

East Kilbride Old Parish Church

SC000609

Responding in Challenging Times:

Minister's East Kilbride News Message No 3

I wonder how you're doing as we begin our third week in isolation. I would guess that you're a bit like me in that there are some days when I wake up and I think to myself that this is not too bad. All we're being asked to do is stay at home unless it's absolutely necessary, and I'm fortunate that I live in a nice home and also have access to a garden. And then I think of all the good things that this period of time is bringing, like the communities coming together, and the acts of kindness that we see around us, so I put on the kettle and check the TV schedule and plan my day. But not every day is like that, for there are other days when I worry about my elderly mother who I cannot visit and who doesn't really understand why I'm not there anymore, and a couple of weeks ago I welcomed my first grandchild into the world, and I haven't been able to see him either. High days and low days, I would guess that's the same for many of us.

Although as a church we cannot meet together for worship, many churches like ours, are planning special events for this week in the run up to Easter, we call it Holy Week. It began last Sunday with Palm Sunday when we remembered Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem riding on a donkey and the crowds cheering him. It runs through the events of Maunday Thursday when we remember the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples, it goes on to Good Friday when we remember the crucifixion of Jesus, and it culminates on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

For us in the church, Holy Week is a journey as we walk the last week of Jesus life. That journey is a bit like our lives at this time, for there are high points on that journey, and low points on that journey. From the highs of the crowd welcoming Jesus on Palm Sunday, it's not long before we encounter the lowest of lows, the death of Jesus on the cross. Then he is laid in the tomb, and when the women come on Sunday morning, they discover that the tomb is empty, God has raised Jesus from the dead, and we begin the Easter Celebrations.

I think that the whole of life is somewhere in the Holy Week story. The high points are there and so are the low points, and as a Christian, I believe that if Jesus experienced these emotions, so too he understands us when we experience them too, for there is nothing that we can go through that he hasn't gone through before us.

So I wish you all a Happy Easter, and whether you're having a good day, or a not so good day, hang on in there and plan a belated Easter celebration when this time is over.