall be in the Lord.
As for sinners, they shall be consumed out of the earth, and the ungodly shall
come to an end:
praise thou the Lord, O my soul, praise the Lord.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA**:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

Chant: Sir Walter Parratt (1841-1924)



PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD



*Please sit for the **FIRST READING**: Genesis 28:10-19a read by Alison Skillen (Vice-President, Action and Outreach Unit)*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, 'I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!'

And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

*Please remain seated whilst the choir sings the **MAGNIFICAT**:*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the might from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Please stand for the **GLORIA**:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Setting: Wessex Service, Gary Davison (b. 1961)

*Please sit for the **SECOND READING**: John 1:43-51 read by Wendy Halligan (Younger Members Contact)*

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?'

Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!' Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

Please remain seated whilst the choir sings the **NUNC DIMITTIS:**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Please stand for the **GLORIA:**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

Setting: Wessex Service, Gary Davison (b. 1961)

Standing, we face east to recite the **APOSTLES' CREED:**

I believe in God **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Dean: The Lord be with you.

Choir: And with thy spirit.

Dean: Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit.

Dean: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Dean: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Choir:

Our Father, who art in heaven: hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Dean: O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Choir: And grant us thy salvation.

Dean: O Lord, save the Queen.

Choir: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Dean: Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

Choir: And make thy chosen people joyful.

Dean: O Lord, save thy people.

Choir: And bless thine inheritance.

Dean: Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Choir: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

Dean: O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Choir: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*The Dean intones the **COLLECT OF THE DAY:***

We beseech thee, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon thy people; that by thy great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore, both in body and soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The choir responds: Amen.

*The Dean intones the **LENT COLLECT:***

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The choir responds: Amen.

*The Dean intones the **COLLECT FOR PEACE:***

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The choir responds: Amen.

The Dean intones the **COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The choir responds: Amen.

Please remain seated while the choir sings the **ANTHEM:**

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.

Words: Psalm 51 v 9-11

Music: Sir Thomas Attwood (1765-1838)



COMMISSIONING OF THE DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



The Venerable Stephen McBride, Archdeacon of Connor and Connor MU Chaplain, says:

We have come together here to worship God and to commission the President for the Mothers' Union in this diocese of Connor, this is a joyful and important occasion. This office carries great responsibility. Mothers' Union is a worldwide organisation whose members seek to express the Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide through the promotion of stable marriage, family life and the protection of children.

Mrs Sally Cotter moves to the chancel steps

Archdeacon addresses Sally:

Do you accept the office of Diocesan President in the Mothers' Union?

Sally:

I do, the Lord being my helper.

Archdeacon:

Will you serve God in this way, in the firm belief that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide and direct all who call upon Him?

Sally:

I will, putting my trust in him.

Archdeacon:

Sally, I admit you to the office of Diocesan President in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Diocesan MU Chaplain addresses the congregation:

Members of Connor Diocese will you remember Sally in your prayers and give her your support and encouragement?

Congregation: **We will.**

Archdeacon:

I call on you now to pray that God will bless his servants and provide such gifts and powers as may be needed for the work ahead:

O God, we ask that you will bless this, your servant Sally, with a sense of your presence, and knowledge of your constant love. Give wisdom and understanding, your guidance and the humility to accept these gifts. And grant all members the grace to support and uphold all who work in your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing **HYMN 3***:



**God is love: let heaven adore him;
God is love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heavens above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is love, eternal love.**

**God is love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts and clouds the will,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds us fast and guides us still.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939)
Tune NEH 185: ABBOT'S LEIGH Cyril V. Taylor (1907-91)



MOTHERS' UNION AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



Read by Mrs Sally Cotter, Connor Diocesan President:

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity of 4 million members living in 84 countries who share one heartfelt vision: to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. Members actively pursue this vision through community programmes, advocacy campaigns and a committed prayer life.

Our aim and purpose is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide through promoting stable marriage, nurturing family life and the protection of children.

We do this by working towards five objectives:

1. Promoting and supporting marriage.
2. Encouraging parents in their role to develop the faith of their children.
3. Maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. Promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. Helping those whose family life has met with adversity.



INTERCESSIONS



*Please kneel or sit for the **PRAYERS**, led by Evelyn Lewis (Vice-President, Faith and Policy Unit) and Hilary Boddy (Prayer Contact):*

We pray for our Patron Queen Elizabeth in this her historic Platinum Jubilee Year, the 70th of her reign, and we acknowledge her devotion to duty and service. We thank you for the leadership of Sheran, Worldwide President and the staff at Mary Sumner House. We pray for June, All-Ireland President, Canon Robert Deane, All-Ireland Chaplain, Sally, our Diocesan President, Trustees, Executive and branch members, indoor members and all in leadership roles.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Bishop George, for Nadine his wife and family, for Archdeacon Stephen, Diocesan Chaplain; for Dean Stephen and the staff at Belfast Cathedral. We thank God for the ministry of our clergy during Covid, for the technology which has enabled us to share in fellowship. We remember all disadvantaged by Covid. We thank you for the gift of science, for vaccines and for the work of all in the N.H.S., frontline services and all who have shared their time, talents and skills for the well-being of others. We remember families who have lost loved ones, for all who are crying and those who have no tears left. May they be comforted by your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for families in Ukraine and Russia during the turmoil of war and for the safety of refugees. May governments make informed decisions and right choices as they endeavour to bring an end to this brutal war. May broken hearts be restored to wholeness, fearful lives restored to peaceful rest. May compassion fatigue be restored to hopeful perseverance, and may countries with flooded and contaminated land be restored to fertile ground.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for members in situations where it seems impossible to share your love with others. Help us to be a witness through our lives and actions that others may be drawn closer to you as we work through our projects to transform lives and communities across the world. Give us courage to stand up to violence and injustice, to play our part in eliminating poverty. Unite us to share our strength and skills with your Spirit leading us to shape a better world. In our MU Wave of Prayer, we pray for Antsiranana in Madagascar; Busoga in Uganda; Yola & Oke-Ogun in Nigeria; Algoma in Canada and Jabalpur in India and our link Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory and for Lesley Bailey Diocesan President. We remember Bishop Michael as he translates to Limerick, Killaloe & Tuam to oversee this united diocese.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER:

