

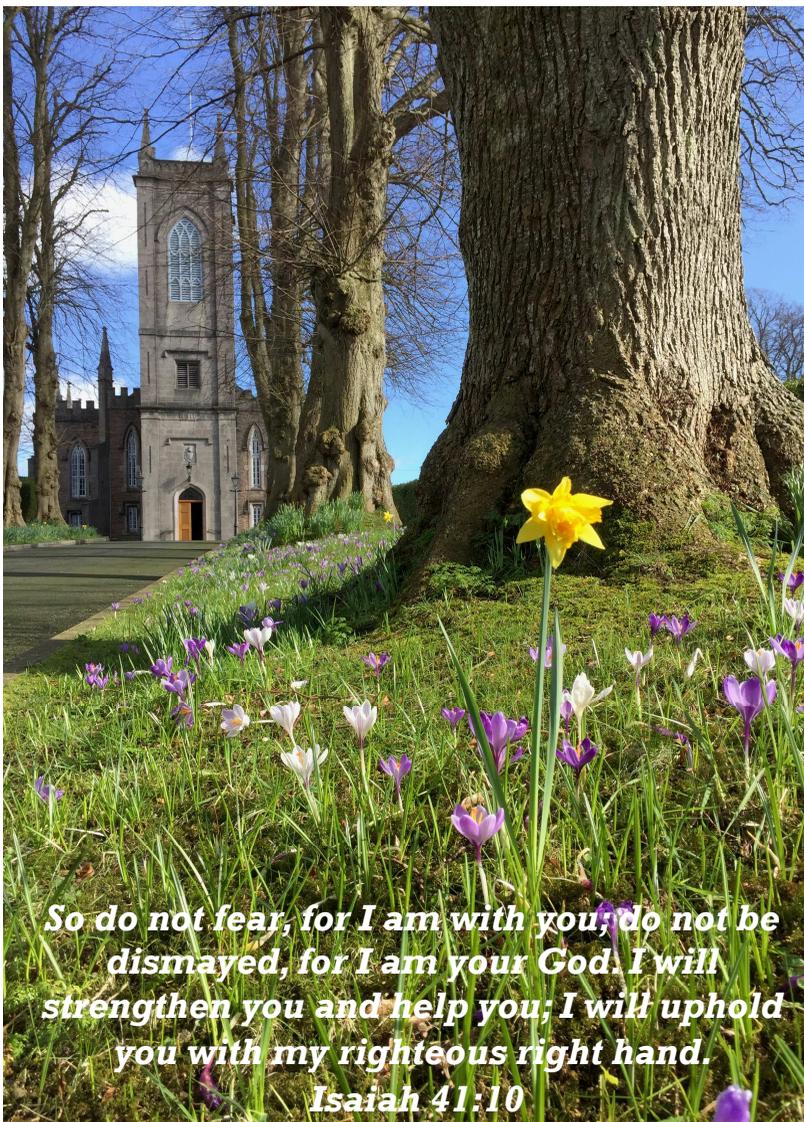
St Mark's
Armagh



Serving together
for Christ's Kingdom

PINNACLES

March / April 2020



*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be
dismayed, for I am your God. I will
strengthen you and help you; I will uphold
you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Rector's Letter.....



Dear Friends,

As you are probably aware, on Tuesday 17th March, the Church of Ireland, in conjunction with the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Ireland suspended all church services and activities.

As far as I know, this is an unprecedented action, reflecting the urgency of the need for social distancing and restricting opportunities for Covid-19 infection.

Today, I spent some time alone in St Mark's, walking around the pews in which you sit, kneeling at the rail where you receive communion and standing in the choir vestry with now redundant choir dinner plans still on the notice board. The reality that we shall not worship together for some time became all the more poignant. I shall truly miss seeing you all on Sundays, and at our midweek organisations and in your homes. I prayed and will continue to pray that the day when we return to St Mark's will come sooner than we anticipate. That will be a day of rejoicing, of celebration. I cannot wait!

But as I sat in St Mark's today, my Bible Reading notes directed me to 1 Thessalonians 2, where in v17 and following Paul shared a longing to see the church members of Thessalonica, but could not because of his current circumstances. I couldn't help but feel empathetic! In these verses Paul wrote so affectionately about the Thessalonians. He had seen God transform their lives, he knew that their desire was to worship and honour their Lord Jesus and he delighted in them.

