



## SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023**  
**11.00am**

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

*Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St Anne, Belfast*

*We welcome especially the families and friends of  
**Jack McCormick** and **Daniel Perkes**,  
who will be confirmed during this service*

*Please follow the instructions from the Churchwardens*



# **INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

Baptised members of all 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.

Holy Communion will be as before the Pandemic, with communion distributed at the cathedral communion rail using the common cup. Communion may be received in one kind (wafer bread only) for those who consider themselves vulnerable.

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.

## **Post-service Refreshments**

This Sunday, coffee and tea is served this Sunday at the WEST END OF THE CATHEDRAL. Please do join us for refreshments. We thank those who each week prepare these for us. Additional helpers always welcome.

PLEASE DO NOT CONGREGATE AROUND THE SERVING TABLES.

*Please do not make video recordings or take photographs during the service*

***Toy Bags are now available for our youngest cathedral attenders. Please collect from the cathedral wardens on your way to your seat. Please return after the end of the Service. Should you wish, you are welcome to take small children to the Chapel of Unity as a quiet place and use the carpeted area to the front (enter by the glass doors to the right of the organ console).***



## THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE



*Organ voluntary:*

*Trumpet Tune Andrew Carter (b.1939)*

*Please stand to sing* **HYMN 634:**



Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown;  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art,  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.



**Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) based of Malachi 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17  
Tune NEH 408 (i): BLAENWERN William P. Rowlands (1860-1937)*

## **WELCOME**

### **THE GREETING**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters, we meet today to support and to pray for those who have been baptised and instructed in the Christian faith and who now intend, in the presence of God and of this congregation, to make the promises of their baptism their own.

At the heart of this Confirmation service are two distinct, yet related, acts of confirming.

First the candidates will profess their faith in Christ, confirming their desire to serve God throughout their lives, to turn to Christ and to renounce all evil. Then, as bishop, I will lay my hand on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them as they strive, each day of their lives, to live up to the solemn commitment they will make today.

It is our privilege and joy as the people of God to hear the candidates' response to God's call and to renew our own baptismal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be our responsibility to encourage the newly confirmed in their discipleship, so that the Christian family may be built up, recognizing the diverse gifts of all its members.

On this their Confirmation day, let us pray in silence for Jack and Daniel so that, increasing in the Holy Spirit more and more, they may experience God's wisdom and love for ever.

## **PENITENCE**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace:

*Please kneel or sit in silence*

Lord God, you created the world, and made us in your own image.

Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death.

Rescue us from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

*Please stand to say* **THE GLORIA:**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**  
**Lord God, heavenly King,**  
**almighty God and Father,**  
**we worship you, we give you thanks,**  
**we praise you for your glory.**  
**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,**  
**Lord God, Lamb of God,**  
**you take away the sin of the world:**  
**have mercy on us;**  
**you are seated at the right hand of the Father,**  
**receive our prayer.**  
**For you alone are the Holy One,**  
**you alone are the Lord,**  
**you alone are the Most High,**  
**Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**  
**in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. **Amen.**

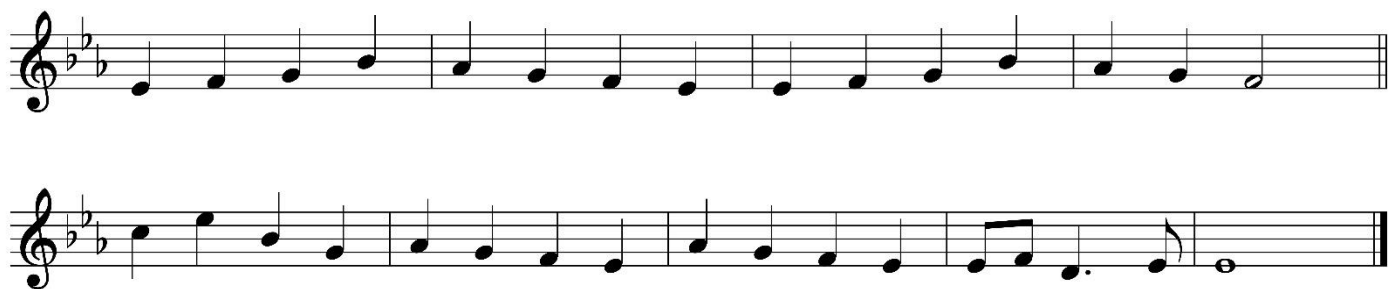
*Please sit for* **THE EPISTLE: Romans 6: 12-23**

