

**To: All Clergy, Lay Readers, Lay Representatives, Alternative Lay Representatives, Vestry Secretaries and Treasurers – and for passing on to your congregations...**

**From John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

Ahead of Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April.....

**An Easter Message from Bishop Kevin**

**‘He calls me by my name’.**



‘Mary’ – It was to Mary Magdalene that Jesus first proclaimed that he had risen from the dead and he did that simply, quietly, gently but confidently by calling her ‘Mary.’

How do we know the power of the resurrection in our own lives? Simply remember – ‘He calls me by my name.’

According to John’s Gospel, Mary ‘turned.’ Jesus literally turned her life around, by using her name, ‘Mary.’ She recognised his voice, the call was simple, gentle, quiet but confident. Just as many of us experience the Holy Spirit in our prayers, our lives, we hear the call of God, of Jesus, because ‘He calls me by my name.’

Mary Magdalene, obviously, had spent a lot of time with Jesus and recognised his voice. The equally obvious parallel is that when we spend time with Jesus in prayer, and with help, we learn to discern the voice of Jesus and what God is genuinely saying to us, calling us to do and to be. We also learn to discern what are our own longings, our own fantasies of making the world as we want it to be. The first steps towards true discernment, of Jesus’ voice in prayer, through our experience, we are taught by Mary’s experience of Jesus.

By tradition, Mary was a notorious sinner, but she washed Jesus’ feet with her tears, in the Pharisee’s house. Jesus accepted her as she was, He understood who and what she was, but he recognised in her, who and what she might become, through the Holy Spirit. Lazarus, her brother died; again, her tears moved Jesus with compassion and Lazarus was raised from the dead. Acceptance, understanding that brings peace and hope.

Mary sat at Jesus’ feet while her sister, Martha, was busy, she chose to be **with** Him rather than doing things for Him. Mary recognised that in simply being with Jesus, she experienced that God was with her as He is **with** us. In the garden when she heard ‘Mary,’ she could say: ‘he calls me by my name’.

What in fact happened was Jesus called Mary to a new reality, based upon God's acceptance, and understanding. **That** is the Hope of the resurrection in our own lives. Jesus lived, died, and rose again to prove that each one of us is made in God's image and God is **with** us. The story of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and death is the story of how all that is worst in human nature – jealousy, anger, religious certainty – combined to kill all that is best in the human potential to love, where we can be with Jesus. As Jesus is with us in guilt, regret, anger, the tombs of our own experience, remember 'He calls me by my name' to a new reality.

There is much speculation as to when and how we can go back to normal. We can never go back; normal will never return and we will enter a new reality. That is the hope, promise, power of resurrection in our own lives. That is the real Hope of Easter, that human love in which we know, feel, experience that God is with us. That love is stronger than any natural phenomena, even death itself.

Mary Magdalene shed tears of grief in the garden. Jesus called her 'Mary' and the tears flowed, but now tears of joy and hope. Hope, all because – 'He calls me by my name.'

The Lord is risen from the dead. Alleluia alleluia

He is risen indeed. Alleluia alleluia

+ **Kevin**

### **Bishop's Lent Appeal**

A reminder that donations are still very welcome to the Appeal for Aberlour ([www.aberlour.org.uk](http://www.aberlour.org.uk)) and that the easiest way to donate (and allow Gift Aid to be claimed back) is to go to:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/diocese-of-glasgow-galloway>

**Whether donating as an individual or as a Church via your Treasurer, please add the name of your church to the Donation Notes** (even if you are an individual who prefers to remain anonymous).

**Cheque Payments** are also acceptable for passing on to Aberlour: cheques should be made payable to **Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway**. Please include a note to confirm the name of your charge and your contact details. Send to: ***Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway, Bishop's Lent Appeal, 5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow G1 2DH.***

**Electronic Transfer to the Diocese:** send by BACS to: Sort code 83-41-00, Account Number 00162089. Account name is ***GW & GALL GEN FUND 7.*** Please use the reference **Lent21** and (if sending from a charge) your quota

number for ID, and **also** email Iolanthe Stack at [iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:iolanthe@glasgow.anglican.org) to confirm a donation has been sent, and from which charge.

### **New Diocesan Website**

As many readers will be aware, this is now online. Enormous thanks are due to Petko Marinov, our Digital Missioner, for all of the work involved in its creation, as well as to Andrew Walker, our IT Officer, and Audrey O'Brien Stewart, our Canon Missioner, for their assistance in bringing the concluding actions together. The site address remains: <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org>. Comments, queries, suggestions – or even further congratulations! – regarding the website can be sent to Petko at: [digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:digitalmissioner@glasgow.anglican.org).

### **Last Chance to Contribute to the Canon 4 Review!**

Thanks to the many people who have sent responses from our Diocese to date – but 31<sup>st</sup> March is the deadline to have your 'Glasgow and Galloway Say' to the Review Group on the way we elect our Bishops. Do so at:

<https://forms.gle/tV2yxERqpELWJrUv7> Please refer to the February Diocesan Office Update if you need to see the relevant background papers (or contact me as below).

### **UK GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)**

In response to some queries: following Brexit, there are now two GDPRs: the EU GDPR and the UK GDPR, which is the UK's post-Brexit version of the EU GDPR. It is substantially similar to the EU regulation and places similar obligations on data controllers and processors. Charges should therefore be aware that any documentation in this area (Privacy Notices or Consent Forms, for example) should now make reference to the **UK GDPR**.

### **And finally...**

Away from the minutiae of GDPR, the Diocesan Office Administrative Staff (Christine, Marion and Iolanthe), as well as the Treasurer Bob Burgon, the Canon Missioner Audrey, Digital Missioner Petko, Dean Reuben and I would like to add our wishes to those of Bishop Kevin for a happy and blessed Eastertide, just over one year since our office closure on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and as we look forward with cautious but increasing hope to the rest of 2021...

Kind regards

John Mitchell, Diocesan Secretary ([diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:diocesansecretary@glasgow.anglican.org))