



**Image of the day**  
**Southwell Minster**

April 3, 2018

## **Duke's respect for Navy fliers may feature in adapted naval hymn**

**The hymn *Eternal Father, Strong To Save* will feature in the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral on Saturday, with the possible addition of a little-known extra verse at his request.**

Better known as 'For Those in Peril on the Sea' after the last line, the usually four-verse hymn is considered especially poignant by military sailors.

Rarely heard outside military circles, however, are two verses written specifically for naval aviators. They are inserted between the second and third verses. The additional words are understood to feature occasionally at funerals of members of the Fleet Air Arm, the aviation branch of the Royal Navy.

One such was sung at the funeral of the man who taught the Duke to fly, while he was a Royal Navy officer. Unexpectedly turning up to the funeral many years ago, the Duke further surprised the congregation by singing, along with just a couple of other attendees, the unfamiliar words, which are not included in standard hymn books -

The two additional verses, by Ms Whiting and Ms Hamilton are:

O watchful Father who dost keep,  
Eternal vigil while we sleep,  
Guide those who navigate on high,  
Who through grave unknown perils fly,



To be a peacemaker is costly. It demands facing evil, but then choosing to live in resistance to it. In 2012, Prince Philip shook hands with Martin McGuinness, who'd been an IRA commander when it murdered his uncle, Lord Mountbatten, in 1979. That's true peace-making leadership - Steve Chalke

Receive our oft-repeated prayer  
For those in peril in the air.

Lord, guard and guide all who fly,  
Through the great spaces of the sky,

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Be with them on their lonely flights,  
Through darkening day and endless nights,  
O hear us as we lift our prayers,  
For those in peril in the air.

Eternal Father, Strong To Save was sung in 1979 at the funeral of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. The original lyrics were by William Whiting in 1860, with the tune added by clergyman John Bacchus Dykes in 1861.

Mr Whiting, a former Winchester College Chorister's School master, was inspired by the nautical Psalm 107. He penned the lyrics as a poem for a student afraid of an overseas voyage.

The two additional verses possibly being used on Saturday are thought to have been written by Emma Mayhew Whiting and Mary CD Hamilton, in 1943 and 1915 respectively. Ms Mayhew Whiting, a North American poet, was known for her writing about the wives of whaling captains. Ms Hamilton was a Scottish writer and poet and the lyrics of her verse were written as a prayer during the First World War.

Buckingham Palace is expected to release details of the order of service today and would not comment on which hymns may be used.

However, it is thought the Duke left specific instructions for his funeral arrangements, including the use of a specially modified Land Rover to carry his coffin. As such he may well have asked for the hymn to be sung out of respect for the Royal Navy, with the Fleet Air Arm similarly highlighted.

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Dominic Nicholls and Claudia Rowan in the Daily Telegraph

## Evensong to commemorate 80th anniversary of Belfast Blitz



**The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Belfast Blitz will be marked in Belfast Cathedral (photo above) on Friday April 16 at a special service of Choral Evensong.**

Members of the public are invited to attend the service which begins at 5.30pm, and will be live-streamed on the Cathedral Facebook page.

The blitz began on Easter Tuesday night, April 14/15 1941 when 180 German bombers participated in a major attack

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lasting almost four hours. Their bombs and incendiaries fell mainly on densely populated working class terraces in north Belfast. Seven hundred and forty civilians were killed.

A second attack came three weeks later, on May 4/5, when 200 bombers launched a raid that lasted three hours. More intense than the Easter raid, it devastated much of the city's industrial heart in the dock area as well as parts of east Belfast and the city centre – Belfast Cathedral was fortunate to escape.

In the course of the blitz, more than 1,000 people lost their lives, or were declared 'missing presumed dead' – among them were 400 women and children. Half the city's houses were destroyed or damaged. Officials estimated that, as a consequence of the air raids, by late May 1941, 220,000 persons had evacuated from the city (about half of its population) due to panic and fear.



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Music at Friday's Evensong in St Anne's Cathedral will include the Introit: *They shall not grow old as we* by Douglas Guest, *Preces and Responses* by Richard Ayleward, a setting of Psalm 23 by Walford Davies, canticles to Philip Moore's *Fauxbourdon Service* setting, and the Anthem will be Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's *Justorum animae*.

The service will also feature eye witness accounts of the evening, kindly provided by the Northern Ireland War Memorial.

