

Order of Service MBIT online end of year Liturgy 6.00pm 12th June 2020

Welcome Slide1



Slide 2: MBIT online end of year

Slide 3: Our Prayer tonight – Sue to talk through

Welcome to our Liturgy tonight. Before we start a few hints and tips concerning Zoom. Those of you who have shared our Evening Prayer this term are well aware of the learning I have undergone in getting Zoom to work. We have learnt that it is best if everyone stays muted during our service, with those who are taking part unmuting themselves at the appropriate time. If the sound gets very distorted, it might be worth turning your video off as this seems to help. We have struggled to find ways of playing music over Zoom whilst looking at the power point. Therefore, we have sent you the links so that you can play the music on your own device, either during our service or later at your own convenience.

Our prayer tonight:

- Gives thanks for all that has been. Sr Gemma will lead our opening prayer and reflection, Anna will give a short address, we will then have the hymn (sung for us by Catherine) and then a reading.
- Prays for our concerns – we have gathered views from our international community, and will have a reading and prayers of intercession.
- Looks forward in hope to all that will be. Following an address by Anna, we will enjoy the pictures sent in, finishing this section with a reading of hope and a closing prayer lead by Sr Gemma.

Slide Opening Prayer/Reflection:

'I am sure I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Yes, I shall see the goodness of our God. Hold firm, trust in the Lord.'



Slide Thanksgiving for all that has been.

Short Address by Anna, giving thanks for achievements etc for the past year.



....we thank God for all that has been, and bring that into our prayer....

(Picture by Pavliná Kaspovva)

Slide Hymn - sung by Catherine Martindale

*O Lord, you are the center of my life:
I will always praise you,
I will always serve you,
I will always keep you in my sight.*

*1. Keep me safe, O God, I will take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord, "You are my God.
My happiness lies in you alone;
my happiness lies in you alone."*

Refrain

Slide 2. *I will bless the Lord who give me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.*

Refrain

Slide 3. *And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even in safety shall my body rest.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay.*

Refrain

*4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand, at your right hand
happiness forever.*

Refrain

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Slide Reading of thanksgiving: 2 Cor 4 (jars of clay) 7 – 10, 16 - 18 NRSV (Reader: Chris

Quinn)



⁷ But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;...

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

Slide Praying for Concerns Gemma to link from that to praying for concerns

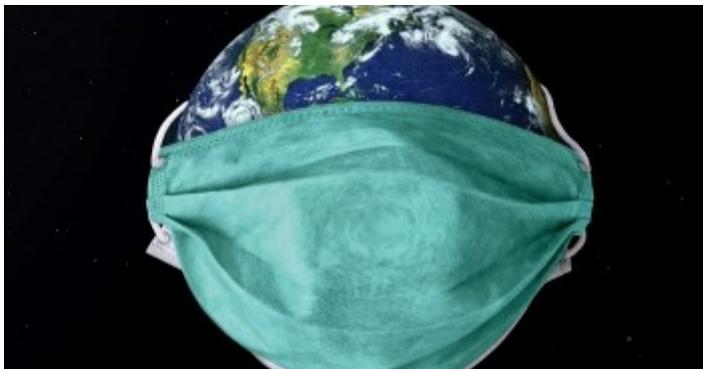


Slide Short address by Anna for MBIT concerns



(Painting by Pavina Kasporova)

Slide Hearing from the Global MBIT Community



Slide Reflections on Covid 19 in Kenya – Aloys Otieno Ojore, Nairobi



The Kenyan government acted quickly to the pandemic, in line with WHO recommendations. The Ministry of Health led a Multi-Agency approach with a rapid campaign of public health information using radio, TV, SMS, print media and on-line communication. It encouraged people to stay at home and instigated a nightly curfew from 16th March to date. Borders were closed. Schools, universities and churches were closed. Large gatherings were banned. The government carried out contact tracing, mass testing

and quarantine procedures. President Uhuru Kenyatta, a member of the Catholic Church, also led national prayers on 21st March, as more measures were put in place.

