

FROM YOUR FRIEND AND RECTOR

As the Covid-19 restrictions begin to ease, I trust that you are well.

1: On Trinity Sunday, 7th June there is an online Diocesan service involving all Parishes in the Diocese. There will be a link from naasunion.com but you will also be able to view it on the Diocesan Website, meathandkildare.org from early Sunday morning.

2: **THE CHRISTIAN AID TABLE QUIZ AND FUNDRAISER** is still running. Lisa has changed the format for tablet and mobile devices to make navigation easier, so please check in at naasunion.com and try the quiz. It will be extended until the 13th June, just to make sure everyone has a chance to play and donate to Christian Aid.

3: KEEPING IN CONTACT.

Thank you for all the positive comments in relation to the online services. I'm doing my best to keep in contact with people via phone, email and online media, and pray for you daily. There is a prayer request form at naasunion.com and please don't hesitate to contact me regarding any pastoral concerns, as it is inevitable that I can't get in contact with everyone. I'd be delighted to hear from you.

Regarding the wider social contact of the Parish, there are two online get-togethers a week. We have half hour Zoom meetings every Wednesday at 1.00pm and on Sundays at 12.00pm

You are very welcome to pop in and out of the meetings, even if just to say "Hi" for a few minutes.

4: RE-OPENING OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

As per the Government announcements on 5th June,



churches may be re-opened for Sunday worship on the 5th July. An extensive set of guidelines has been drawn up by the RCB and House of Bishops, and envisages a progressive re-opening based on the Government's two documents – the **Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business and the Return to Work Safely Protocol**. There are quite a few factors to consider and I'll post further information on naasunion.com after consultation with the Wardens and Select Vestry.

We will continue to stream recordings of Sunday Worship for the foreseeable future as I appreciate that many of you are quite understandably concerned regarding church attendance and vulnerability to Covid-19.

Finally, thank you for your prayers and support over these last weeks. I'd like to give a special mention to the **Staff of St. David's National School**, who have done their utmost to ensure continuity of learning for the pupils. Please continue to pray for all those who are vulnerable in our society and for the families of loved ones who have died. We pray especially for the friends and family of **Mary Bruton** who was buried at Rathmore on the 28th May.

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

Your Friend and Rector,

Philip



Union Focus May / June 2020 will be with you on Thursday this week.



CHRISTIAN AID VIRTUAL QUIZ

Join us online

Get directly to the Quiz by clicking on the following link on the Parish Website naasunion.com:

<https://naasunion.com/christian-aid-fundraiser-virtual-quiz/>.

Quiz Deadline has been extended to **Saturday 13th June 2020**

with Winner announced the next day at the ZOOM Meeting

HAVE FUN answering some General Knowledge Questions

ONLINE EVENTS

Sunday Services - available from 9am each Sunday

Zoom Meeting - 12pm to 12.30pm each Sunday

Virtual Coffee Lounge - 1pm to 1.30pm every Wednesday

Join in on naasunion.com

Getting to know your BIBLE – SUNDAY READINGS FOR JUNE 2020

SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2020
TRINITY SUNDAY

Genesis 1: - 2: 4a
2 Corinthians 13: 11 - 13
Matthew 28: 16 - 20

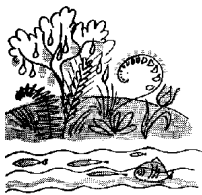
1 In the beginning, when God created the universe, 2 the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water.

3 Then God commanded, "Let there be light" - and light appeared.

4 God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, 5 and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came - that was the first day.

6-7 Then God commanded, "Let there be a dome to divide the water and to keep it in two separate places" - and it was done. So God made a dome, and it separated the water under it from the water above it. 8 He named the dome "Sky." Evening passed and morning came - that was the second day.

9 Then God commanded, "Let the water below the sky come together in one place, so that the land will appear" - and it was done. 10 He named the land "Earth," and the water which had come together he named "Sea." And God was pleased with what he saw.



11 Then he commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of plants, those that bear grain and those that bear fruit"

- and it was done.

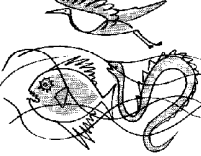
12 So the earth produced all kinds of plants, and God was pleased with what he saw. 13 Evening passed and morning came - that was the third day.

14 Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals begin; 15 they will shine in

the sky to give light to the earth" - and it was done.

16 So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. 17 He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, 18 to rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw. 19 Evening passed and morning came - that was the fourth day.

20 Then God commanded, "Let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings,



and let the air be filled with birds." 21 So God created the great sea monsters, all kinds of creatures that

live in the water, and all kinds of birds. And God was pleased with what he saw. 22 He blessed them all and told the creatures that live in the water to reproduce and to fill the sea, and he told the birds to increase in number.

23 Evening passed and morning came - that was the fifth day.

24 Then God commanded, "Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small" - and it was done.

25 So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

26 Then God said, "And now we will make human beings; they will be like us and resemble us. They will have power over the fish, the birds, and all animals, domestic and wild, large and small."