As your Rector, can I assure you of my love, my prayers and my longing to be together again. Until then, we have some initiatives in place. These are outlined in pages following in this edition of Pinnacles. Please avail as you can.

Until the severity of this virus passes and a time comes when we can meet again, may we pray in faith, be encouraged by His Word, be thankful and mindful of all who are serving on the 'frontline', and be thoughtful of the needs of one another.

Yours in Christ,
Malcolm

19th March 2020

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ONLINE SERVICES

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SUNDAY SERVICE

Downloadable on YouTube from 8.30am

MONDAY DEVOTIONS

A Scripture Reading, Reflection and Prayers for the week ahead. Downloadable on YouTube from 8am.

WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

A Prayer Guide shall be available on the Church Website on Wednesday mornings. This can especially be used from 1-1.30pm, but also at any time of the day and week.

FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

Reflecting upon the week so far, a Service of Late Evening Office which shall be downloadable on YouTube from 9pm.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Holy Week Services shall hopefully be available on YouTube daily from 8pm. A Service for Easter Sunday will be available from 8.30am

SUNDAY WORSHIP

As public acts of worship have been suspended, a service will be recorded on Saturday mornings, and will be uploaded by 8.30am on Sunday mornings. Please feel free to watch and engage in these services at your usual time for worship or at a time more suitable to you!

To watch the services on your Smart TV, computer, tablet or phone, please go to YouTube :- www.youtube.com



When YouTube opens, search for 'St Marks Armagh'.

This should offer a selection of videos including services as of Sunday 22nd March and following. There may also be some sermons from previous weeks.

Alternatively, the most recent service should be available on our Parish Website under 'News' and then 'Sunday's Service'

CD Recordings of services in St Mark's are still available. If you would like to begin receiving CD recordings to your home, please contact the Rector.



Alternatively, each Sunday, BBC Radio Ulster broadcast a Sunday Service from various Churches throughout Northern Ireland. Tune in each Sunday at 10.15am on MW :1341 or FM : 92-95.

Whilst we cannot be together in worship, let us continue to worship together using these opportunities available to us all.

PASTORAL CARE

Due to the requirements of Social Distancing, pastoral visits have been suspended to hospitals, nursing and residential homes, as well as Parishioners' homes. Chaplains will visit those in hospital, if permitted by staff. To help ensure that hospital patients are visited, please let the Rector know of admissions.

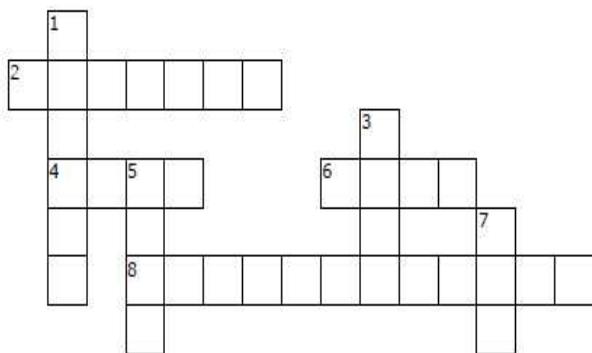
Also, please know that if you would ever like to speak to Malcolm or Geoff, they would be more than happy to speak on the telephone. Telephone calls are very much welcomed!



Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."
John 11:25 (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
4. A place where someone is buried
6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
3. To be alive or have life
5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
7. To stop living



Who Makes the Coffee??

A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that.

The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in **HEBREWS!**"

READING OPPORTUNITIES

During the next few months, perhaps you might like to take some time to read more of the Scriptures, or some Christian Books?

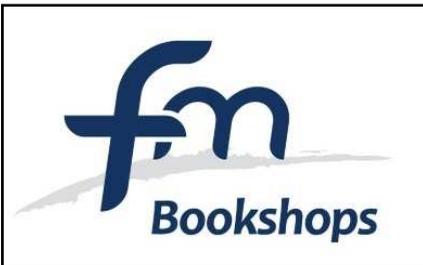
The Faith Mission Bookshop in Dobbin Street offers a wide range of books and study notes which you might find helpful. If you would like anything delivered, please do feel free to call a member of the clergy.