There has been a wide spread acceptance of conducting Sunday Church services on TV, radio and on-line. Churches and faith-based charities were applauded for their message that the fight against Covid-19 requires a holistic approach and their encouragement to follow government directives. Two areas were identified in which churches and faith-based charities help; 1. In material assistance to the most vulnerable in the locality, and 2, offering spiritual and emotional support to affected individuals, through counselling services. Churches are passing a message of hope to the public. During the weekly televised Catholic celebration of mass, the celebrant connects the readings with the current situation and at the end of the mass, he reads a message of hope to the people from the Kenya Catholic Conference of Bishops. The main message has been; the Lord is the good shepherd who does not abandon his sheep, or God seems quiet in the midst of a storm but He is truly present.

So far, Kenya has recorded less than 80 casualties to Covid 19. More than 85% of those affected are asymptomatic. The tragedy has been that since the lock down, over 1 million Kenyans have lost their jobs. Street families in our towns have been brutalised by the police as they do not have homes to go to when the curfew starts at 7.00 pm each day. It is sad that over 21 such people have been killed by the Kenyan police for ignoring the curfew! Insecurity has also gone up due to unemployment. This has given Kenyans a sense of hopelessness.

Theology

Theological explanations given by the Kenyan Christians and preachers is that God is using Covid 19 to pass a message. It is either a show of God's almighty power, a punishment, an opportunity for repentance, a sign of the end times or a recognition that God's creation needs to be restored. Kenyans, like other Africans, have a deep sense of God as the source of life, hope and strength. In moments like this, God is solely the source of their comfort. Many are immersed in prayer for God's healing and protection. The people believe that the less numbers of those who have died is a sign of God's love and protection for poor of Africa. The people of Kenya are simply praying for jobs and material help for those in the slums.



Slide: Reflection by Melanie-Prejean Sullivan USA

A microscopic invader brought the world to a screeching halt this past spring. In its destructive wake, those on our margins were revealed. The old, the fragile, and the chronically ill; the poor and ethnic minorities on the financial fringes became like slaughtered lambs.

This invisible enemy revealed the vulnerable, but in the United States, it also uncovered a festering sin that our privileged preachers and ego-maniacal politicians wanted to ignore. Innocents were killed for the color of their skin and some of those we most trusted to protect us, were unmasked as racist. Our entire society, our economic structures, and our political systems are racist.

What would Jesus say to us? This image of an African- millennial messiah with a feminine gentleness and a feather suggests all ethnicities and genders. It was created by Janet McKenzie in 2000 with hopeful accolades that in the 21st century we would rightfully picture our God among the silenced, among those on the margins—Jesus of the People, Jesus of the demonstrators in the streets, of the homeless and abandoned, and in crowded, COVID-filled hospitals.

Following days of protests, in this past week, the Holy Spirit has awakened a few corporate giants to their complicity, bringing apologies and promises of reform. Statues and symbols of oppressors have been toppled. We fervently hope it signals that the winds of equality and social justice are blowing.

To me, it is a call to engaged-active listening, to contemplative response and action: God of ALL creation, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to listen to All your children whom we have silenced. Let us be complicit, NO more. AMEN.

Slide Rosalie (Ireland)

Slide UNRESOLVED ISSUES



When Covid-19 hit Ireland we quickly discovered that many of our un-resolved issues came to light again: such as

- the care of the elderly in our nursing homes, where over 60% of our deaths have occurred;
- The plight of the homeless;
- The possible danger of overcrowded hospitals with patients on trolleys;
- unsuitable accommodation for our asylum seekers
- and inadequate broadband impeding both workers and students.

Slide CREATIVITY

Creativity



But we thank God for the creativity the pandemic has inspired in so many individuals and groups: such as

- the free postcards delivered to every home in the country, so that people could get in touch with their loved ones;
- the young man who shows classic films on a gable wall in his street, while his neighbours watch safely from their front gardens;
- the Cork artist who works for Marvel Media, who is giving children free art classes online
- and when funeral attendance – such a fundamental part of Irish culture - was reduced to ten people, we learned to don high vis jackets and line the road between the church and the graveyard to pay our respects and express our sympathy in silence.

Slide GENEROSITY

Generosity



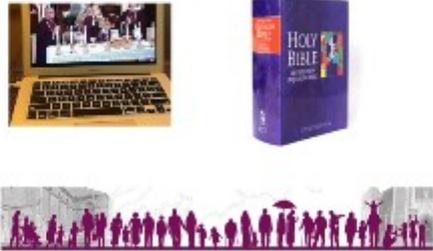
We also give thanks for the generosity of so many: for example,

- the Gaelic sports teams in every parish in the country, who volunteer to help those in need in their community;
- the hundreds of Irish people, who have donated money to the Navajo and Hopi peoples, hard-pressed by the virus in America, because we remember that the Choctaw gave us \$170 dollars during the famine in 1847;
- the retired couple who are raffling their holiday home in Co Mayo, to donate the proceeds to the porters, cleaners and kitchen staff in our hospitals;
- 11 year-old-Libby whose Confirmation has been postponed and who has given the money she received as Confirmation Gifts to her local hospital;

- Not forgetting the neighbours who left the gingerbread men on our doorstep.