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

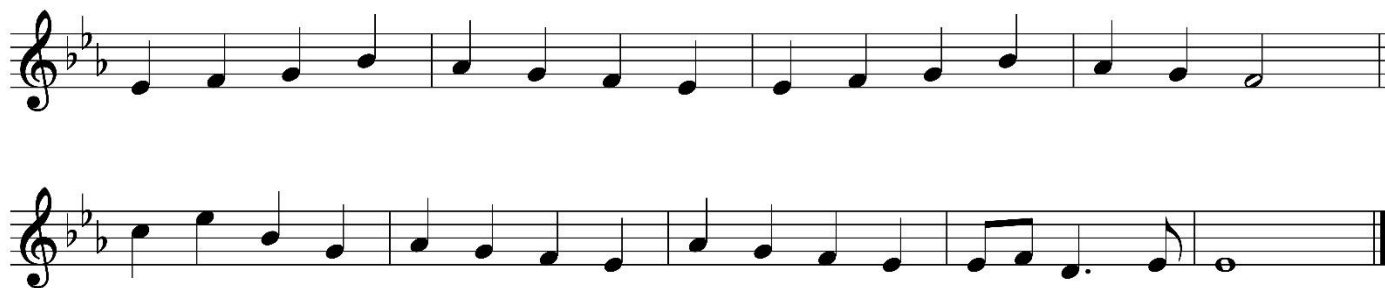
This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to sing* **HYMN 517:**



**Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you.  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.**



**I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
'til we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Won't you let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace  
to let you be my servant, too.**

*Words: Richard Gillard (b.1953)  
Tune ICH 517: SERVANT SONG Richard Gillard (b.1953) arr. Betty Pulkingham (1928-2019)*

*Please remain standing and turn towards the Gospel reader:*

**THE GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 10:40-42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous;

and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Please sit for **THE SERMON** by the Right Revd. George Davison, Bishop of Connor*

## **THE PRESENTATION**

*The bishop asks the congregation*

Who presents these persons for confirmation?

**We do.**

*The bishop asks the candidates*

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

**I am.**

*The bishop asks the clergy who have been responsible for pastoral care of the candidates*

Have these persons been carefully prepared in their understanding of the Christian faith?

**I believe they have.**

## **The Decision**

*The bishop says to the candidates*

In baptism, God calls us from darkness to his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

**I come to Christ.**

*The bishop says to the congregation*

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

*The congregation answers*

**We will support them.**

## **The Profession of Faith**

*The bishop asks the candidates*

Do you .... believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are baptised?

**I do.**

*The bishop addresses the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with *Jack and Daniel* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

*The bishop says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**now, and for ever. Amen.**

*Silence*

*The bishop prays the confirmation prayer*

Almighty and everliving God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was crucified and rose again  
to break the power of sin and death:  
We give you thanks and praise for the gift of your Holy Spirit  
by whom your servants have been born again  
and made your children.  
Grant that in the power of the same Holy Spirit  
they may continue to grow  
in the knowledge and likeness of Christ;  
increase in them your gracious gifts,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of right judgment and inward strength,  
the spirit of knowledge and godly living;  
and fill them, O Lord, with the spirit of reverence for you.

*Those who are to be confirmed stand before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying*

Confirm ..., O Lord, with your heavenly grace,  
that he may continue to be yours for ever,  
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
until he comes to your eternal kingdom.

*And each of them answers*

**Amen.**

Heavenly Father,  
we pray for your servants  
upon whom we have now laid our hands,  
after the example of the apostles,  
to assure them by this sign  
of your favour towards them.  
May your fatherly hand ever be over them.  
Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them.  
Lead them to know and obey your word,  
and keep them in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Commission**

*The bishop may use this commission:*

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.  
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example  
the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,  
loving your neighbour as yourself?

