



## Image of the day

Religious leaders held an ecumenical service close to the scenes of recent violence at the peaceline at Lanark Way, Belfast. Picture by Mal McCann



Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh with former Irish President Mary McAleese and her husband Dr. Martin McAleese at Dublin Castle during their State Visit to Ireland.

## **Church leaders' tributes to HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh**

**Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, expressed his sympathy to Queen Elizabeth on the death of Prince Philip -**

I was saddened to hear of the death today of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

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Her Majesty the Queen, and all the members of the Royal family, are in our prayers on the death of a much loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Prince Philip has been a regular visitor to Northern Ireland in connection with his widespread charitable work. Many pupils from right across the community here have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. However, his visit to Ireland along with Queen Elizabeth in 2011, stands out as a cherished moment of peace and reconciliation and as an historic demonstration of the importance of mutual understanding and respectful relationships between these islands.

I will offer prayers for Queen Elizabeth and her family at this difficult personal time and will pray for the happy repose of the soul of Prince Philip.

### **Moderator offers condolences**

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Right Rev Dr David Bruce, has written to Her Majesty The Queen to offer the Church's sincere and heartfelt condolences on the death of her husband and consort, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who passed away this morning at Windsor Castle, aged 99.

In paying tribute to Prince Philip, Dr Bruce said, "It is with sadness that I learnt of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. On behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Royal Family, on the loss of someone who was not only so

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central to their lives, but a figure who played his part, for over 70 years, in the national life of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth.”

Reflecting on his long life, most of which has been at Queen Elizabeth’s side, Dr Bruce continued, “Given his service to so many charities and organisations across these islands and farther afield, I am sure that people of all generations, will have been encouraged, helped or inspired by him, not least through his famous award scheme for young people, which bears his name.”

Dr Bruce continued, “Perhaps the greatest and most personal tribute to Prince Philip has, however, already been paid – in 1997, at a lunch to celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary. On that occasion the Queen said of her husband, “He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know.”

“At this time of bereavement, I pray that Her Majesty The Queen, her family and all who mourn, may know the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and our ultimate comforter in times of sadness.”

## **President of the Methodist Church in Ireland**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas McKnight, the President of the Methodist in Ireland and Mrs. Hazel Loney, the Lay Leader of Conference have, on behalf of the Methodist Church in Ireland have issued the following Statement on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh:

[churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)



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The members of the Methodist Church in Ireland join with millions of others around the world in offering our sympathy to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her whole family on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

His life has been one of service from his distinguished war time service in the Royal Navy to his role as consort for over 70 years.

The Duke will be remembered for many things such as the award which bears his name and which opened up a whole new world of skills and activities which enriched and continue to enrich the lives of generations of young people.

Most of all the Duke will be remembered as a loving husband and support to Her Majesty - a love which death cannot break.

We commend Her Majesty, her family and all who mourn the Duke's passing to the love of God.

**Right Revd Monsignor Peter O'Reilly, St Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Enniskillen and Very Revd Canon Kenneth Hall, Dean of St Macartin's Cathedral, Enniskillen**

'With the announcement of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, we wish to join our voices with the many others who have sympathised with Queen Elizabeth and their family.

'We do so while recalling the visit of the Queen and Prince Philip to Enniskillen on 26th June 2012. Those who were

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present on that day to see The Queen and Prince Philip cross the street from Saint Macartin's Cathedral (Church of Ireland) to enter St Michael's Church (Roman Catholic) will remember the joy of that occasion and its witness to our one community rooted in our common Christian heritage. We remember his lively interest in Enniskillen and his faithful support for the Queen, plainly visible on that day.

'Remember, O Lord, your servant Philip, who has gone before us marked with the sign of faith and now rests in the sleep of peace. According to your promises, grant to him and to all who rest in Christ, refreshment, light and peace; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.'

### **Bishop Andrew Forster of Derry and Raphoe -**

“It is with great sadness that I have learned of the death of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh,” Bishop Andrew said.

“As the longest-serving consort in British history, Prince Philip was the most loyal and most steadfast supporter of Her Majesty The Queen. We thank God for the Duke's selfless service as husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather to our Royal Family, and for his decades of service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

“I am sure I speak for all the parishioners of our united dioceses of Derry and Raphoe in offering condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and her family, and in thanking God for the Duke's life. We keep the Queen and the members of the Royal Family in our prayers at this time of loss.”