## **Further delay in resettling refugee children “appalling” – Bishop Denis Brennan**

**“I call on Government to act as quickly and decisively as possible in this case to bring these children to safety and shelter” – Bishop Brennan**

Following further delays to the resettlement of children to Ireland from the Moria refugee camp in Greece, Bishop Denis Brennan, chair of the Bishops' Council for Immigrants, has issued the following statement:

“I was deeply saddened to hear recent reports that plans to resettle children seeking refuge from the Moria camp in Greece, to Ireland – originally scheduled for September 2020 and again last month – have been further delayed.

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“Those forced to migrate have already experienced immense hardship to reach camps like the one in Moria. Following the devastating fire last September, which exacerbated the already cramped, unhygienic, and inhumane conditions in the camp, the commitment made by the Government to relocate 28 children from the Moria camp to Ireland was, in the circumstances, good news. However, it also represented the bare minimum support and refuge that we should be offering, particularly to unaccompanied children who have suffered so much trauma in even their earliest years. The fact that seven months on this has not yet happened is appalling. For anyone, and especially for a child on their own, another day, another month living in fear in dire conditions in a refugee camp is another day of suffering and trauma that no one should have to endure.

“We know too how vulnerable unaccompanied minors are to the traps of those who deal in despicable acts like human trafficking. On such an issue we cannot act swiftly enough.

“Pope Francis has called again and again on the international community to do more in the face of this devastating global reality of our time. In his recent message to mark the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, he said: ‘In each of these people, forced to flee to safety, Jesus is present as he was at the time of Herod. In the faces of the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers and prisoners, we are called to see the face of Christ who pleads with us to help’.

“I call on Government to act as quickly and decisively as possible in this case to bring these children to safety and shelter here in Ireland and to look at any way in which we



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can seek to accommodate more than a mere 28 unaccompanied minors. In our own country, where so many have emigrated seeking welcome on other shores, let us be generous in responding when we are asked to do the same for others.”

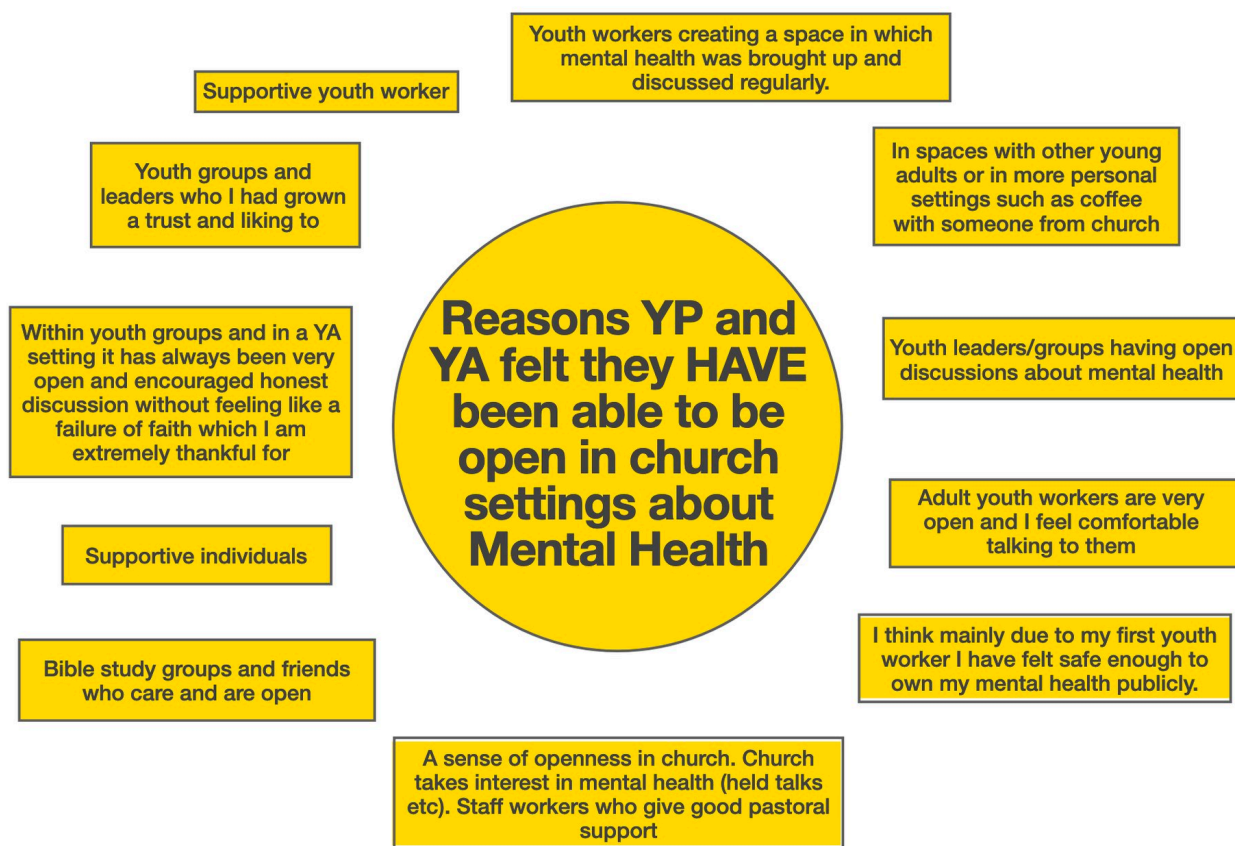
Note - Bishop Denis Brennan is Bishop of Ferns and chair of the Bishops' Council for Immigrants.