**With the help of God, I will.**

*Please stand*

## **THE PEACE**

God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us  
and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

*The bishop says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

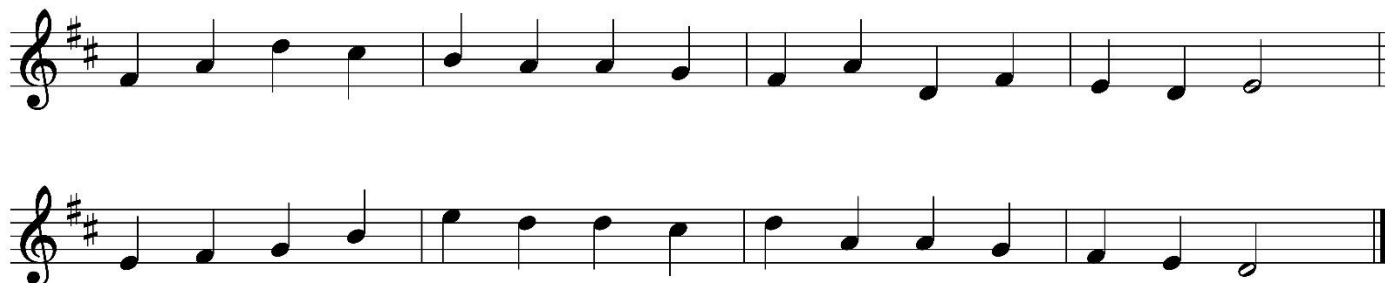
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



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



*Please remain standing for the* **OFFERTORY HYMN 299:**



**Holy Spirit, come, confirm us  
in the truth that Christ makes known;  
we have faith and understanding  
through your helping gifts alone.**

**Holy Spirit, come, console us,  
come as advocate to plead,  
loving Spirit from the Father,  
grant in Christ the help we need.**



**Holy Spirit, come, renew us,  
come yourself to make us live,  
holy through your loving presence,  
holy through the gifts you give.**

**Holy Spirit, come, possess us,  
you the love of Three in One,  
Holy Spirit of the Father,  
Holy Spirit of the Son.**

*Words: Brian Foley (1919-2000) based on John 14:25-27; 16:12-15  
Tune NEH 140, 272: ALL FOR JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from The Crucifixion*

*Please remain standing*

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.**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

Because by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord: raised us to new life in him and renewed in us the image of your glory.

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 *singing*:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

*Tune ICH 714: SANCTUS Franz Schubert (1797-1826),  
from Deutsche Messe (1826)*

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.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the**  
**glory, for ever and 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.**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.  
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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

## 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 GREAT SILENCE

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of mercy, by whose grace alone we are accepted and equipped for your service: stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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.**



**GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE**



*Please stand for the* **HYMN 303:**



**Lord of the Church, we pray for our renewing:**

**Christ over all, our undivided aim.**

**Fire of the Spirit, burn for our enduing,**

**wind of the Spirit, fan the living flame!**

**We turn to Christ amid our fear and failing,**

**the will that lacks the courage to be free,**

**the weary labours, all but unavailing,**

**to bring us nearer what a church should be.**

**Lord of the Church, we seek a Father's blessing,**

**a true repentance and a faith restored,**

**a swift obedience and a new possessing,**

**filled with the Holy Spirit of the Lord!**

**We turn to Christ from all our restless striving,**

**unnumbered voices with a single prayer -**

**the living water for our souls' reviving;**

**in Christ to live, and love and serve and care.**

**Lord of the Church, we long for our uniting,**

**true to one calling, by one vision stirred;**

**one cross proclaiming, and one creed reciting,**

**one in the truth of Jesus and his word!**

**So lead us on; till toil and trouble ended,**

**one Church triumphant one new song shall sing,**

**to praise his glory, risen and ascended,**

**Christ over all, the everlasting king!**

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926)*

*Tune NEH 258: LONDONDERRY AIR Irish traditional melody harm. John Barnard (b.1948)*

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Organ voluntary:*

VI. Final (Symphony No. 1) *Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

*Please remain quiet while the Readers and clergy depart*



## NOTICES



In case of pastoral emergency this week ring  
Rev. Janice Elsdon 0797 705 8669

Kneelers are available for you as you enter the Cathedral

## THIS AFTERNOON

3.30pm Evening Prayer

### Lunchtimes at Belfast Cathedral

1.00-1.15pm **Tuesday** and **Thursday**: lunchtime prayers

1.00-1.45pm **Wednesday**: Holy Communion in the Chapel of Unity

1.00-1.45 pm **Friday**: Service of Healing in the Cathedral Hall

## SUNDAY 9TH JULY

11.00am Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Evening Prayer

You can make your Free Will Offering contribution in support of the ongoing work and life of Belfast Cathedral by giving via online banking to:  
Account Name: "Parochial No 1 Current Account"  
Sort Code: 90-21-27 Account Number: 10006051

***Have you considered giving to our cathedral by Standing Order?  
Please set up a standing order using the account details above.***

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