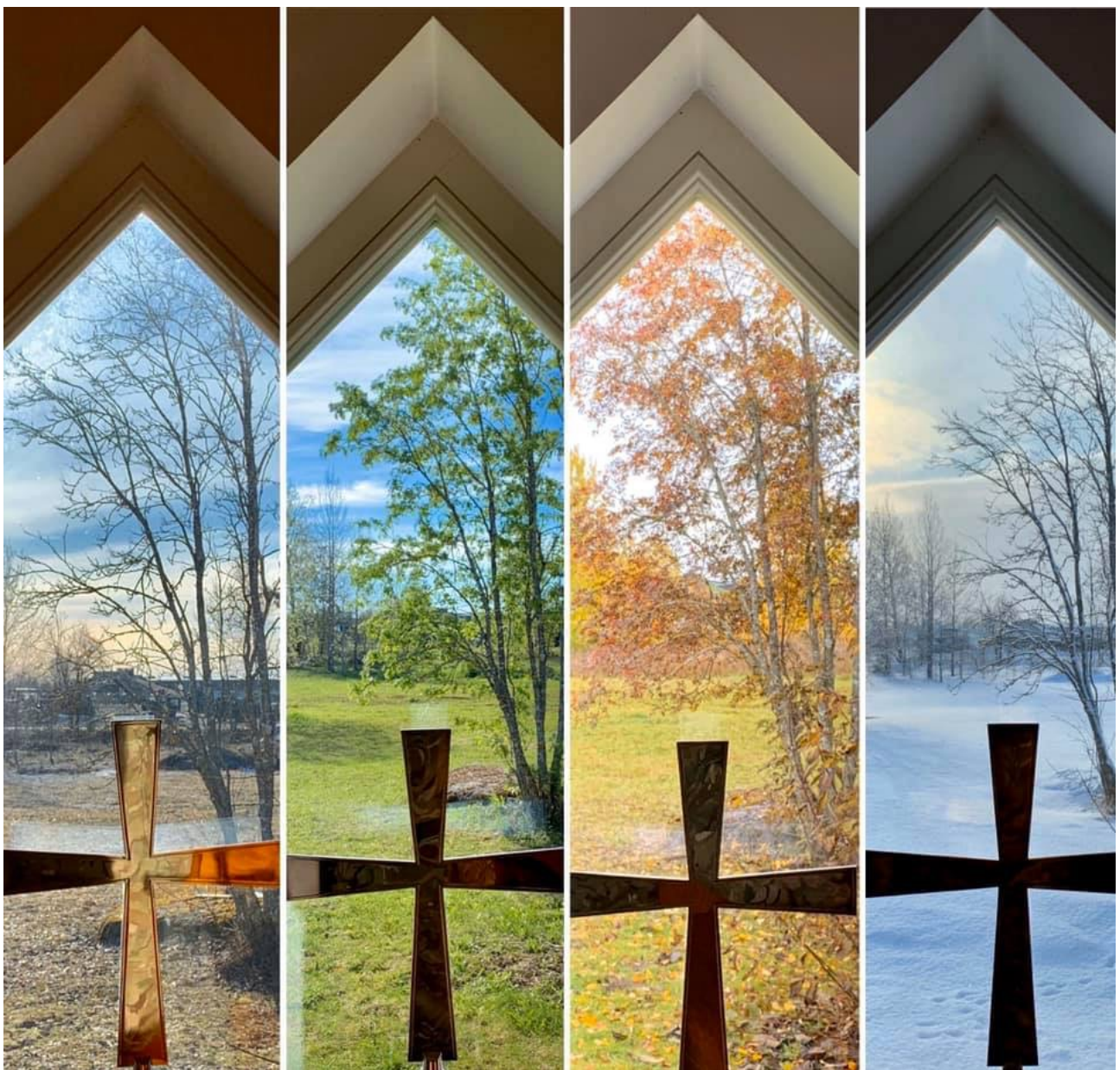


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## Image of the day - Chapel in Estonia

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*The 14 graduates in the Certificate in Christian Studies together with the Bishop of Cork and also the representatives of the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.*

## **Certificates in Christian Studies Presentation in Cork, Cloyne and Ross**

The presentation of certificates to graduates from the United Dioceses of Cork, Cloyne and Ross who recently completed the Certificate in Christian Studies, which the Diocese offered in partnership with the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, took place on Wednesday 3rd February in an online ceremony. The graduates were joined by family and friends as well as people from around the Diocese.