27 So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, 28 blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the

earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds, and all the wild animals.

29 I have provided all kinds of grain and all kinds of fruit for you to eat; 30 but for all the wild animals and for all the birds I have provided grass and leafy plants for food" - and it was done.

31 God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased. Evening passed and morning came - that was the sixth day.

1 And so the whole universe was completed.

2 By the seventh day God finished what he had been doing and stopped working.

3 He blessed the seventh day and set it apart as a special day, because by that day he had completed his creation and stopped working.

4 And that is how the universe was created.

Genesis 1: - 2: 4a

11 And now, my friends, good-bye! Strive for perfection; listen to my appeals; agree with one another; live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet one another with the kiss of peace. All of God's people send you their greetings.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13: 11 - 13

16 The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go.

17 When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted.

18 Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.

19 Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name

Getting to know your BIBLE – SUNDAY READINGS FOR JUNE 2020

of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28: 16 - 20

SUNDAY 14th JUNE 2020 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 18: 1 - 15

Romans 5: 1 - 8

Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

¹The Lord appeared to Abraham at the sacred trees of Mamre. As Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the hottest part of the day,² he looked up and saw three men standing there. As soon as he saw them, he ran out to meet them. Bowing down with his face touching the ground,³ he said, "Sirs, please do not pass by my home without stopping; I am here to serve you.

⁴Let me bring some water for you to wash your feet; you can rest here beneath this tree. ⁵I will also bring a bit of food; it will give you strength to continue your journey. You have honoured me by coming to my home, so let me serve you." They replied, "Thank you; we accept."

⁶Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick, take a sack of your best flour, and bake some bread."

⁷Then he ran to the herd and picked out a calf that was tender and fat, and gave it to a servant, who hurried to get it ready. ⁸He took some cream, some milk, and the meat, and set the food before the men. There under the tree he served them himself, and they ate.

⁹Then they asked him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" "She is there in the tent," he answered.

¹⁰One of them said, "Nine months from now I will come back, and your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah

was behind him, at the door of the tent, listening.

¹¹Abraham and Sarah were very old, and Sarah had stopped having her monthly periods.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself and said, "Now that I am old and worn out, can I still enjoy sex? And besides, my husband is old too."

¹³Then the Lord asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, "Can I really have a child when I am so old?'"

¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? As I said, nine months from now I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵Because Sarah was afraid, she denied it. "I didn't laugh," she said. "Yes, you did," he replied. "You laughed."



^{21: 1} The Lord blessed Sarah, as he had promised,² and she became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham when he was old. The boy was born at the time God had said he would be born.

³Abraham named him Isaac, ⁴and when Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded.

⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born. ⁶Sarah said, "God has brought me joy and laughter. Everyone who hears about it will laugh with me."

⁷Then she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Genesis 18: 1 – 15; 21: 1 - 7

¹ Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have

peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

² He has brought us by faith into this experience of God's grace, in which we now live. And so we boast of the hope we have of sharing God's glory!

³ We also boast of our troubles, because we know that trouble produces endurance, ⁴endurance brings God's approval, and his approval creates hope.

⁵ This hope does not disappoint us, for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us.

⁶ For when we were still helpless, Christ died for the wicked at the time that God chose.

⁷ It is a difficult thing for someone to die for a righteous person. It may even be that someone might dare to die for a good person.

⁸ But God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

Romans 5: 1 - 8

³⁵ Jesus went around visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness.

³⁶ As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

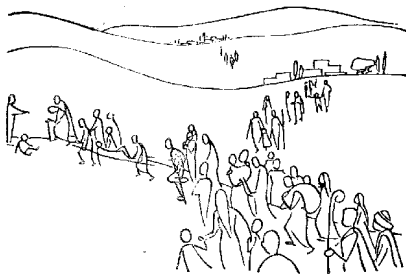
³⁷ So he said to his disciples, "The harvest is large, but there are few workers to gather it in. ³⁸ Pray to the owner of the harvest that he will send out workers to gather in his harvest."

^{10: 1} Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and every sickness.

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2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Patriot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

5 These twelve men were sent out by Jesus with the following instructions: "Do not go to any Gentile territory or any Samaritan towns.



6 Instead, you are to go to the lost sheep of the people of Israel.

7 Go and preach, "The Kingdom of heaven is near!" 8 Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons. You have received without paying, so give without being paid.

Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 8

SUNDAY 21st JUNE 2020 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 21: 8 - 21

Romans 6: 1b - 11

Matthew 10: 24 - 39

8 The child grew, and on the day that he was weaned, Abraham gave a great feast.

9 One day Ishmael, whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham, was playing with Sarah's son Isaac.

10 Sarah saw them and said to Abraham, "Send this slave and her son away. The son of this woman must not get any part of your wealth, which my son Isaac should inherit."

11 This troubled Abraham very much, because Ishmael also was his son.

12 But God said to Abraham, "Don't be worried about the boy and your slave Hagar. Do whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that you will have the descendants I have promised.