Bible reading plans are found on the Church of Ireland or Bible Society of Northern Ireland Websites. Apps are also available for your phone or tablet such as The Church of Ireland's 'Daily Worship' or Alpha's 'Bible in one year'.

The Church of Ireland Prayer Book is a magnificent resource for Sunday Scripture Readings and Daily Prayer. In the Lectionary, we are currently in 'Year A'. Sunday Readings are found in p27-62. Weekdays Daily Prayer outlines are found on p136-138. If you haven't got a Prayer Book at home and would like one, they should be available in The Faith Mission or The Book Well (www.thebookwell.co.uk / 07581143596).

If you need help with delivery, again, please do feel free to contact a member of the clergy.



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FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The continued support of our Parishioners for the Armagh Food Bank is deeply appreciated. The Food Bank is expected to be incredibly busy during weeks to come.



During the next few weeks, we hope that an opportunity to receive food at St Mark's will become possible, however until this is possible, food can be donated at the Elim Church door on Tuesday and Saturday mornings (10.30am – 12.30pm). Collection points are also found in the Ulster Bank, Sainsbury, Emersons and the Rural Transport Office.

Unfortunately The Easter Vestry Meeting that was planned for March 30th is also postponed. A new meeting date will be announced in due course.



SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

We are very grateful for the support of local business through Pinnacles advertising, for local employment and for the availability of products and services offered to parishioners and our local community.

Needless to say, for some businesses the incoming months shall offer very testing conditions.

Some businesses will deliver to homes. Perhaps we might make an extra special effort to shop local if at all possible and support local employers.

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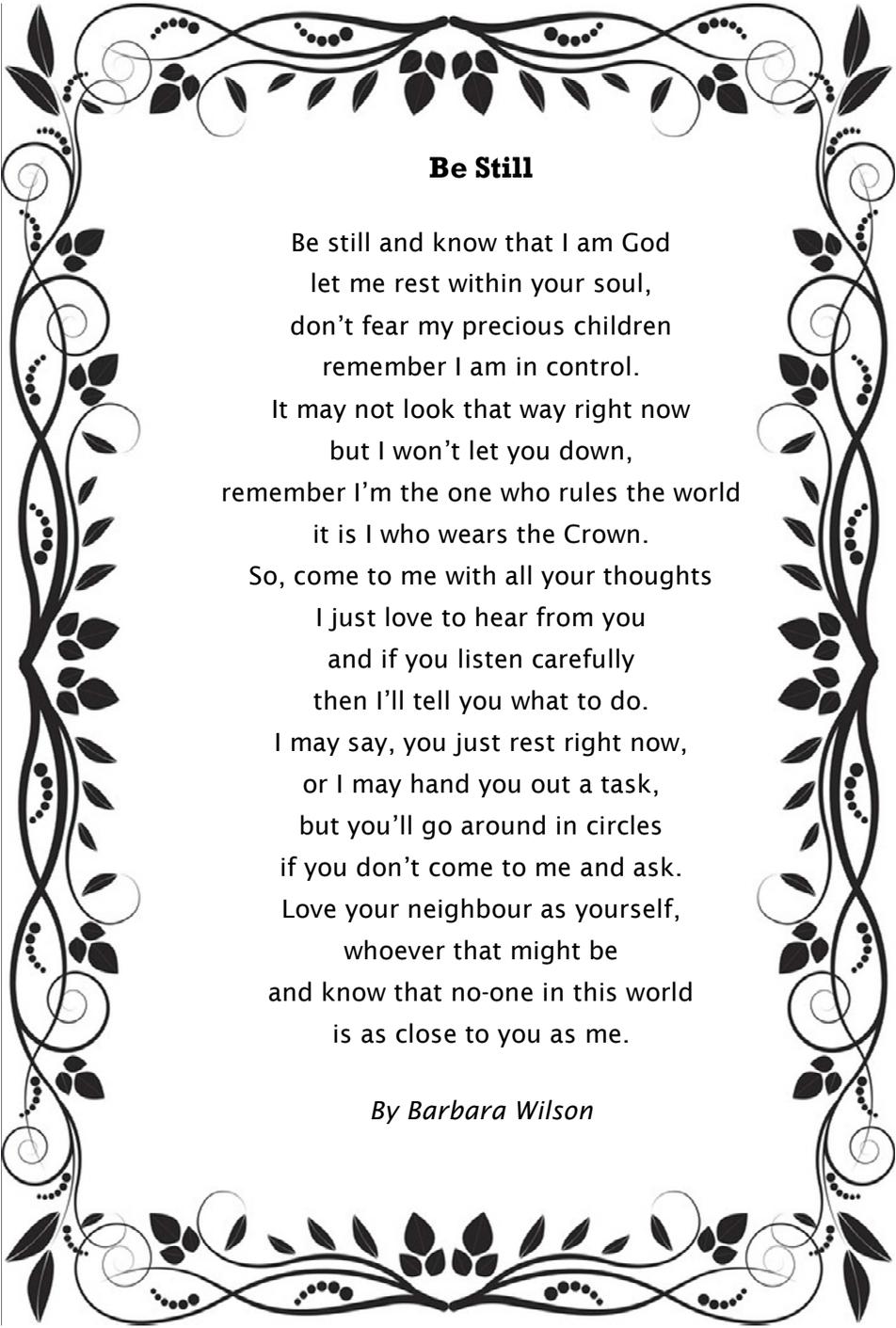