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Fourteen people from many parts of the Diocese successfully completed the course which is accredited by the Pontifical University at Level 7 standard, and which was delivered over a two year period in the Diocese.

Speaking on behalf of the Pontifical University, Father Michael Shortall, emphasised how much this ecumenical connection is valued and how vibrant the participation in the Cork course had been. Also from Maynooth, Dr Jessie Rogers said that the external examiner had reported a very high standard of work with a 'high level of engagement' and that what was especially noteworthy was the way that the participants had 'applied and evaluated the course material

in the light of their own context of ministry.'



Bishop Colton thanked the participants for being the experimenters and pioneers of the running of this course for the first time in Cork, Cloyne and Ross. He thanked all the local tutors and lecturer. He expressed gratitude to everyone at the Pontifical University and especially the

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Church of Ireland Coordinator, Dean Tom Gordon. The evening concluded with a short address by Dean Tom Gordon.

The Certificate Course is made up of six modules:

The Bible: Exploring the Word

Christian Liturgy: Worship and the People of God

Thinking about God: Faith seeking understanding

Mission and Ministry: Sharing the Good News

Ethics: Christian faith and moral choices

Church History: Christianity in Ireland

## **Black Santa donations will support over 230 charities**

**There was great news for charities across Northern Ireland with the announcement that Belfast's Black Santa Appeal 2020 raised a massive £230,000.**

This will be distributed to 232 organisations working with the elderly, the young, people affected by unemployment and homelessness, mental health and the Arts. There is also a donation to Christian Aid.

The tally is a substantial increase on the sum raised during the 2019 sit-out, which brought in £170,000.

“The total raised is quite amazing, given the challenges of Covid-19,” said Dean Stephen Forde, who has completed three years as Black Santa. “This figure does not include the small change coins which still have to be counted by the bank, nor the Gift Aid which will be reclaimed.”



He said the 2020 appeal had been boosted by a ‘very generous legacy,’ but added that even without the legacy, fundraising generated £130,000 – only £40,000 less than the previous year’s total.

The Dean expressed his gratitude to Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) whose online partnership, including the creation of a dedicated Black Santa website, had raised more than £21,000.

During the annual sit–out, which began on December 17 on the steps of St Anne’s Cathedral in Donegall Street and ended on Christmas Eve, Dean Forde was supported by the Bishops of Connor and Down and Dromore, Cathedral clergy and its Canons.

With the pandemic and Covid–19 restrictions, it was a somewhat different event compared to previous years and meant each day had new challenges for the Dean.

Writing during his week on the steps of St Anne’s, Dean Forde said: “Each year, I pull on thick socks and boots to keep my feet warm. I tightly fasten the traditional black cloak which gives its name to Black Santa. But this year, there is more to do. I have to fix my face covering over my mouth.

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Somehow I have to stop my glasses from steaming up. I have to ensure 2m social distancing is maintained. It is all part of that strange new world we have entered.”

A spokesperson for PwC said: “It was an absolute privilege to support the team at the cathedral with the Black Santa 2020 campaign. Local charities have been facing huge funding challenges through the pandemic, and the needs of the people who require support are greater than ever.

“Being able to deploy the talent and skills of the people who work in our business, and give back at a time when people were struggling to work out how to give back, was the best gift we could have been given at Christmas 2020. On behalf of PwC, we are so grateful to the team at the cathedral for supporting us, working with us and trusting us to deliver a very ambitious project in a very short period of time!”

Funds raised by the Black Santa Appeal are traditionally distributed to charity representatives at the Good Samaritans Service, a special service held each year on the first Sunday in February.

“This year, because of the coronavirus restrictions, we are unable to make the presentations in person to each of the organisations at the annual Good Samaritans Service which was scheduled for February 7,” Dean



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Forde said.

“Instead, the awards will be sent directly to each charity so they can put them to use straight away. We are asking them to send us a photo, either of their organisation’s team, or of some of the work they do, and hope to create a photomontage in time for February 7.”

