

# 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](mailto:benvl@onetel.com)

## Newsletter for the week of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September.

Tonight, 14 September, we will have another gospel study session in Hollywood.

This will happen on eight Tuesday evenings at 20.00 between now and Advent.

Everyone is welcome, we will turn to the gospel reading of that particular week and you don't have to commit to the whole series, you can join whatever sessions you can.

And on Sunday we will celebrate The Act of Consecration of Man, followed by an illustrated talk on the life and work of Vincent van Goch.

For all our activities in Hollywood the only restriction we now have to abide by is the rule for social distancing in indoor spaces which has been reduced to 1 m.

I did some measuring in our chapel in Hollywood 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 services, talks, or any other events, you can just turn up.

And there will be communion also on Sundays in the way we have been sharing it during the Wednesday service.

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, or have been in close contact with someone who has, please stay away, it is now up to our individual responsibility to live with this virus.

Ben van Lieshout

### Hollywood

Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Gospel Study: (Luke 17, 5-24)	20.00
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September</b>	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00
	"From the darkness to the light", an illustrated talk about the life and work of Vincent van Gogh	11.15
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	Gospel Study: (Matthew 6, 19-34)	20.00
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00

### Glencraig

Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30

## Mourne Grange

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September

"From the darkness to the light",  
an illustrated talk about the life and work  
of Vincent van Gogh

16.00

### **The gospel for Sunday 19 September is Matthew 6; 19-23**

"Do not save up your treasures on the earth, where moths and rust eat away at them and thieves tunnel in and steal. Save up your treasures in heaven, where no moth and no rust consumes and thieves do not tunnel in and steal. Because where you have gathered a treasure, there your heart will bear you.

"The lamp of the body is the eye. So if your eye is wholesome, your whole body is lighted; whereas if your eye is bad, your whole body is in darkness. So if the light inside you is dark...what great darkness! No one can serve two masters: either he will hate one and love the other, or he will put up with one and despise the other. You cannot serve God *and* greed's demon of riches.

"That is why I tell you, do not trouble your heart about what you will eat and drink or with what you will clothe your body. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky: they do not plant, do not harvest, and do not fill barns, and your heavenly Father still feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Can any of you, by being vastly concerned, add one moment to the span of your life?"



And why do you worry about clothing? Study how the lilies of the field grow: they do not work, and they do not spin cloth. But I am telling you that not even Solomon in all his glory was ever arrayed as one of these. If that is how God clothes the wild grass of the field, here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will He not do much more for you, o small in faith?"

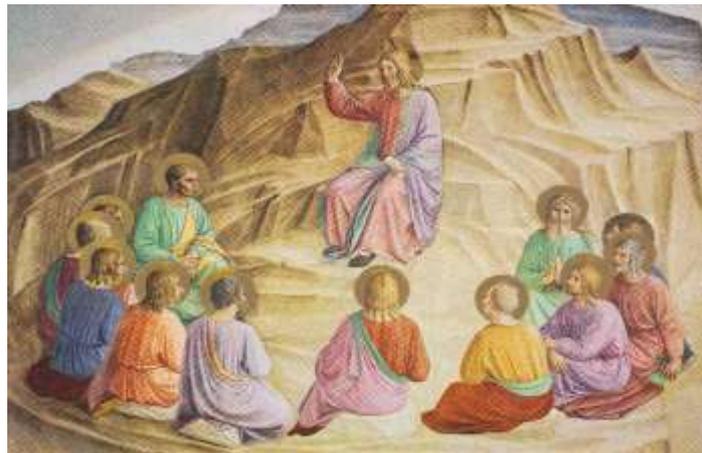
"So do not worry, saying, 'What will we drink? What will we wear?' It is the nations who ask for all these things, and indeed, your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Ask first for God's kingdom and its harmonious order, and these other things will be delivered to you as well.

So do not worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow can worry about itself. Today's trouble is enough for today."

## A homily on Matthew 6; 19-34

We know, at least intellectually, that we cannot take our physical possessions with us across the threshold of death. There are sayings like 'There are no pockets in a shroud!'

But even if we could somehow bring them with us, they would eventually disintegrate because they belong to the world of the transitory.



*The sermon on the mount*

We are encouraged to store up heart-treasures, treasures that we can take with us through death.

One such heart treasure is reverence and wonder toward God, toward our fellow human beings and toward the living being of nature.

The health and vitality of our soul, indeed of our whole organism, depends on the manner in which we look at the world.

If we look at the world through eyes open in wonder, filled with awe, then seeing through such eyes generates light, both inwardly and outwardly.

Through wonder and awe, we gain the light of knowledge and the light of wisdom. Our eyes will shine.

Lacking reverence before God, man and nature, our souls begin to darken. Even our bodily organism becomes darker and harder, less translucent.

Awe and wonder enlightens us and makes us truly rich.