Slide QUESTIONS FOR THE IRISH CHURCH

Questions for the Irish Church



We are also praying for God's wisdom, as we face some questions which the pandemic has raised for the Irish Church:

- The neglect of Scripture in both public and private prayer and study;
- The empowerment and participation of the laity.
- And the mixed blessing of Mass online which encourages us to explore the meaning of the Eucharist, but also raises concerns about an increase in clericalism.

Slide COCOONING

Cocooning



Cocooning is the term used in Ireland for what is called "Shielding" in the UK. Among those confined to their homes are many people normally very active in their parish; and the considerable percentage of Irish priests who are over 70, including the two priests in my own parish, who are 77 and 84.

But we pray that despite the sadness, the fear, the anxiety, the family and financial strains, we will all emerge one day, as beautiful butterflies.

Slide Roberta (UK)



The peak of the pandemic is past and we are moving slowly out of lockdown into the challenge of the new normal. We remember all who have died of coronavirus in our countries. We remember those who are seriously ill and those living through a long and uncertain recovery. We remember those who care for them and all who love them. We remember all who have lost loved family members and friends and we trust that all are held in God's love.

We remember the other victims of this pandemic. We remember the thousands whose essential treatment has been delayed or cancelled. We remember the dementia patients in care homes and the people isolated at home. We remember the mental health service users without their usual support and the people who have spiralled into depression without access to skilled help.

As we move out of lockdown, are we more aware of the injustice and inequality in our society? Will we stay committed to better living and working conditions for all? Will we remember how much we have all depended on health and social care staff and all the low paid essential workers? Have we taken to heart the disproportionate suffering and loss of black and minority ethnic communities? Are we coming out committed to a better social and economic order?

For the lucky ones, lockdown has brought blessings – the cleaner air, the time to experience the beauty of the birdsong, the loveliness of the natural world in springtime and early summer, a simpler and more local way of life. Lockdown has made the lucky ones more conscious of the importance of family and friendship. Will we come out of lockdown more aware of what is really important in our lives and ready to live simply so that others may live?

I pray we will hold these lessons in our hearts and minds and keep in our prayers all who are suffering loss and heartache. But I leave the [last word to Pope Francis \(click on\)](#) and his celebration of everyday joys.

Tonight before falling asleep

Tonight before falling asleep, think about:

When we will get back to the street,

When we can hug each other again,

When we will all go shopping together again

And it will seem like a party.

Let us think about when we will go for coffee again,

The small talk, the photos close to each other.

We think about when it will all be a dim, distant memory
And normality will seem an unexpected and beautiful gift.
We will love everything that has so far seemed like nothing to us.
Every second will be precious,
Swimming in the sea,
The warm sun shining till late evening,
Sunsets, toasts and laughter.
We will go back to laughing together.
Stay strong and have courage
See you soon!

Slide Reading – Louise:

John Scotus Eriugena (810-877), *The Voice of the Eagle: the heart of Celtic Christianity – Homily on the Prologue to the Gospel of St John*, trans. Christopher Bamford (NY: Lindisfarne Press, 1990)

Chapter 10: All Things

All things, therefore, which were made by the Word, live in him unchangeably and are life. In him all things exist neither by temporal intervals or places, nor as what is to come; but all are one in him, above all times and places, and subsist in him eternally.

Visible, invisible, corporeal, incorporeal, rational, irrational – heaven and earth, the abyss, and whatever is therein – in him all live and are life and subsist eternally. Even what seems to us to be without all vital movement lives in the Word.

And if you want to know how, or by what reason, all things are made through the Word thus subsist vitally, causally, and in the same manner in him, consider examples chosen from created nature. Learn to know the maker from those things which are made in him and by him. “For the invisible things of him,” as the Apostle says, “are clearly understood by the intelligence, being understood from the things which are made.”