The Dean added that the online 11.00 am Morning Service from the Cathedral that day will mark Good Samaritan Sunday, and will ‘celebrate what has been achieved through this year’s Black Santa Appeal.’”

Dean Forde thanked everyone who had donated to this year’s Black Santa. “For every child, Christmas is about the power of hope,” he said. “The gift of a vaccine. The generosity of carers who will not give up. The resilience of our human spirit in the face of adversity. The giving of pennies that makes possible amazing work by a myriad of charities.”

## **Religious order ‘overwhelmed’ by death of 10 priests in Covid-19 wave**

Ten priests from the Spiritan order died in the month of January, eight of them having tested positive for Covid-19.

Fr Dermot Kavanagh, Fr Leo McGarry, Fr Christy Burke, Fr Jimmy Peters, Fr Brendan Heeran, Fr James Delaney, Fr Padraig Donovan, Fr Tom Cunningham, Fr Tony Darragh and Fr Paddy Reedy died between January 8th and 31st.

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In a statement, the order – also known as the Holy Ghost Fathers – said the number of deaths in such a short period of time was “overwhelming”.

Six were in their eighties and four were aged between 90 and 97. All but two had tested positive for Covid-19. The order declined to state which two had not tested for the disease.

In addition the order lost seven priests during the first wave of Covid-19. Three of them tested positive for the virus and three others had Covid-related symptoms.

In a statement, the Irish Spiritan Province said the emotions of those involved ranged from “extreme sadness to bewilderment”.

It added: “We sympathise with all who have lost loved ones in the current climate where all families and communities are unable to grieve as they normally would. For us mourning so many, each of whom also had an extended family, in such quick succession in the present circumstances, feels overwhelming.”

The priests involved were mostly retired from active ministry. All had served on the missions.

The order runs some of Ireland’s best known schools: Blackrock College, St Michael’s College, St Mary’s College, Willow Park Senior School and the Holy Family Community School, all in Dublin, along with Rockwell College in Co Tipperary.



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Almost all of the priests spent most of their working life abroad with the exception of Fr McGarry who taught in St Michael's College on Ailesbury Road.

The latest funeral to take place was that of Fr Tom Cunningham (91) who was originally from Strathroy, Omagh, Co Tyrone and who spent most of his life on the missions in Ireland, Nigeria, Angola, Australia and Papau New Guinea.

Delivering the homily, his friend and fellow Spiritian priest Fr Brendan Carr compared Fr Cunningham to a "great oak".

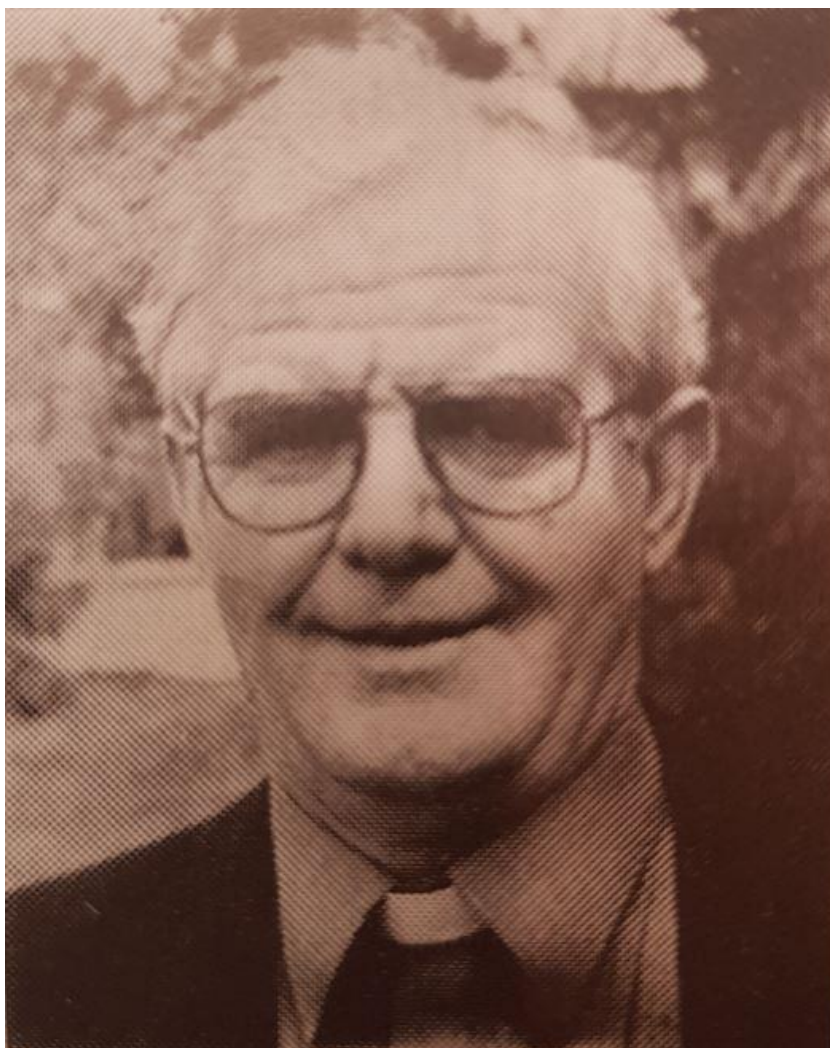
Speaking to the congregation at the Holy Spirit Parish Church in Kimmage, Dublin, Fr Carr said: "Many great oaks have fallen for us Spiritans over the last year. It has been shocking and we feel the pain.