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## **The Rt Revd David McClay, Bishop of Down and Dromore -**

‘We in the Diocese of Down and Dromore join with Archbishop John and many others in praying for Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family upon the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

‘Prince Philip was a man of many accomplishments and in particular I would like to pay tribute to the work of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award scheme which he founded. Over many years, countless young people within our diocese benefitted from the scheme and gained self–confidence and a sense of purpose through it.

‘I am grateful for Prince Philip’s legacy in the lives of our young leaders which will bear fruit for many years to come.’

## **The Deputy Secretary General of the Anglican Communion, Dr Will Adam**

In a statement, the Anglican Communion Office said that “over the course of his long life His Royal Highness had served the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom with duty and devotion.”

Dr Adam said: “On behalf of the Anglican Communion, I express sincere condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family on the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

“During his long life of public service His Royal Highness visited a large number of the nations where Anglicans are

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present; and he has worshipped in Anglican churches around the world.

“His example of duty and service and of care and concern for the environment and for young people will live on. Anglicans around the world will be united in prayer entrusting His Royal Highness to God’s love and mercy and praying for The Queen, her family and all who mourn.”

**See also CNI - April 10** for tributes by Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of Armagh

## **Archbishop of York on BBC Radio 2 Good Morning**

**The Most Reverend Dr Stephen Cotterill speaking on BBC yesterday, Sunday, April 11 -**

In 1946 Prince Philip wrote to the then Princess Elizabeth saying that “to have been spared in the war and seen victory, to have been given the chance to rest and to readjust myself, to have fallen in love unreservedly, makes all one’s troubles seem small and petty.”

Two things in this short, heartfelt sentence say so much about its author, and point us to the things we should cherish and remember as we mourn the death of the Duke of Edinburgh.

First, it tells us of the love that drew Prince Philip to Princess Elizabeth and then bound them together for a lifetime; so



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much so that the Queen would refer to him as ‘her’ rock and ‘her strength and stay.’

Secondly, that reference to “all one’s troubles” hint at the upheavals and horrors that Prince Philip experienced in the first part of his life, not just active service with the Royal Navy during the Second World War, but, famously, aged just one, placed in an orange box and rowed out to the ship that was rescuing his family from military upheaval in Greece.

All of us face troubles in life. All of us face the death of loved ones, not least in this past traumatic year. All of us experience love - though not all of us are fortunate enough to find the lifelong partnership of love that Prince Philip and her Majesty the Queen enjoyed.

Today the Church remembers the story of so called doubting Thomas, who couldn’t believe in the resurrection until he saw it for himself. Jesus appeared to him and said: “Thomas, you believe because you’ve seen. How much more blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe.”

My prayer today is that we see in Jesus Christ a love that will not let us down; that endures trials and hardships; that not only sustains us through a lifetime, but opens a door on a new lifetime to come.

In the light of such love, we pray for ourselves; for the life of our nation; for her Majesty the Queen and all the royal family; and for the Duke of Edinburgh, who served our nation with such faithfulness.

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May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v0sy>

## **Clergy walk in solidarity through parts of Belfast impacted by violence**

**Clergy from the four main churches in Northern Ireland yesterday walked in solidarity through parts of Belfast impacted by recent violence, Suzanne McGonagle reports in the Irish News**

A short ecumenical service was also held at Forthspring, close to the interface between Springfield Road and Shankill Road.

The service was organised in response to the recent violence in the area.

Rev Colin Duncan of Shankill and Woodvale Methodist Church opened the service with readings from Rev Tracey McRoberts, rector of St Matthew's Church, Woodvale and Pastor Gordon McDade of Soul Space.

Prayers were said by Fr Tony Devlin, parish priest of St Paul's Church, Falls Road and Fr Martin Graham, administrator of St Peter's Cathedral.

There was also a reflection by Rev Jack Lamb of Townsend Street Presbyterian Church.

Following the short service, the clerics walked along the Springfield Road to Lanark Way before going through the

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gates into the Shankill area of the city and making their way back to Forthspring via Workman Avenue.

Numerous other clerics from the four largest denominations attended, including Bishop Noel Treanor of the Catholic Diocese of Down and Connor and C of I Bishop George Davison of Connor.

In a statement, Dr Treanor said the scenes of "civic unrest and violence on our streets" witnessed over the past weeks were "deeply concerning for all of us who believe in and have worked together for a shared, brighter future for our society".