See how the causes of all things which this spherical, sensible world contains subsist simultaneously and similarly in that sun which alone is called the great luminary of the world. Thence the forms of all bodies proceed; thence the beauty and diversity of colors; and whatever else may be known of sensible nature.

Slide



Consider the infinite, multiple power of the seed – how many grasses, fruits, and animals are contained in each kind of seed’ and how there surge forth from each a beautiful, innumerable multiplicity of forms. Contemplate with your inner eye how in a master the many laws of an art or science are one; how they live in the spirit that disposes them. Contemplate how an infinite number of lives may subsist in a single point, and other similar examples drawn from nature.

From the contemplation of such as these, raised above all things by the wings of natural contemplation, illuminated and supported by divine grace, you will be able to penetrate by the keenness of your mind the secrets of the Word and, to the extent that it is granted to the human being who seeks signs of his God, you will see how all things made by the Word live in the Word and are life: ‘For in him’ as the Sacred Scripture says, “We live and move and have our being.” Truly, as the great Dionysius the Areopagite says, “the being of all things is their superessential divinity.”

Slide Prayers of intercession – written by Kathleen Walker, Férdia, Sheila Thomas, Aude Aston



Picture by Mari Kelly Gross

Slide In union with the celebration of Holy Trinity Sunday, let us remember that:

‘The Triune God lives in an incomparable celebration of eternal joy. The Father, Son and Spirit have a rich and overflowing life with or without us. They did not decide to create us for their benefit, but for ours—because that is how God lives. That is how God LOVES! The Father lives for the Son and the Son lives for the Father, and they share all things together in the Spirit. Not self-centered, but other centered. Totally other centered—because that is the essential meaning of “God is love.”’ (Jurgen Schulz)

Let us bring ourselves, each other and everything on earth before Father, Son and Spirit, surrendering to their enfolding love.

Slide Gracious God, we thank you for all of your creation. May we cherish all life and be inspired to care for all that you have made on Earth and beyond. Show us how to change the way we live, travel, consume, produce, and sell, so that our lives honour your gift of life.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Slide We pray for the animals exploited by humanity, particularly those used as food, and for those who suffer from human actions that are causing pollution, habitat loss and climate change. Guide us towards respect for the plants and creatures who share this Common Home with us.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Slide Lord Jesus, we praise and thank You for the diversity of gifts and graces within your body the Church and the beautiful variety of the characters, personalities, peoples, interests and activities that are represented throughout the whole Church of God.

May we be united in spirit, love and purpose, focused upon the life and message of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Slide We pray for grace and unity in this place, Margaret Beaufort Institute and ask Lord that You would help this student body to edify and encourage each other, knowing that where two or three are gathered together in Your name, there are You in the midst.

We pray also for our students, who like many in these difficult times, may be fragile and need of your strength. We remember especially those who have had to interrupt their student life and may feel lost, alone and anxious about their future. Protect the seeds of knowledge that have been planted and inspire the MBIT team to support their growth in new ways.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Slide Gracious God, we thank you for the renewal continuously offered by Christ through the Holy Spirit to all bodies.

We pray for the Church, who was in great need of your healing even before lockdown, but has found new ways of preaching, celebrating and creating community. May She also find new ways to provide a wider access to sacraments, so that our faith remains nourished by Christ's loving presence

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Slide Spirit of God, our healer, we pray for those who have died and are dying, especially those affected by the coronavirus and its side effects. May we all regard life on earth, whatever its length, in the perspective of links woven for eternal life.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Slide Looking forward in Hope



Slide Short address by Anna for MBIT hopes



Slide Reflections/words/pictures of hope sent in by others



From a previous pandemic



Sunflower seeds planted in hope...





There is a little cygnet, hitching a ride.....



Veg patch created by MBIT residents to feed body and soul during lockdown.

Welcoming Beau.....



Looking forward to the day when we can get back together in the Stonchill Room. Neil has made sure we will be able to find our way back.



Slide Reading: Romans 8: 31 – 39 (Reader: Anne-Marie O’Riordan)



³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.^[w] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Slide Closing Prayer Gemma

Links to send out with zoom invite for Evening prayer

Opening Hymn: Oh Lord, You are the Centre of my life:

[.https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5Zo548rT8o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5Zo548rT8o)

Taize: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LW_cU7TeOWw

Irish Blessing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TascswZPj8U&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

<https://youtu.be/XpYGgtrMTYs?list=RD5NARW5X5zh8>