

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> September.

Dear friends,

As we are going toward Michaelmas I have prepared a program for the next two months, up to the first of Advent.

I am sending it to you digitally with this newsletter together with an updated contact list.

If you would like to have a printed copy of these you can pick one up when you come to the service in Holywood next or you can let me know and I will put them in the post for you.

From Advent we will go back to the way we used to do it before covid, I will prepare a program three times a year and send it out by post and the regular digital newsletters will stop.

Here in Holywood we still have to take some precautions to stop the spread of covid; hand hygiene and the rule for social distancing in indoor spaces which has been reduced to 1 m.

That means that we can seat everyone who wants to come.

So you no longer need to announce yourself to book a place for services, talks, or any other events, you can just turn up.

And communion will be offered at every service for those who want it.

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.

In the Camphill communities stricter rules still apply and services there are not as yet open to people who don't live or work there.

Ben van Lieshout

### Hollywood

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
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Gospel Study: (Luke 7, 11-17)	20.00
<i>Michaelmas</i> Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	10.00
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	First confirmation lesson for Lucia Goede de Villeneuve and Jed Williams	16.30

### Glencraig

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

### *Michaelmas*

Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	The Act of Consecration of Man	9.30
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------	------

## Mourne Grange

Saturday 25 September

The Act of Consecration of Man

10.15

## Clanabogan

Sunday 26 September

The Act of Consecration of Man

10.30

## *Michaelmas*

Saturday 2 October

The Act of Consecration of Man

10.30

From the darkness to the light,

an illustrated talk on the life and work of Vincent van Gogh 16.00

### **The gospel for Sunday 26 September is Luke 7, 11-17**

And it came to pass that on the next day Jesus went into a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. And as he drew near to the gate of the city, they became aware that a dead man was being carried out—the only born son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd of people from the city accompanied her. And seeing her Lord felt her suffering, and said to her, “Weep no more.” And approaching, he touched the coffin, and pallbearers stood still. He said, “Young men, I say to you, arise!”



The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Astonishment and awe seized all who were standing there, and they began to praise God and to glorify what was here revealed, saying, “A prophet powerful in spirit has been raised among us, and God has come down to us, his people.”

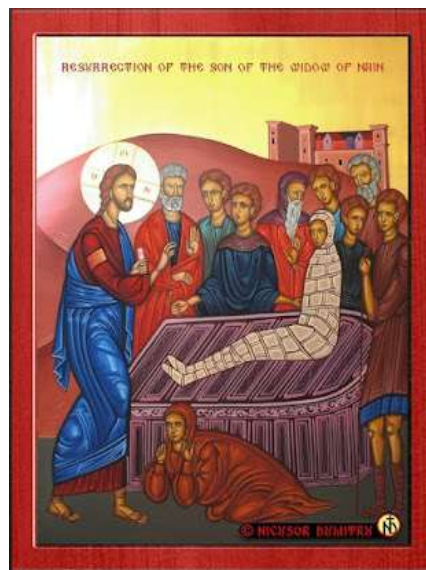
Word about him spread out into all of Judea and all of the neighbouring regions.

## A homily on Luke 7, 11-17

When someone close to us dies, we grieve. Part of the difficulty we have is that, for our perception, the loved one seems swallowed up by an abyss. Darkness engulfs us, separates us from them. They are lost to us, and we weep for what is now missing in our own lives – their words, their touch, their love.

Christ approaches the grieving widow, now a grieving mother. He speaks to her kindly, tenderly. Like an approaching dawn, he comforts her – weep no more.

And then, like the glory of the sun rising above the horizon, he says to the dead one, 'Arise!' The darkness of separation is flooded with light and with life. Loves are reunited.



In our own lives, we too grieve our losses, be they loved ones, lost possessions, or unfulfilled dreams. These are the moment when Christ approaches. He bids us weep no more. He shows us that no matter how great the loss, no matter how deep the hopelessness, there is always a future, a new day.

It may take time for the sun to rise, but, in the words of John O'Donohue:

## For Lost Friends

As twilight makes a rainbow robe  
From the concealed colours of day

In order for time to stay alive  
Within the dark weight of night,  
May we lose no one we love  
From the shelter of our hearts.

When we love another heart  
...We journey deep below time  
Into that eternal weave  
Where nothing unravels.

May we have the grace to see  
...That whoever we have loved,  
Such love can never quench.

Though a door may have closed,  
Closed between us,  
May we be able to view  
Our lost friends with eyes  
Wise with calming grace;

....

Bring warmth again to  
Where the heart has frozen  
In order that beyond the walls  
...We may be able to  
Celebrate the gifts they brought,  
Learn and grow from the pain,  
...Where spirit can summon  
Beauty from wounded space.\*