## **Let's Talk About Mental Health Survey finds young people want Church to be more proactive**

**Young people and young adults would like to see their church communities being more proactive in the area of mental health. That's according to the results of a survey carried out by Dublin & Glendalough's Youth Ministry Coordinator, Susie Keegan in collaboration with counsellor and psychotherapist, Tom Tate of WhyMind.**

Susie and Tom have been exploring the crossover between faith and mental health for some time. The survey (which is still live and open for young people and young adults to take part in [<https://www.dgyouthcouncil.net/mental-health-survey-information>]) was born from the desire to give young people of faith the opportunity to have their thoughts on mental health issues heard.

“The hope is to provide a space to help young people express their honest thoughts to help inform how our communities can seek to better support their needs,” Susie



explains. “The survey is not aimed at making parishes or clergy feel bad but the aim is to start a conversation. It is also not just up to clergy to take this on. The church includes everyone and it is important to know that we all need to help out. We have to know when to say ‘I don’t know’ or ‘I’m here’. It’s also important to know that we are not looking for everyone to be counsellors but rather to be aware of when to signpost a person to a counsellor or to other supports in the community.”

The survey has been sent to Diocesan Youth Officers and youth workers in each diocese as well as to youth workers in other denominations. It is completely anonymous and the questions have been formulated in consultation with the Church’s Child Protection Officer to ensure they adhere to child protection guidelines. So far 62 young people and

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young adults have taken part and they are looking forward to more contributions.

A total of 67% of respondents said they had struggled with their mental health – 81% of the female respondents and 50% of the males. This data is in line with similar studies which suggest that females are more open to saying that they struggle with their mental health.

The survey asked who young people turn to first when they are struggling with their mental health. The top three results were friends, parents and counsellors. “Peers are having conversations and that is wonderful but we need to ensure that supports are in place for them to be able to talk and process with other people,” Susie comments. “I was really encouraged to see that parents were ranked quite high. The tide is turning and I think that because there are many more conversations happening around the topic of mental health, it is perhaps helping parents to begin to help their children. We have to remember that it has only been in recent times that mental health has come to the forefront of the conversation. For generations, many have been shamed and even punished for struggling with their mental health.”

