

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 22nd August.

Dear friends,

On Monday night we came back from our holiday in Scotland and on our return discovered that our landline has been out of order for most of the time that we were away.

So if you need to get in touch over the next few days, please use my mobile number. Our services in Holywood will begin again this Sunday and the only restriction we have to abide by is the rule for social distancing in indoor spaces which has been reduced to 1 m.

So I did some measuring in our chapel in Holywood and with keeping 1 m distance we can seat everyone who wants to come.

So you will no longer need to announce yourself to book a place for the Sunday service or the talk, you can just turn up.

And we can share out communion in the way we have been doing on Wednesdays. I will continue to write down the names of those attending for possible contact tracing.

But the virus hasn't gone away so, if you have any symptoms that could be covid, then please stay away, it is now up to our individual responsibility to live with this virus.

Ben van Lieshout

Hollywood

Sunday 22 nd August	The Act of Consecration of Man Talk and conversation about The Act of Consecration; "Communion (1)"	10.00 11.15
Wednesday 25 th August	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00

Glencraig

Thursday 26 th August	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30
----------------------------------	--------------------------------	------

The gospel for the week of Sunday 22 August is Luke 18, 35-43

It happened as he approached Jericho: a certain blind man was sitting by the road begging.

Hearing the crowd going by, he wanted to know what was happening, and they told him Jesus of Nazareth was passing by.

He cried out in a loud voice: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Those leading the way threatened him and wanted him to be quiet.

But he cried all the louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and had him led to him.

And Jesus said to him, "What do you want that I should do for you?"

He said to him, "Lord, that I may look up and see again."

And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight.

Through your faith and your trust, the power for healing has been awakened in you."

In that moment his eyes were opened.

He followed Him and thus revealed the working of the divine within the human being-- and all who saw it praised God.



A homily on Luke 18: 35-43

Light itself is invisible. Light only reveals itself in its working with darkness. Permeating darkness, light creates colour.

Colour is a manifestation of the creative work, the deeds of light.



The blind man in today's reading wants to look up and see again.

He asks the one who calls himself the Light of the World to be merciful to him, to interact with his darkness, so that together they may create.

We can imagine that already the man's courage to ask, to refuse to be shushed, has an inner colour we could picture as a strong red.

He has the clear green hope of healing. Christ verifies that a deep level of trust lives in him, which we can see as a deep blue.

Indeed, the Light of the World is already working in him.

Christ's proximity already works to create the inner colours that light up in the soul's darkness.

Though we may be blind to him, Christ is always near.

We hear his words whenever we hear the gospels, whenever we listen to the inspirations of conscience.

The light of his presence works with us to create the inner colours of the soul – the blue of trust, the red of courage, the green of hope.

For the light shines in the darkness, and although we may not grasp it, we can receive it, bear it, gestate it, so that the soul gives birth to the Light's colours.

We can invite God to enter us, to work in us.

In the words of John O'Donohue:

... when we come to search for God,

Let us first be robed in night,

Put on the mind of morning

To feel the rush of light

Spread slowly inside

The colour and stillness

Of a found word.

John O'Donohue, "For Light", in *To Bless the Space Between Us*.