"We who have known these great men know the beauty that is gone. They were inspired men, inspired and sustained by the love of their compassionate God who lifts up the lowly

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**Fr Leo McGarry, originally from the North Circular Road in Dublin, had spent time on the missions in Nigeria and the US and was a teacher at St Michael's College, Dublin.**



and mends the broken-hearted.”

One of 37 Spiritans ordained in 1955, Fr Cunningham was pre-deceased

by two of his brothers who served in the order, Séamus and Colum, and by a sister Sr Breid who died in her 100th year in December.

Fr Carr, who served with Fr Cunningham in Angola, said he was a man who could make anything work – “an engine, a pump, a sawmill. He had an engineer’s mind.”

Fr Dermot Kavanagh from Rathnew, Co Wicklow who had been a missionary priest in Nigeria and the United States died on January 8th followed on January 14th by Fr McGarry. He was originally from the North Circular Road in Dublin and had spent time on the missions in Nigeria and the US.

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Fr Burke died on January 23rd. He was from Kilmaley Co Clare and a missionary in Kenya.

Fr Brendan Heeran from Keshcarrigan, Co Leitrim died on January 26th. He had also been a missionary in Kenya.

On the following day, Fr Jimmy Peters died in Nazareth House Dublin at the age of 98. He had served in Nigeria, Biafra, Gabon, Liberia, Kenya, the UK and Ireland.

Two priests died on January 28th. Fr Darragh from Co Derry had worked in Kenya and Uganda and Fr Jim Delaney from the South Circular Road in Dublin. He was 93. He had served on the missions in Kenya and the United States.

Fr Pádraig Donovan from Portroe, Co Tipperary died on January 30th. He had been a missionary priest in Brazil, the US and in Ireland. His funeral is on Thursday.

A day later Fr Paddy Reedy died. He was from Birr, Co Offaly and served as a missionary in Sierra Leone. His funeral is on Friday. There has been a funeral at the order's church in

Kimmage every day this week.

Report by Ronan McGreevy courtesy of the Irish Times 03.02.2021



## **Former Presbyterian moderator and ‘significant evangelist’**

A former Presbyterian moderator who has died aged 82 has been praised as a “strong spiritual leader” who was “greatly loved” for his caring nature.

Co Armagh native Rev David McGaughey spent 30 years as minister of Mourne Presbyterian in Kilkeel before retiring in October 2003.

It is understood that Rev McGaughey – who served as moderator between 1994 and 1995 – died in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

Sir Jeffrey Donaldson got to know the long-serving clergyman well during the early days of his ministry in Kilkeel.

“These were dark days for Northern Ireland and Dr McGaughey was a great pastor for this large congregation at a time of much instability,” the DUP MP said.