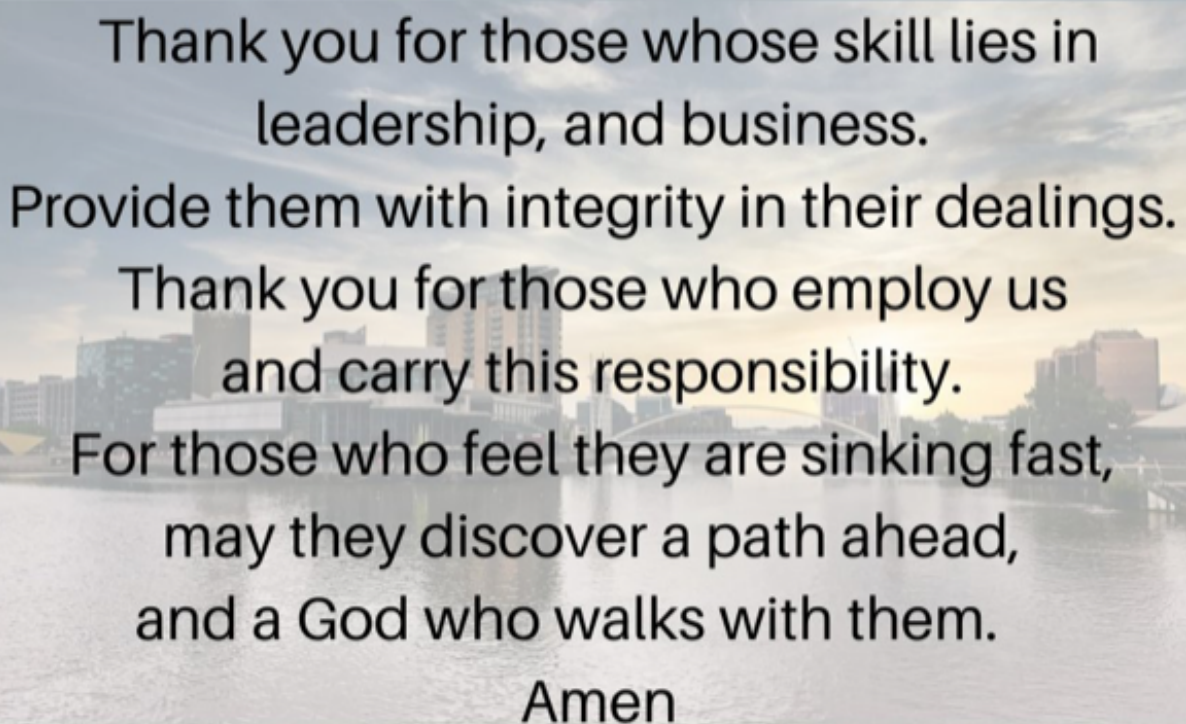
A total of 79% of respondents felt that faith had an impact on their mental health. Meanwhile, 67% felt that the Bible was relevant when it came to mental health. 34% said they would go to their church community for advice or direction concerning their mental health and 32% said they could be open about their mental health in church settings.

Within the church setting, respondents were most likely to go to a youth worker, volunteer leader or young adults

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leader with their struggles. However, Susie warns that while this can be viewed as flattering, she has a few questions in response. “First of all, it’s really encouraging to see that youth leaders and volunteer leaders have created a space that young people can come to them with any mental health struggles they may be going through. But are we equipped enough in dealing with these issues? On the other side of that, I ask: Do youth/volunteer/young adult leaders have space where they can process how they are doing?” she asks.

When it comes to practical support and awareness raising of issues relating to mental health, young people thought their



Thank you for those whose skill lies in  
leadership, and business.  
Provide them with integrity in their dealings.  
Thank you for those who employ us  
and carry this responsibility.  
For those who feel they are sinking fast,  
may they discover a path ahead,  
and a God who walks with them.  
Amen

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church communities could do better. They suggest that churches could provide mental health training/first aid, do more to raise awareness and have literature and/or a list of counsellors available.

“Young people and young adults are not asking for much,” Susie says. “They are asking for more general awareness on the topic of mental health, training and literature to be in the Churches/websites. It really isn’t that much to ask.”

You can find out more about the survey on the DGYC website at [[www.dgyouthcouncil.net/](http://www.dgyouthcouncil.net/)] If anybody or groups of people would like a more comprehensive talk through the survey or a copy of the findings, they can get in touch with Susie at 087–9444557 or email: [[dgyc.office@gmail.com](mailto:dgyc.office@gmail.com)]

## **Media focus - Violence won't go away until action is taken, warns Paisley - Susan Breen**

**DUP MP Ian Paisley urges Secretary of State Brandon Lewis to invoke Article 16 amid seismic breakdowns caused by NI protocol , Susan Been, Political Editor, writes in the Belfast Telegraph**

DUP MP Ian Paisley has said that “all the condemnation in the world” won't make loyalist violence over the Brexit protocol disappear.

He was speaking as Secretary of State Brandon Lewis called the rioting that left almost 90 PSNI officers injured “totally unacceptable” and “utterly reprehensible”.

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Labour Shadow Secretary of State, Louise Haigh, said Boris Johnson could no longer remain a “casual observer” and must convene urgent political talks in Northern Ireland on the disturbances.