"Already, many citizens, including a bus driver and a journalist have been injured as a result of this recent

Hope at Easter

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violence. I pray they will all recover quickly from their injuries," he said.

Bishop Treanor appealed to politicians to "weigh carefully the impact of their words, to avoid the deeply damaging politicisation of civic policing and to use the available mechanisms of accountability and influence to deal with any concerns that may arise".

"I also appeal to and implore young people to stop engaging in disturbance and violent activity now," he added.

Courtesy The Irish News 10.04.2021

## **Prof Linda Doyle elected first ever female provost of Trinity**

**Professor Linda Doyle spoke of being "utterly delighted" to be elected provost of Trinity College, Dublin. She said was "deeply honoured" to be chosen by staff and students to become the first female provost in the 429-year history of the university.**

Ms Doyle is Professor of Engineering and the Arts at the college and will begin her 10-year term in charge of the university on August 1 when current provost Dr Patrick Prendergast completes his term.

A native of Togher in Cork, she attended Saint Angela's College secondary school in Cork and University College, Cork, completing her studies at Trinity. After working in industry, she joined the college's academic staff in the

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mid-1990s. Professor Doyle (53) will move with her partner Simon from their home in Glasnevin in Dublin to take up residence in the Provost's House in the grounds of the college.

The first challenge facing the college will be resuming normal vibrant work after the pandemic as the students "had a very tough time in the last two academic years," she said, standing in the cobbled front square of the college.

Wider challenges will be the funding in the sector and the funding of education more broadly. She indicated that she did not believe that this meant increasing fees for students. "I think it is really important that we focus on greater investment in the sector. I really believe in public universities and for Ireland, it is really important for the democracy of the country to have strong independent institutions," she said. Making history as the first female provost since the college opened in 1592 was a great honour, she said. There were two other candidates for the job and both were also women — Professor Linda Hogan and Professor Jane Ohlmeyer.

Professor Doyle has held the role of Dean of Research at Trinity and was the founder director of Connect, the Science Foundation Ireland national research centre for Future Networks and Communications.

Her expertise is in the fields of wireless communications, cognitive radio, reconfigurable networks, spectrum management and creative arts practices.



## **Books, Broadcasts, resources and webinars**

### **A Service of Prayer, Remembrance and Hope - HRH Prince Philip**

C of E - Join a service of prayer, remembrance and hope. Following the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads this service from the chapel at Lambeth Palace.

[\[https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/service-prayer-remembrance-and-hope\]](https://www.churchofengland.org/media-and-news/join-us-church-online/weekly-online-services/service-prayer-remembrance-and-hope)

### **Handels Messiah by Academy of St Martin in the fields**

A performance like no other.

Streaming for 30 days from Thursday 8 April.

<https://www.asmf.org/whats-on/handels-messiah/>

### **Reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter 2021**

Archbishop of Dublin, Michael Jackson, begins a new sermon series for the Season of Easter 2021 with a reflection for the Second Sunday of Easter (April 11). His reflection is based on St John 20: 20 “When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week ... Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said, Peace be with you ...” The series continues each Sunday.

<https://dublin.anglican.org/news/2021/04/11/reflection-for-the-second-sunday>

## Media review

### **Prince Philip's 73-year association with Northern Ireland**

BBC News

In 2007, he attended the enthronement of the new head of the Church of Ireland, Archbishop Alan Harper. And, of course, the duke accompanied the ...

[[] <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-22090791> ]

### **Prince Philip: Northern Ireland church leaders reflect with warm tributes and offer their prayers**

Belfast Telegraph

Northern Ireland's church leaders have paid tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh following his death aged 99. Reflecting on Prince Philip's long life, ...

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/prince-philip-northern-ireland-church-leaders-reflect-with-warm-tributes-and-offer-their-prayers-40295882.html> ]

### **Irish politicians united in paying tribute to Prince Philip following Duke of Edinburgh's death**

Irish Post

The First Minister said: "I am deeply saddened by the news of the death of His ... Away from politics, the head of the Catholic Church in Ireland also ...

[[] <https://www.irishpost.com/news/irish-politicians-united-in-paying-tribute-to-prince-philip-following-duke-of-edinburghs-death-209035> ]

### **Moderator joins calls for an end to ongoing civil unrest**

Belfast Telegraph

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The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, Dr David Bruce, has joined in condemnation of the ongoing violence which has escalated in ...