“During his time in Kilkeel, he conducted a number of funerals of civilians, police officers and UDR soldiers, including comrades I had served with from the Mourne area, who were murdered by the IRA.

“The strength of his Christian faith always shone through on such occasions and the support he provided for families devastated by grief was of enormous help and comfort to so many within and across the community.

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“The Mourne community was so proud to see David become moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and he provided strong spiritual leadership to the church during his year in office.

“My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Anne and family circle in this their time of great loss.”

Ordained in December 1965, Rev McGaughey’s first official role was as an assistant at Railway Presbyterian in Lisburn where he spent three years before becoming minister for the Castledawson and Curran congregations in Co Londonderry.

He moved to Kilkeel in September 1973 and was elected moderator in 1994.



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In 2005, Rev McGaughey was nominated by the DUP as their choice of clergyman to witness the decommissioning of IRA weapons.

At the time, a report in The Times newspaper described the minister as being “noted for his hardline views”.

In the same article a DUP source is quoted as saying Rev McGaughey would be the most appropriate Protestant clergyman, along with a Catholic representative, to witness arms being put beyond use, however, he was not appointed by the decommissioning body.

“If they [Independent International Commission on Decommissioning] are serious about building confidence in the unionist community with this gesture then they will take our nominee instead of one of their own,” the DUP source is quoted as saying.

Former Ulster Unionist MLA Danny Kennedy has also paid tribute to Rev McGaughey as someone who was “loved and almost revered” within the church.

“He was a very significant figure in the Presbyterian Church,” Mr Kennedy said.

“He was greatly loved, and almost revered, because he was a very faithful pastor to his people in times of sadness and sickness. A man dedicated to their spiritual needs.”

“He was also a very significant evangelist who conducted a great many missions throughout Northern Ireland, and he was a very strong exponent of the Gospel.”

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Mr Kennedy added: “I think is passing is a great loss to his family especially, but also to the Presbyterian Church generally, and many people will be saddened because of the Christian influence he exerted in their personal lives.”

Rev McGaughey retired from ministry in October 2003 and moved from Kilkeel to Tullyallen, near Markethill in Co Armagh with wife Anne.

A notice on the [funeraltimes.com](http://funeraltimes.com) website said the father-of-three passed away at his home on the Tullyallen Road, Glenanne.

Rev McGaughey is described as the “dearly loved and devoted husband of Anne, much loved father of Lynn, David,



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Hilary and Jane, dear father-in-law of Richard, Gavin and Glenn. Loving grandfather, brother and friend”.

At the funeral service yesterday afternoon tributes were paid to Dr McGaughey by Rev William Bingham, minister of Mourne Presbyterian Church and by Rev Nigel Reid, minister of Tullyallen and Mountnorris Presbyterian Churches

Courtesy of Mark Rainey, and The News Letter 02.02.2021

## **Broadcasts, resources and webinars**

**Kick Start Course from CAP** - James Myles (will facilitate the course over Zoom and it will run for four Tuesday evenings beginning on Tuesday 2 March at 7.30 pm.

Sign up for the sessions that interest you which include:

- Week 1 Anxiety and Worry
- Week 2 Handling Loss
- Week 3 Breaking Unhealthy Habits
- Week 4 Lifting Financial Pressure

It's essential that you book your place. To register please contact James at [jamesmyles@capuk.org](mailto:jamesmyles@capuk.org) or phone 07599379839 by Wednesday 24 February.

**Next Week! #RootedInLove** - Bishop Sarah Mullaly of London in conversation with Paular Gooder about being rooted in God's love this Lent. Full event Tues 9 Feb at 7pm - find out more, register free and donate if you can here [eventbrite.co.uk/e/rooted-in-lo...](https://eventbrite.co.uk/e/rooted-in-lo...) St Paul's; London diocese



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**Royal enthusiast** - the Rev Derek Kerr will give a live talk on Facebook this Saturday, February 6, as on this date, Her Majesty the Queen will have reigned for 69 years. Find out how you can tune in at <https://bit.ly/3cDLyuK>.