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A decorative border of black ink-style floral and vine motifs surrounds the text. The border features swirling vines, clusters of leaves, and small circular accents, creating a frame for the central content.

Be Still

Be still and know that I am God
let me rest within your soul,
don't fear my precious children
remember I am in control.
It may not look that way right now
but I won't let you down,
remember I'm the one who rules the world
it is I who wears the Crown.
So, come to me with all your thoughts
I just love to hear from you
and if you listen carefully
then I'll tell you what to do.
I may say, you just rest right now,
or I may hand you out a task,
but you'll go around in circles
if you don't come to me and ask.
Love your neighbour as yourself,
whoever that might be
and know that no-one in this world
is as close to you as me.

By Barbara Wilson

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HELP & HELPING

In this edition of Pinnacles, you will find a response form to seek assistance or offer help for those who might find themselves isolated and in need. As a Parish let us know that help is available, and be helpful to one another.



BAPTISMS

Unfortunately Baptism Services, unless necessitated by medical emergency, shall not take place until the resumption of normal service conditions.

CONFIRMATION

It is hoped that a service of Confirmation will take place this autumn, however this can only be planned when Parish activities resume and in accordance with the schedule of the Archbishop.

WEDDINGS

For any enquiries concerning weddings, please feel free to speak to a member of our Parish Clergy. We cannot know how long current restrictions will apply to weddings, however, it is hoped that conditions will permit weddings to take place in the not too distant future.

FUNERALS

Funerals should ideally be attended by family members and close friends only. It is advised that funerals should not be publicly advertised in order to avoid large gatherings. It is also recommended that congregational singing is avoided and that hygiene advice and physical distancing should be adhered to. Physical contact, including handshaking, and funeral teas should not take place.

It is fully understood that these guidelines are very different from our preferred norms. However, a public Thanksgiving Service in the future might, in some way, offer the opportunity for a shared expression of thankful remembrance and support for those who grieve.

A Prayer for Ireland *from the Book of Common Prayer (p145)*

Almighty and merciful God, who in the days of old didst give to this land the benediction of thy holy Church; Withdraw not, we pray thee, thy favour from us, but so correct what is amiss, and supply what is lacking, that we may more and more bring forth fruit to thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.





ASSISTANCE RESPONSE FORM

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE, OR TELEPHONE THE RECTORY (37522970)

MY NAME :-

MY ADDRESS :-

MY TELEPHONE NUMBER :-

	I NEED HELP WITH	I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH
SHOPPING		
PRESCRIPTIONS		
A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL		

From the Registers...

Holy Baptism

15th March : Jack Cuttle & Max Dodds

Holy Matrimony

12th March :

Zoe Templeton & Neil Faloon



Donation in lieu of flowers

We acknowledge with grateful thanks,
1 donation received for the Fabric Fund,
in lieu of flowers, in memory of the late
Mrs Anne Magwood

*Pictured right : Zoe Templeton & Neil Faloon
who were married in St Mark's on
12th March*



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A little girl, dressed in her Sunday best, was running as fast as she could, trying not to be late for Sunday School. As she ran she prayed, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late! Dear Lord, please don't let me be late!" As she was running and praying, she tripped on a curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off, and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord, please don't let me be late... But please don't shove me either!"