Mr Paisley told MPs that the protocol, and decisions taken in Westminster “imposed on Northern Ireland”, had caused “seismic societal, economic and community breakdowns”.

“All the condemnation in the world — and I condemn the violence — will not make that violence go away until actions are taken,” he said.

“The causes are not Covid-19. Seriously.

“The causes are not the Bobby Storey funeral — that's the straw that broke the camel's back.

“The Secretary of State knows that the protocol lies at the heart of this because the identity of Ulster is at stake as a result of the protocol.

“I fear a continuing downward spiral unless the Secretary of State takes action and the key action he could take is to invoke Article 16, take control of this situation.”

At this point, Mr Paisley's video feed slowed down and he became inaudible. Secretary of State Brandon Lewis said he understood the DUP MP's point.

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He acknowledged concerns around the protocol and highlighted the Government's unilateral action designed to support firms.

He said he wanted the issues resolved through the “proper channels” with an “agreeable solution” reached to benefit the UK and the EU.

DUP MP Carla Lockhart asked the Secretary of State to acknowledge the extent of unionist anger at the protocol.

She said: “Whilst all right-minded people will condemn any violence or threat of violence in Northern Ireland, whether now or in the past, does the Secretary of State accept that the anger in the unionist community goes far beyond those who have taken to the streets in recent days?”

“Will the Secretary of State take any opportunity to point out to his Irish and European colleagues, whose belligerent approach has exacerbated the difficulties, that the rigorous implementation of the protocol is inconsistent with the Belfast Agreement (and) causing societal difficulties in Northern Ireland?”

Mr Lewis replied: “We are determined to work through these issues and make sure that the protocol is one that can work for everybody in a sense that is pragmatic, flexible and free-flowing trade for GB to NI.”

Ms Haigh told MPs that the Prime Minister's broken promise not to create an Irish Sea border had led to a “very deep sense of hurt and anger” within the unionist and loyalist community.

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“He made those promises because he knew economic separation would be unacceptable to the unionist community.

“The growing political instability we are seeing has its roots in the loss of trust that this caused,” she said.”

“As a co-guarantor to the Belfast Good Friday Agreement, the Prime Minister owes it to the people of Northern Ireland to restore the trust he has squandered.

“He is not a casual observer to these events.

“He must step up and urgently convene talks with the political parties in Northern Ireland and all parties to the (Northern Ireland) Protocol to find solutions and political agreement.”

Ms Haigh added: “The Prime Minister must face up to the consequences of his own actions and show the leadership communities are crying out for.” SDLP leader Colum Eastwood asked why the Government hadn't convened a meeting of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference.

“Policing may be devolved but peace isn't,” he added.

Sinn Fein junior minister Declan Kearney said the political instability here required the “co-ordinated intervention of both the British and Irish governments.”

Writing in An Phoblacht, he said: “The gravity of the current situation should not be underestimated and the wreckers should not be indulged any longer.



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“This Tory government is not a bystander.

“It needs to become properly involved at the highest level jointly with the Irish government. 'Flying in and out' interventions are the opposite of what is needed.

“Unchanged British policy will only fan the flames of political destruction. Both governments should immediately re-engage the substantial goodwill of the US and EU”.

TUV leader Jim Allister said: “No one who believes in the Union can settle for or endorse this imposed and undemocratic protocol, howsoever it is tweaked

.”

Courtesy the Belfast Telegraph 14.04.2021

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

### **Methodist Church Ordination**

You are invited to join online this Friday (16th) for the Ordination Service livestream on the church's website @ 7:30 pm. Due to restrictions the service was postponed last year. It is now going ahead in Assembly Buildings, Belfast. [irishmethodist.org/ordination-ser](http://irishmethodist.org/ordination-ser)

### **Morning Worship on Radio Ulster on Sunday April 18**

From St John's Parish Church, Ballyclare, in the Parish of Ballynure and Ballyeaston. The service, led by the rector, [churchnewsireland@gmail.org](mailto:churchnewsireland@gmail.org)

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the Rev Jonny Campbell-Smyth, will be pre-recorded with no parishioners attending. It will be broadcast at 10.15am and will be available afterwards on this link.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000v7wv>

**In the Age of the Spirit**  
Eastertide Series, Galilee Spirituality Centre Online



Please join us for a very special evening:  
**Rev Dr Ruth Patterson, OBE.**  
***The Beloved Community - An Endangered Species?***  
Tuesday, April 20th, 7.30-9.00pm

Ruth Patterson is a Presbyterian minister, and since 1988 has been Director of Restoration Ministries, a non-denominational, Christian organisation committed to peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. Ruth was the first woman to be ordained as a minister in Ireland. She has authored four books and numerous articles stemming from her commitment to unity and peace.