**Belvoir Parish Geology Department** - A little clip from a summery Songs Of Praise, in which the Belvoir Parish Geology Department (aka Mark Patton) talks igneous provinces, columnar jointing and faith while showing us around the Giants Causeway

[youtu.be/ELu6COEfCVo](https://youtu.be/ELu6COEfCVo) via @YouTube

**Borders and Belonging:** An evening with Pádraig Ó Tuama and Guli Francis-Dehqani

The ancient story of Ruth tells of an outsider, a migrant facing uncertainty in a strange land, whose life shapes a new future for the people she chooses as her own.

Join Pádraig Ó Tuama and Guli Francis-Dehqani as they discuss borders, belonging, and how timeless bible stories can help us respond creatively to current issues.

Tickets to this event are FREE. Information on how to view this event via YouTube will be sent to registered attendees before the event.

Date: Monday 15th February

Time: 7pm GMT/2pm EST/11am PST

<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/events>

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**Transformation Courses** - Belfast Bible College - Now is a great time to spend some evenings going deeper. We hope these Transformation Courses will help you grow in your learning, discipleship and wisdom. Full course info and bookings here - <https://www.belfastbiblecollege.com/transformation-courses>

**Clogher Diocesan Magazine** - February edition available online at <https://clogher.anglican.org/Magazine/>

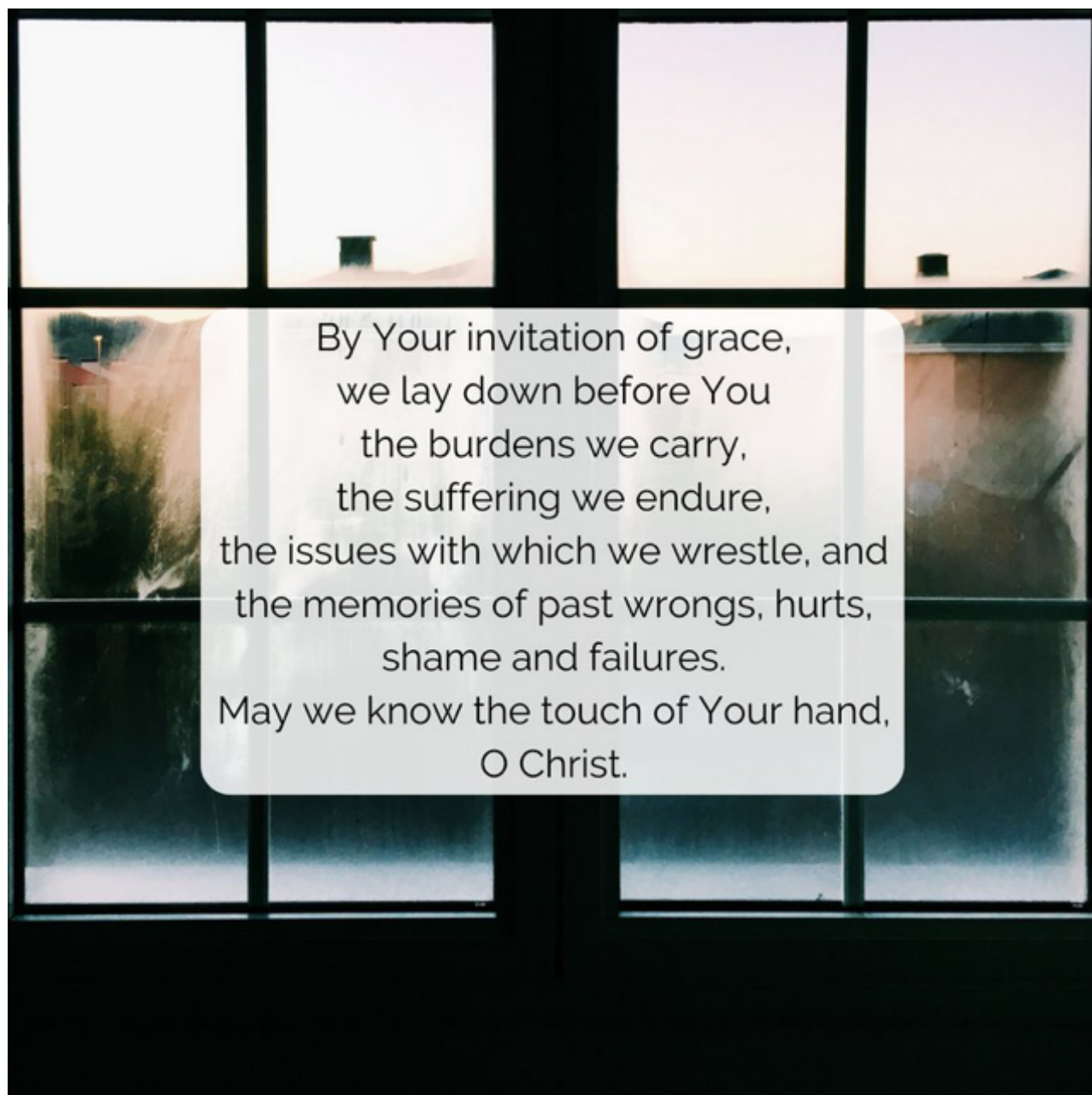
## **Pointers for prayer**

Pray that the right person will be appointed to lead Church Army in the next chapter. Pray for wisdom for the Board members as they meet to decide who will be appointed.

We think today of families who are struggling to cope with the ongoing restrictions to normal life, especially those who live in small homes with no outside space. We pray for an abundance of tolerance to help ease their less than ideal circumstances.

Today we give thanks for young climate activists. A UN survey shows that demand for green business and jobs is particularly high among young people, who have been a driving force behind getting the issue onto the political agenda.

Pray for the Moderator as he seeks to give a lead to the Church at the start of 2021, and for plans being put in place for the General Assembly later this year and also as he



By Your invitation of grace,  
we lay down before You  
the burdens we carry,  
the suffering we endure,  
the issues with which we wrestle, and  
the memories of past wrongs, hurts,  
shame and failures.  
May we know the touch of Your hand,  
O Christ.

seeks to provide encouragement and pastoral care for PCI's ministers.

We remember with thanks the numerous Mothers' Union members who, over the years, have used their God-given gifts to change the world. We pray that, in our day, we'll also be willing to use our gifts to help transform lives and communities