BRAIN TEASERS



- 1) On which side of a church is the graveyard always situated?
- 2) What has six faces, but does not wear makeup, has twenty-one eyes, but cannot see? What is it?
- 3) How do you make the number 7 an even number without addition, subtraction, multiplication or division?
- 4) I am a word of six; my first three letters refer to an automobile; my last three letters refer to a household animal; my first four letters is a fish; my whole is found in your room. What am I?
- 5) what relation would your father's sister's sister-in-law be to you?
- 6) Tomorrow Is Neither Wednesday Nor Thursday. Yesterday Was Not Friday Or Saturday. Today Is Not Thursday Nor Monday Nor Sunday. What Day Is Today?
- 7) Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white," or "The yolk of the egg is white?"
- 8) What's as big as you are yet doesn't weigh an ounce?
- 9) What ends in a 'w' but has no end?
- 10) When asked how old she was, Suzie replied, "In two years I will be twice as old as I was five years ago." How old is she?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 18 - NO PEEKING!!

CHURCH GIVING

The vast majority of our Parish income is received through church envelopes. In the context of services suspension and continued Parish running costs, any contributions that Parishioners can afford by saving until service resumption, or donating in the meantime, would be deeply appreciated.

Cheques may be posted or delivered to the Church Office. Standing Order, or Bank Transfer donations are also welcomed.

**For Back Account details, please contact the Parish Administrator :-
Telephone : 07519129195**

Parishioners may also utilise the Online Donations facility offered on our Church Website.

When giving online or by Bank Transfer, a reference to the donor's name will be available to the Parish Administrator, so that records can be maintained for church accounts and Gift Aid.

Your support for our Parish Funds is deeply appreciated. Thank you one and all.

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The Triumphal Entry

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!"
 "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9 (NIV)
 The puzzle is based on Mark 11:1-11



L W T F I F Z S B L E S S E D
 Z V R B S Z K P N N B A P R V
 H E G P W D H R T Q R C Z J Y
 Z F J I H H D E S G O I J A H
 S Z Y K W R E A H V A X I F L
 V Y V E O P R D O H D G K I G
 I T B L H V S R U C G X N G W
 L G H R F E D O T C L O A K S
 L N V I A O A Q E G U A J P T
 A T P Z G N S V D S N C E E V
 G R P S C H C H E N N M O Q L
 E F B J H V E H A N A F C L X
 S S M E V X T S E N F J J B T
 K J E S U S O U T S H Z S V S
 N C A E Y H D I S C I P L E S

SPREAD HIGHEST HEAVEN	VILLAGE SHOUTED CLOAKS	BLESSED DISCIPLES NAME	BRANCHES LORD ROAD	HOSANNA JESUS COLT
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Parish Administrator :

Mrs Caroline Nesbitt
Tel : 07514129195
Email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarksarmagh.org
Registered Charity : NIC103959

Sexton :

Mr David Mansbridge
(Tel : 07873167120)



Following government guidelines on Covid-19, the Church Office will remain closed until further notice.

I shall be working from home and can be contacted during usual office hours (9-1pm) on Tel : 07514129195 or by email : sec.stmarks@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you during these uncertain times or if you just need a chat!

Sending good health to you and your loved ones.

Caroline

Contact Details

Rector : Rev Malcolm Kingston

St Mark's Rectory, 14, Portadown Rd, Armagh
Tel : 02837 522970

Curate : Rev Geoff Hamilton

6 Ashley Avenue, Armagh
Tel : 37 528403

Hon. Senior Associate Priest :

Very Revd Robert Townley

Diocesan Reader : Mr Paul Turton

Pastoral Assistants : Ms Barbara Wilson, Mr Alex Stinson

Parish Readers : Mr Ronnie Watt , Mrs Adele Geddis, Mrs Barbara Campbell, Ms Barbara Wilson