[[] <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/belfast/moderator-joins-calls-for-an-end-to-ongoing-civil-unrest-40289490.html> ]

## **Opinion - On the streets and in Stormont, the next few months look bleak for Northern Ireland - Sam McBride**

**Since the erection of the Irish Sea border at the start of January, there has been both implicit and explicit dismissal of unionist anger, Sam McBride writes in the Belfast News Letter.**

Even in the face of widespread concern about the practical and symbolic implications of the new trade frontier, the EU has effectively said that the border is there to stay – and said that there should be more checks at Northern Ireland’s ports.

Although the Northern Ireland Protocol – which creates the internal UK trade border – has been presented by the EU as essential to preserving the peace, it is now exacerbating instability.

For his part, Boris Johnson has failed to accept his role in destabilising Northern Ireland by dishonestly denying that there would be an Irish Sea border or the checks which

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have inevitably flowed from the deal he signed. Even now, he refuses to apologise for misleading the public.

Some commentators brushed off the possibility of loyalist anger turning violent, with the suggestion that there was no one for them to attack – after all, it was the prime minister of the nation to which they are loyal who betrayed them.

That simplistic understanding of unionist psychology failed to understand unionism's historic suspicion of London, its belief that in the end it can only rely on itself, and the willingness of a section of unionism to resort to violence when politics has failed to secure its aims.

Just a month ago, Chief Constable Simon Byrne said: “We don't see the prospect of a return to protest or violence.”

Yet at the time Mr Byrne was saying that, the author and historian Aaron Edwards said that “Brexit and the protocol have breathed new life into [loyalist paramilitary] activities and given it a political tinge. No one should underestimate what that means”. A lecturer at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst who has spent years analysing loyalism, Dr Edwards warned that it was wrong to suggest there were no targets for loyalist rage. He said there is a “highly destructive tendency within Ulster loyalism”, which could lead to “lashing out”.

For more than a week now, that lashing out has been happening. Some of it involves the dissident South East Antrim UDA which is smarting from the police targeting its criminality. The fact that Larne Port is in south east Antrim gives particular significance to that group's actions.

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But the trouble did not start in that area, and so that only explains a small portion of a deeper dilemma.

This violence may subside, but the instability which lies behind it is likely to increase because weak leadership is central to current events.

Most of the leaders of unionism, of loyalist paramilitary groups, and of the Orange Order, started this year by playing down the Irish Sea border rather than urging people on to the streets.

On the eve of the new border's erection, Orange Order grand secretary Mervyn Gibson – speaking in a personal capacity – said: “We have to make the best of it. There is no good shouting about it, there's no good protesting about it...”

DUP leader Arlene Foster similarly made clear last year that she had given up the political fight to stop the border being put in place and began this year speaking of the opportunities which were open to Northern Ireland regardless of the new frontier.

Similarly, paramilitary leaders showed by their actions that they wanted to restrain even public protests and did not move towards violence.

But all of those groups have shifted to more hardline positions. In some cases, such as Mrs Foster, it is clear that the shift follows intense pressure from beneath.



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In other cases, we can only surmise as to precisely what has gone on, but in each situation it is clear that leaders are not leading along the path which they initially trod.

That fragility of leadership is a portent of future difficulties.

In guessing where the DUP will go, the last three months show Jim Allister to be a more reliable barometer of future party policy than the party's nominal leader.

In the opaque underworld of paramilitarism, there is even less clarity about future intentions but recent months suggest that the views of younger loyalists such as Jamie Bryson are more indicative of where loyalism is likely to be than those of veterans such as UDA leader Jackie McDonald.

The way in which the Irish Sea border has been constructed exacerbates this problem because it is not a solitary event, but involves a gradual hardening of the new border over the course of a year.

Each point at which more checks are put in place has the potential to prompt fresh problems – right up to the end of this year when the emotive border for medicines, something still not fully understood by many people, will be put in place.

All of this will happen alongside developments at Stormont which even in themselves would be politically difficult.

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More than a year after agreeing to an Irish language act – the DUP's key compromise to restore Stormont last January – Mrs Foster has not yet delivered the legislation.

Sinn Féin has been surprisingly patient about the lack of movement but there are growing rumours of internal DUP revolt on the issue.

Having last summer suffered the biggest backbench rebellion in the history of the DUP over a technical piece of legislation which few voters understood, the DUP leader will face enormous reticence over something which many DUP voters do understand and dislike.

