

The Christian Community

Movement for Religious Renewal

Hollywood Congregation

Rev Ben van Lieshout
3 Stewarts Place
Holywood, Co Down
BT18 9DX
90424254
07974960570
benvl@onetel.com

Newsletter for the week of Sunday 28th February.

Dear friends,

Stormont is taking a very cautious approach to the pandemic and last week our government decided to extend the current lockdown until Wednesday 1 April which is Maundy Thursday.

That means that for the next 6 weeks the rules for us as a congregation remain the same as they have been since Christmas.

We will still be allowed to leave our homes to go to a place of worship.

And we can continue to have services as long as we keep to the regulations re distancing, hand hygiene and masks.

But we won't as yet be able to have any other activities going on at Stewarts Place so no study groups and sadly also no children's service either.

Many of us have now had our first dose of the vaccine and the rates of covid infections are falling all the time so we can begin to feel more confident that better times are ahead.

I hope that those of you who have stayed away over these past couple of months will soon feel able to join us again.

Of all the Camphill communities it is at the moment only Mourne Grange where we can celebrate a fortnightly service in Dawn Hall.

I don't know when the other communities will again begin to have services.

That is why I won't be making a program for Passiontide and Easter this year but I will update our program week by week and publish it in this newsletter.

But I will include the list of gospel readings for the coming months in today's newsletter.

Ben van Lieshout

Hollywood

For Sunday services, please ring (02890424254), text (07974960570) or email (benvl@onetel.com) to book a place as we can only seat 11-13 people.

Thursday 25 th February	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00
Sunday 28th February	The Act of Consecration of Man Followed by the next of a series of short talks on The Act of Consecration of Man as a path; " The Transsubstantiation (2)"	10.00
Thursday 4 th March	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00

Gospel readings for Passiontide –St Johns tide

Passiontide

Sunday, March 7 ... Luke 11:14-36
Sunday, March 14 ... John 6:1-15
Sunday, March 21 ... John 8:1-12

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28 ... Matthew 21:1-11
Thursday, April 1 ... Luke 23:13-32

Friday, April 2 ... John 19:1-15
Saturday, April 3 ... John 19:16-42

Easter

Sunday, April 4 ... Mark 16:1-8
Sunday, April 11 ... John 20:19-31
Sunday, April 18 ... John 10:1-16
Sunday, April 25 ... John 15:1-27
Sunday, May 2 ... John 16:1-33
Sunday, May 9 ... John 14:1-31

Ascension

Thursday, May 13 ... John 16:24-33
Sunday, May 16 ... John 16:24-33

Whitsun

Sunday, May 23 ... John 14:23-31
Wednesday, May
26 ... Romans 8:18-27
Sunday, May 30 ... Romans 8:18-27
Matthew 28:16-
Sunday, June 6 ... 20
Sunday, June 13 ... John 1:43-51
Sunday, June 20 ... Matthew 14:1-12

The gospel reading for this week is Matthew 17: 1-13



Transfiguration, Lewis Bowman



Photo by Mike Fisk, Sunrise over Lake Michigan

After six days, Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James and led them together up a high mountain apart from the others.

There his appearance was transformed before them. His face shone bright as the sun, and his garments became white, shining bright as the light. And behold, there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, conversing in the spirit with Jesus.

And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be in this place. If you wish, I will build here three shelters, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them and suddenly they heard a voice from the cloud that said, "This is my son, whom I love. In him, I am revealed. Hear him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces to the ground in awe and terror.

And Jesus approached them, and touching them said, "Rise, and do not fear."

And raising their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them: "Tell no one what you have seen until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

And the disciples asked him, "What is meant when the scribes say, 'First Elijah must come again'?"

He answered, "Elijah comes indeed, and prepares everything. But I say to you, Elijah has already come, and the people did not recognize him, but rather have done to him whatever they pleased. In the same way the Son of Man will suffer much at their hands."

Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

A homily on Matthew 17: 1-13



This gospel reading shows us the moment when the spirit of Christ, the glorious radiance of God's love, fully penetrates the body and soul of Jesus. He shines like the sun. He has reached the stage of enlightenment. Had he been a Buddha, this moment of fulfilled enlightenment would have meant that he no longer had any need to remain in the body. He could have ascended to heaven. Instead, he chooses the path of descent. He steps back onto the earth. He touches his disciples. He comes down from the mountain with them and consciously walks his way toward his coming torture, his sacrificial death, his descent into hell. He does so with confidence and trust. For the setting of his sun would be followed by another greater sunrise. Christ Jesus is the archetype of our being fully human. We can pattern our responses after him. After every high point, we can consciously bring ourselves back to earth. We can accept our sufferings with willingness. We can face our own demise with confidence. For as the poet Tagore said, Death is not the extinguishing of the light, but the putting out of the lamp, because Dawn has come.