All Welcome  
*Booking and link: [info@galilee.ie](mailto:info@galilee.ie) €5*



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## Media review

### Church of England to return Benin Bronzes as repatriation rows rumble on

Evening Standard

They are likely to end up at the planned Edo Museum of West African Art (EMOWAA) which is being built in Benin City specifically to showcase the ...

[[] <https://www.standard.co.uk/culture/exhibitions/church-england-return-benin-bronzes-repatriation-rows-b928330.html> ]

### Northern Ireland: The role of social media in stirring up unrest

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Sky News

[ ] <https://news.sky.com/story/northern-ireland-the-role-of-social-media-in-stirring-up-unrest-12270775>

[ ]

### **Pay freeze for Church of England clergy as leaders feel the squeeze following pandemic shutdown**

Daily Mail

Stipends of all CofE clergy increased by zero per cent in their annual pay round · It means annual pay of the Archbishop of Canterbury will remain at

[ [ ] <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9464205/Pay-freeze-Church-England-clergy-leaders-feel-squeeze-following-pandemic-shutdown.html> ]

### **Report on the revised edition of the Archbishop of Canterbury's book, Reimagining Britain.**

The Times

[ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cancel-culture-is-a-parasite-that-consumes-liberty-says-justin-welby-h5956rhfv> ]

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## Pointers for prayer

Today we pray for Northern Ireland. Last week, violence broke out on consecutive nights in parts of Northern Ireland, as issues around Brexit have caused concern around peace in the country. God, we pray for your peace in Northern Ireland, and an end to divisions.

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.

A prayer from the Church of Scotland...

Almighty and everlasting God, 'the life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.'

But You are forever, from everlasting to everlasting, and we put our trust in You for You have promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

Loving Lord, in this last year, through the worst of a global pandemic, we've been face to face with our fragility and vulnerability, perhaps for some of us as never before.

Against that backdrop of hurt and loss, we give you thanks for the life and service of Prince Philip, the Duke of

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Edinburgh. Some are called to the front of the stage, others to supporting roles and we rejoice in the way he supported Her Majesty the Queen through all of the years of her reign.

We remember, too, his work supporting charities and, perhaps most memorably for young people for over sixty years, his patronage of The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

In this hour of loss, we offer our heartfelt prayers for Her Majesty and her family. Comfort them in their loss, bind up their wounds and grant them the consolation of a store of treasured memories. Grant Her Majesty the peace that comes from knowing you and which passes all understanding.

These and all our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus, who through his life, death and resurrection offers us hope instead of despair, life instead of death.  
Amen.

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

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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

**Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?” Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?” Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”**

John 21:20-22 NLT

Having received his commission from Jesus to care for his sheep and been given an insight into his future, Peter then becomes curious about others. He asks about how it is going to be for the disciple whom Jesus loved, who we assume to be John. Jesus' response was sharp and definite. Effectively Jesus said, “Mind your own business”. It was nothing to do with Peter. All he needed to know was that he was called to follow Jesus.

Let's face it, we are all curious about the people around us. We would be fascinated to know what their future will be. But Jesus' words remind us all that our responsibility is for ourselves and we don't need to know what will happen to other people. That is in God's hands. As John drew his gospel to a close, he wanted his readers to know that their

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greatest need was for each one of them to keep their eyes fixed on following Jesus.

In our busy, noisy world we face endless demands on our time and attention, and it is very easy for us to lose our focus on following Jesus. We can so easily get distracted by things that are not, in themselves, bad which lure us away from giving first place to Jesus. We need to work hard to ensure that we are tuned in to his voice. When I lived in India a key moment in my day was when I listened to the news on BBC World Service. The task of tuning in our old radio sounds simple enough but it never was! I often had to work for some minutes to get a proper signal. We need that kind of determination to keep our focus on listening to Jesus and following in his ways.

## QUESTION

What do you need to do to guard against becoming distracted from following Jesus?

## PRAYER

Lord help me always to make following you the priority of my life. Amen