Loving Lord, **we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

CLOSING COLLECT

God of sure and steadfast hope, we look forward with confidence, trusting in your loving guidance as we continue to walk in step with you. Amen.

*Please stand to sing **HYMN 639***, during which the collection will be offered for the Dean's Black Santa Lent Sit Out for the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis. (If you missed the collection plates on the way in to the cathedral, please make your donation on the way out):*



O Thou who camest from above,
the pure celestial fire to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and think, and speak for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up thy gift in me.

Still let me prove thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat,
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)
Tune NEH 431: HEREFORD S.S. Wesley (1810-76)

Please sit for **THE SERMON** by the Reverend Canon Robert Deane, All Ireland Mothers' Union Chaplain

Please stand to sing **HYMN 103**, during which the Diocesan and Cathedral Banners will be returned:



**○ Christ the same, through all our story's pages,
our loves and hopes, our failures and our fears;
eternal Lord, the King of all the ages,
unchanging still, amid the passing years—**

**○ living Word, the source of all creation,
who spread the skies, and set the stars ablaze,**

**○ Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation,
we bring our thanks to you for all our yesterdays.**

**○ Christ the same, the friend of sinners sharing
our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide,
still as of old upon your body bearing
the marks of love, in triumph glorified—**

**○ Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven,
○ Prince of life, in all your saving power,**

**○ Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given,
we bring our thanks to you for this the present hour.**



○ Christ the same, secure within whose keeping
our lives and loves, our days and years remain,
our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping,
our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain—
○ Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,
○ Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows,
we bring our thanks to you for all that is to be.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)

Tune NEH 258: LONDONDERRY AIR Irish traditional melody from Limavady, Co. Londonderry

Please remain standing

*The Bishop of Connor pronounces the **BLESSING:***

Whatever today may hold, whatever tomorrow might bring, the future is secure, for Christ is with us, the same yesterday, today and forever. Live each moment with him in quiet confidence and joyful celebration, for he is ours and we are his for all eternity: and the blessing of God Almighty; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always.

*All respond: **Amen.***

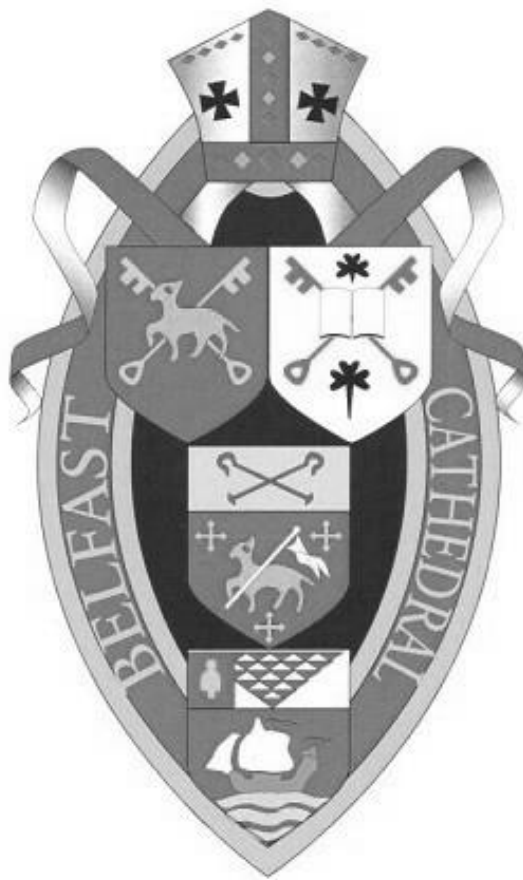
The Dean:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy depart, followed by the **PROCESSION OF
BRANCH BANNERS***

Organ Postlude: Prelude Gerald Finzi (1901-56)



*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
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NOTICES



Sunday 27th March 2022: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

11.00am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Melanie Sloan, Student Reader CITI

3.30pm Choral Evensong

Lent Contemplative Prayer

As part of your Lenten preparation, why not join us in the Chapel of Unity on 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 25 March and 1 April, 10.30-11.30am.

Lent Black Santa Appeal

On the Wednesdays of Lent the Dean will be donning the Black Santa mantle and standing at the cathedral steps between noon and 3.00pm in aid of the situation in Ukraine. Please consider contributing to this as part of your Lenten preparation. So far over £25,000 has been raised in the first two weeks of Lent.

Belfast Cathedral Choir Concert:

**The Passion according to St Matthew by Philip Wilby
in the presence of the composer**

Palm Sunday, 10 April 2022, 5.00pm

Details at www.belfastcathedral.org

Tickets £10 (under 16s free)

The newly released CDs of this work will be available for sale after the performance

Tickets may be purchased via this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/belfast-cathedral-43076508483> or at the door

Free Will Offering contributions to support the ongoing work and life of
Belfast Cathedral can be made via online banking at:

Account Name: "Parochial No 1 Current Account"

Sort Code: 90-21-27

Account Number: 10006051