

CRUCIS

Magazine of St. Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church Dundee

April 2020

"Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." Galatians 6:14

In the Beginning...

Dealing with the unexpected is difficult, isn't it? Here I was, heading toward a landmark celebration of 40 years as a Priest on the Feast of the Annunciation, Katie and I were making plans for retirement, and all of us were expecting to enter as deeply into Holy Week and Easter as we always do at St. Salvador's, and then, within a week, all that changed. Now it's: Confusion. Fear. Powerlessness. Suffering. Death. Silence.

We are about to celebrate the glory of Easter, the power of the Resurrection, the joy of new life, and here we are, huddled in hibernation. How can we possibly identify with any of it?

Let's go back a bit to that part of the story we often skip over, the part we don't want to look at, or simply can't comprehend. Let's remember that Jesus lay in a tomb for three days, alone, in the dark, sealed off. He was dead. You don't get more isolated than that!

Yet even then, something good and creative was happening. The Gospel was being preached even to the dead (1 Peter 3:18-20, 4:6). It was the Harrowing of Hell, Christ taking the fight for souls to the Enemy, liberating those Satan had claimed as his own. And it was all with the new life ahead in view.

That's where we are this Easter. All the familiar, fancy stuff is done away. There's a war going on. It isn't only outside our door; it's also inside. It too is against death, our inward death through fear and loneliness and uncertainty and powerlessness. The presence of Jesus Himself, crucified and alive, moving among us, will save and liberate us. There is new life ahead.

God bless you and keep you safe,
Fr. Clive



W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

St. Rocque (aka Rock, Roch, Rollox, Roc-co) lived in the fourteenth century. He was on his way to Rome on pilgrimage when plague struck the towns in north-western Italy. Rocque stayed to help, and acquired the reputation of a healer. Ever since then he has been invoked against infectious disease.

Why was there a congregation dedicated to St. Rocque in Dundee? Until a few weeks ago we might have asked that puzzled question, so long has it been since anything like a plague has affected us. However, it is worth remembering that contagious illnesses such as typhoid and cholera often ravaged Dundee's packed, sometimes squalid, neighbourhoods. Bishop Forbes, who had himself ministered to victims when he was at St. Saviour's Leeds, tended the sick and organised relief a number of times in Dundee.

Little wonder one of Forbes' congregations was dedicated to St. Rocque!

Food Cupboard

Due to the limitations placed on us by church and governmental authorities, as well as the difficulty of obtaining regular supplies, we are unable at the present time to run our Food Cupboard and Drop-in along the hitherto usual lines.

However, we are still able to help those in need by donating goods from our stock to the Maxwell Community Cupboard just outside our church hall doors. It is strictly self-service with social distancing.

Fr. Clive will be topping up our stock using funds we have accumulated, so that these contributions to the Community Cupboard can continue for the long haul that seems to lie ahead.

Also, if any of our members—especially the most vulnerable ones—needs help with food or other necessities, please contact the Rector. He may be able to help from our stock and make a delivery.

This crisis is hitting the poor disproportionately. Please help with donations if you can. Thank you.

Rector's Contact Details

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A reflection on Psalm 31:24

The American Prayer Book (1979) uses a version of the psalms that is the product of a thorough and systematic re-examination of the original Hebrew text in the light of modern scholarship.

Sometimes this translation gives us new insights, and even overturns old meanings completely!

Psalm 31:24 is a fascinating and timely example. The old text was: "Thanks be to the Lord; for he hath showed me his marvellous loving-kindness in a strong city." The text in the American PB is: "Blessed be the Lord! For he has shown me the wonders of his love in a besieged city."

The subtle meaning of the original is recovered by the modern rendering. While both rejoice in God's protection, it is the second translation that suggests that God's beloved city, though strong, is surrounded by enemies. It is well defended, but isolated.

This is timely indeed. We are all under siege. But God is with us. Let us look for the signs of his loving-kindness.

**Our church website is:
www.stsalvadors.com
You can access information and
tune in to our recorded Sunday
services there.**

Many thanks for donations of the Paschal Candle and Easter flowers, given in memory of Eric McKelvie, Pat McBride, and Fr. Trevor Stevens. Both the candle and the flowers will be evident in our recorded Mass of Easter Day on the website and FB.

**Diocesan Website:
www.brechin.anglican.org**