13 I will also give many children to the son of the slave woman, so that they will become a nation. He too is your son."

14 Early the next morning Abraham gave Hagar some food and a leather bag full of water. He put the child on her back and sent her away. She left and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.

15 When the water was all gone, she left the child under a bush 16 and sat down about a hundred yards away. She said to herself, "I can't bear to see my child die." While she was sitting there, she began to cry.

17 God heard the boy crying, and from heaven the angel of God spoke to Hagar, "What are you troubled about, Hagar? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy crying.

18 Get up, go and pick him up, and comfort him. I will make a great nation out of his descendants."

19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went and filled the leather bag with water and gave some to the boy.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up; he lived in the wilderness of Paran and became a skillful hunter.

21 His mother got an Egyptian wife for him.

Genesis 21: 8 - 21

Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase?

2 Certainly not! We have died to sin - how then can we go on living in it?

3 For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death.

4 By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ

was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life.

5 For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was.

6 And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin.

7 For when we die, we are set free from the power of sin. 8 Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again - death will no longer rule over him.

10 And so, because he died, sin has no power over him; and now he lives his life in fellowship with God.

11 In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6: 1b - 11

24 "No pupil is greater than his teacher; no slave is greater than his master.

25 So a pupil should be satisfied to become like his teacher, and a slave like his master. If the head of the family is called Beelzebul, the members of the family will be called even worse names!

26 "So do not be afraid of people. Whatever is now covered up will be uncovered, and every secret will be made known. 27 What I am telling you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight, and what you have heard in private you must announce from the housetops.

28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

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29 For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent.

30 As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted.

31 So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows!



32 "Those who declare publicly that they belong to me, I will do the same for them before my Father in heaven.

33 But those who reject me publicly, I will reject before my Father in heaven.

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the world. No, I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 I came to set sons against their fathers, daughters against their mothers, daughters-in-law against their mothers-in-law; 36 your worst enemies will be the members of your own family.

37 "Those who love their father or mother more than me are not fit to be my disciples; those who love their son or daughter more than me are not fit to be my disciples.

38 Those who do not take up their cross and follow in my steps are not fit to be my disciples. 39 Those who try to gain their own life will lose it; but those who lose their life for my sake will gain it.

Matthew 10: 24 - 39



"Encourage one another and build each other up." 1 Thessalonians 5: 11

SUNDAY 28th JUNE 2020 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 22: 1 - 14

Romans 6: 12 - 23

Matthew 10: 40 - 42

1 Some time later God tested Abraham; he called to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham answered, "Yes, here I am!"

2 "Take your son," God said, "your only son, Isaac, whom you love so much, and go to the land of Moriah. There on a mountain that I will show you, offer him as a sacrifice to me."

3 Early the next morning Abraham cut some wood for the sacrifice, loaded his donkey, and took Isaac and two servants with him. They started out for the place that God had told him about.

4 On the third day Abraham saw the place in the distance. 5 Then he said to the servants, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there and worship, and then we will come back to you."

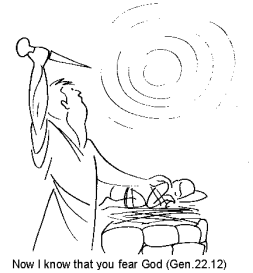
6 Abraham made Isaac carry the wood for the sacrifice, and he himself carried a knife and live coals for starting the fire. As they walked along together, 7 Isaac spoke up, "Father!" He answered, "Yes, my son?" Isaac asked, "I see that you have the coals and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?"

8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide one." And the two of them walked on together.

9 When they came to the place which God had told him about, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son and placed him on the altar, on top of the wood.

10 Then he picked up the knife to kill him. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" He answered, "Yes, here I am."

12 "Don't hurt the boy or do anything to him," he said. "Now I know that you honour and obey God, because you have not kept back your only son from him."



Now I know that you fear God (Gen 22:12)

13 Abraham looked around and saw a ram caught in a bush by its horns. He went and got it and offered it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

14 Abraham named that place "The Lord Provides." And even today people say, "On the Lord's mountain he provides."

Genesis 22: 1 - 14

12 Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self.

13 Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes.

14 Sin must not be your master; for you do not live under law but under God's grace. 15 What, then? Shall we sin, because we are not under law but under God's grace? By no means!

16 Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey - either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God.

17 But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received.

18 You were set free from sin and became the slaves of righteousness.

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19 (I use everyday language because of the weakness of your natural selves.) At one time you surrendered yourselves entirely as slaves to impurity and wickedness for wicked purposes. In the same way you must now surrender yourselves entirely as slaves of righteousness for holy purposes.

20 When you were the slaves of sin, you were free from righteousness.

21 What did you gain from doing the things that you are now ashamed of? The result of those things is death!

22 But now you have been set free from sin and are the slaves of God. Your gain is a life fully dedicated to him, and the result is eternal life.

23 For sin pays its wage - death; but God's free gift is eternal life in union with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6: 12 - 23

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

41 Whoever welcomes God's messenger because he is God's messenger, will share in his reward. And whoever welcomes a good man because he is good, will share in his reward.

42 You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward."

Matthew 10: 40 - 42