Yet the longer she delays the decision, the closer it gets to next May's Assembly elections – and the riskier the decision becomes. However, without that legislation, it is hard to see Stormont surviving because – as my colleague Ben Lowry wrote last month – this is what the DUP agreed.

Reneging now will attract scant sympathy for the party. What moves this beyond a problem for the DUP as a party to a problem for unionism is the hapless state of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Leader Steve Aiken's calamitous interview with Stephen Nolan last week emphasised how that party is now barely the shell of the entity which built Northern Ireland a century ago.

Whereas two decades ago, as the UUP fell apart under David Trimble there was a professional alternative lead party of unionism, now there is nothing. Jim Allister has

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enormous personal ability, but lacks the party machine to replicate what the DUP did two decades ago.

Thus, if Stormont survives until next year's election it will likely see a more divided unionism – probably alongside a stagnant, or falling, vote for Sinn Féin. Piecing together an executive in those circumstances, possibly with the DUP only having the deputy First Minister position, will be challenging.

However, the closer we get to next May's election, the easier it will be to collapse Stormont. If the pandemic continues to recede, a tactical collapse a couple of months before the election would have limited practical impact on public services but could be seen by either the DUP or Sinn Féin as electorally advantageous.

However, as with a building, collapse is the easy part. Putting it back together took three years after the last implosion of the executive. Next time could be even harder.

A DUP source who was present at the party's executive meeting in January 2020 where Mrs Foster was defending the deal to restore Stormont said that she had been blunt about the consequences if devolution collapsed again. Speaking in the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Shaw's Bridge – the same location where little more than a year earlier the DUP had cheered Boris Johnson as he told them he would never accept an Irish Sea border – Mrs Foster is said to have told senior party members that “if it doesn't work this time, that's it for good”.

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In Northern Ireland's centenary year, there is more riding on this for unionists than for anyone else – but unionist leaders are shorn of either ideas to reverse the trajectory towards repeated defeat or the authority to implement such ideas if they existed.

*Sam McBride is Political Editor of The News Letter and author of a book on the RHI crisis.*



## Pointers for prayer

God, We reflect on and give praise for the life lived by Prince Philip.

We thank you for his faith in Our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Comfort the Queen at this time and strengthen her Christian faith.

Amen.

Some went down to the sea in ships,  
doing business on the mighty waters;

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they saw the deeds of the Lord,  
his wondrous works in the deep.  
For he commanded and raised the stormy wind,  
which lifted up the waves of the sea.  
They mounted up to heaven, they went down to the depths;  
their courage melted away in their calamity;  
they reeled and staggered like drunkards,  
and were at their wits' end.  
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
and he brought them out from their distress;  
he made the storm be still,  
and the waves of the sea were hushed.  
Then they were glad because they had quiet,  
and he brought them to their desired haven.  
Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.

## Speaking to the Soul

**A third time Jesus asked him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, “Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Then feed my sheep.”**

John 21:17 NLT

We cannot be sure why Jesus asked Peter three times whether he loved him. Many people have suggested that it mirrored Peter's three denials before Jesus' crucifixion. It is suggested that this was Jesus' way of helping Peter to find cleansing from that time of abject failure. There is great encouragement for us all in the fact that Jesus was willing to



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forgive someone who had let him down so comprehensively. Peter had a hugely significant ministry ahead of him, but it couldn't begin until he knew that he had been released from the burden of his failure.

Every time Peter affirmed his love, Jesus told him that he was giving him a job. Peter was instructed to take care of Jesus' sheep and feed them. Whenever someone follows Jesus, they are also given responsibilities within the church. The idea of Christian faith being a private matter that simply gives a person a warm relationship with God and a secure future for all eternity is foreign to the New Testament. Every follower of Christ becomes a part of the body of Christ and has the responsibility to support and care for the other members. We will all do that differently according to our gifts, abilities and opportunities but no one can dodge the privileged responsibility of supporting our Christian brothers and sisters.

Peter is then informed how tough it will be to be a follower of Jesus. He is told that his obedience to Christ will lead to his death. Having informed him of this, Jesus challenges him, "Follow me." In this Gospel we learn that following Jesus is the path to life in all its fulness. But he never disguised the cost of following him. He promised his followers that they would be hated by the world and rejected. And it is this same risen Lord Jesus Christ who comes to us today and says, "Follow me."

## QUESTION

In what ways does this story of Jesus commissioning Peter encourage and challenge you?

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## PRAYER

Loving Lord, help us as we seek to follow you and to support our Christian brothers and sisters. Amen