Rector's Churchwarden : Mr Mark Speers

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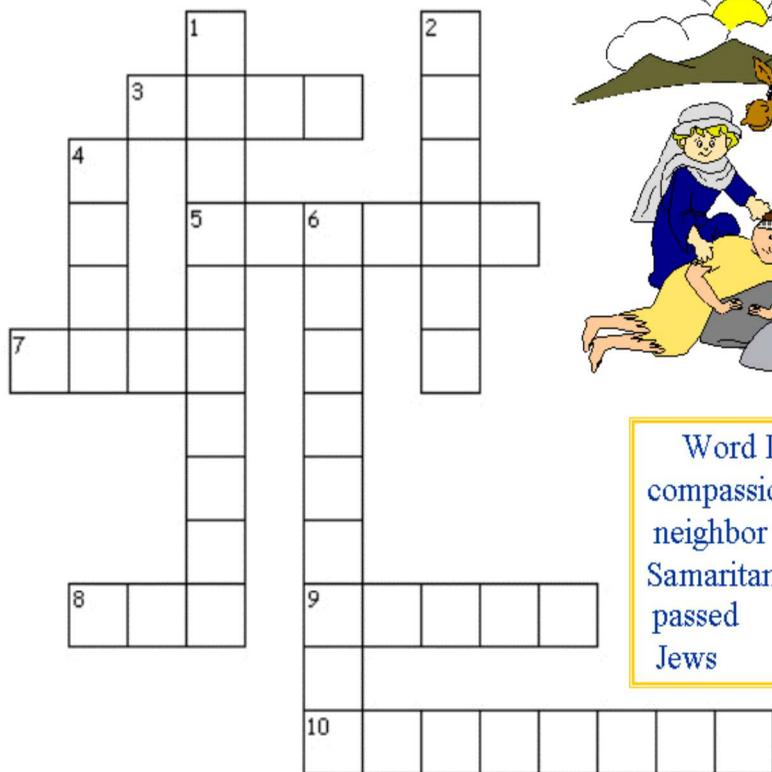
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BRAIN TEASER ANSWERS

- 1) On the outside, of course!
- 2) A Dice 3) Leave off the 'S'
- 4) Carpet 5) Mother 6) Friday
- 7) The yolk is yellow! 8) Your shadow
- 9) A Rainbow 10) 12 years old

Good Samaritan Crossword



Word List:
compassion inn
neighbor live
Samaritan love
passed priest
Jews three

Across

3. We are to ___ God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind.
5. The man was beaten, yet people ___ the man without helping him.
7. These people did not get along with the Samaritans.
8. The Samaritan took the man to an ___ while he was getting better.
9. The number of thieves that robbed the man.
10. Jesus told this parable to answer the question, "Who is my ___?"

Down

1. We all should have this just like the Samaritan did.
2. This was the first person to pass by and not help.
4. Love God and your neighbor and Jesus said you will do this.
6. This was the only person to help the Jew who was hurt.



APPOINTMENT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH

Last week we received the very happy news the Rt Revd John McDowell, Bishop of Clogher, has been elected by the House of Bishops as the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

He succeeds Archbishop Richard Clarke who retired on 2nd February this year.

Bishop McDowell (aged 64) was ordained in 1996 and has served as Bishop of Clogher since 2011.

He was previously Rector of St Mark's, Dundela, in East Belfast (2002-2011), Rector of Ballyrashane (1999-2002), and Curate of Antrim (1996-1999).

He has also served as an Honorary Secretary of the General Synod (2008-2011) and is currently Chairman of the Church of Ireland's Commission for Christian Unity and Dialogue.

Speaking on his election, Bishop McDowell said: 'I am overwhelmed by the confidence which my fellow bishops have placed in me to fill this ancient office. I look forward to working with them in the time to come and to serving the people of the Diocese of Armagh and the Church of Ireland in whatever way I can.'

Bishop McDowell will effectively become our Archbishop on Tuesday, 28th April, and service of enthronement in St Patrick's Cathedral will take place in due course. The Archbishop elect is married to Mary, who teaches in Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, and they have one daughter, Dorothy, a student at Oxford University.

Upon taking up his responsibilities as Archbishop of Armagh, Bishop McDowell will be the 106th in the succession of abbots, bishops and archbishops of Armagh since St Patrick.