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Today we pray for Mozambique. A cholera outbreak combined with a growing humanitarian crisis after fighting in a northern province displaced more than 500,000 people last year has led to the UN calling for help in the region.

Today we give thanks for those raising awareness of leprosy around the world. It's World Leprosy Day next week, when advocates challenge myths and spread awareness about leprosy, which is totally curable, globally.

We pray today for the church across the world, especially in places where they are experiencing hardship and persecution. We stand together with our sisters and brothers and pray for God to bring relief from their circumstances.

Lord Jesus, you prayed that we would all be united together so the world would believe and experience your love. Help us to put aside that which keeps us apart and work together to share your love through our actions and our lives.

## Speaking to the Soul

It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first instalment that guarantees everything he has promised us.  
2 Corinthians 1:21-22 NLT

I wonder what you really make of your Christian brothers and sisters. Honestly. Before you tell me, let me suggest that you find them mixed. You feel incredibly close to some of them and know that you could share anything with them.

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And then there are others who you find hard work. You just don't easily see eye to eye with them. Their approach to life and the Lord is so different from yours. That was certainly Paul's experience! The Corinthian Christians were very mixed. Some were his close friends and others were doing everything they could to bring him down.

What I love about these verses today is that Paul addresses the whole church and celebrates the way in which God has blessed them – all of them. He is so gracious with his accusers and with those who are trying to obstruct his ministry. He wants to remind them all that they are standing firm in Christ and that they can all be sure of God's blessings in the future.

Paul speaks of the blessing of the Holy Spirit that is at work in every single believer. He tells them that the Holy Spirit is like a seal of ownership upon them. Because they have received the Spirit they can be absolutely sure that they belong to God. But more. He tells them that the Holy Spirit is like a deposit or down-payment which God has made which makes it absolutely certain that we will receive all of God's future blessings.

It's easy to understand that Paul would say all those things about the people that he really likes in Corinth. But he was affirming that they were God's true words about every single Christian, including those who were giving him such a hard time. That's grace, and I find that deeply moving.

QUESTION

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How will you pray today for those Christians with whom you find it hardest to relate?

## PRAYER

Thank you, loving Lord, that you are so generous and loving to every Christian, whether I get on well with them or not.  
Amen.

