



**HOLY TRINITY**  
**CHURCH**



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**MARCH 2025**

**A Bible in their hands  
A Saviour in their hearts  
A Purpose in their lives**

**[www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](http://www.holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)**

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# Letter to Parishioners

Reading: John 5:19-30



Dear parishioners,

Context in every situation of life is very important. I want you to imagine that you walked in to the vestry and you saw me with my hands around the throat of Jack and yelling at him that I was going to kill him. What would

you think? You might say that it was an ecumenical matter and leave. You might intervene and try to calm me down. However, if you had been in the vestry three minutes before and heard me say to Jack - at this point in the sermon I am going to grab you by the throat and threaten to kill you to illustrate a point you would understand that I was not being serious and it was all part of the teaching. So, context is very important. The context to the passage before us this morning is important, as it is in all of the Bible.

This passage began with the healing of a man who was paralysed for 38 years. He was seen walking in his community on a sabbath day carrying his bed mat. Now we would have expected rejoicing at this miracle of healing but the religious leaders, the religious police if you like, were not impressed and even less impressed when he told them that it was Jesus who had healed him. They are now concerned that Jesus not only healed on the sabbath but is also blaspheming as there were no doubts He was making claims of deity. So instead of praise and rejoicing their response is one of persecution. That is the context to John 5:19-30.

This passage is one of the key passages concerning the doctrine of the Trinity. I do not propose to go in to that in this letter and I for one am relieved about that. No, this morning I want to concentrate on another question raised by the teaching of Jesus in this passage.

Sometimes we say: “it is a matter of life or death.” Well in this passage it is actually “a matter of death or life.” Look for a moment at verse 25 and now look at verse 28. Did you notice the distinction between the two verses?

In verse 25 Jesus says: “an hour is coming, and is **now** here...” and then in verse 28 He says: “for an hour is coming...” **Then**. Did you catch the distinction? Verse 25 an hour is coming, and it is now. Verse 28 an hour is coming, and it is then.

So let us look a little more closely at these two verses.

### ***The Hour - Now***

If you notice at the beginning of verse 25 Jesus says “Truly, truly...” or if you are of my vintage and older “Verily, verily...”. This an idiom used in ANE to emphasise the importance and the significance of what is about to be said. A little like the word “behold” in the Bible. It means do not race past here, linger for a while as something of great importance is about to be said. Something you need to take on board - so listen up, open your ears and put your brain in gear.

Verse 25 this “now” Jesus says is when “the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.” An hour was coming and He tells His listeners, is here now, and those who are dead will hear and live. Think about this for a moment. He is talking to living people and yet He is addressing them as people who though walking about are actually dead. How can that be? Ephesians 2:5 tells us that there was a time when we were dead in our sins. Who is Paul talking about in that verse? A small group of people or everyone? Everyone! You and I included.

These people listening to Jesus are dead in their sins. They are quite literally dead people walking.

I am sure this was hard for these religious people to hear such a statement and to understand such teaching. It is the same today. When I tell people they are dead in their sins, alienated from God and bound for a lost eternity they do one of two things. They either get angry with me pointing out that I am being judgmental and sometimes say worse. Or, they acknowledge that the gospel is right and they need to do something about it. It was no different in the day here in our passage.

Some of those listening to Jesus decided this was the final straw and set out from this day to have Him killed. Their anger will only increase after He raises Lazarus from the dead, a few chapters later.

Now take a moment and look at the second part of verse 25. Jesus tells them that the hour has come, that they are dead in their sins but there is hope. Everyone who “hears the voice of the Son of God and believes will live.”

No doubt some in the crowd began to leave at this point. They had heard enough of this blasphemy by the carpenter of Nazareth. Claiming to be God, claiming to be the Son of God and now claiming that His words would bring life to the dead. Shocking to their religious ears and long held beliefs. Shocking to our ears and our religious practices too.

Jesus goes on in verses 26 and 27 to state that the Father has given Him authority over life and death. The Father has given Him authority to judge because He is the Messiah. More shocking words to those listening. No doubt some put their hands over their ears and shouted for the blasphemy to stop. How could this man claim to be the Son of God? How could He claim to be able to raise dead men to life? And now He is claiming that God has given Him the authority to judge the living and the dead? These are shocking claims to these people. This is blasphemy like they have never heard before. Their religious sensitivities are being assailed by this man, this carpenter from Nazareth.

Well Jesus does not stop there.

### ***The Hour - Then***

In verses 28-29 He goes a step further. He speaks about an hour when the dead, literally those in their graves, will hear His voice and be raised to life again. Some to glory and some to damnation. I can hear the tumult getting louder and louder as He says these words. I can hear the religious leaders wailing about Jesus blaspheming further. In their beliefs only God can raise the dead and only God can judge. By claiming to be able to give life to the dead, to raise the dead from the grave and to pass judgement on them Jesus is claiming to be God. To us it is not so shocking a statement because we have grown up with it, believe it or at least intellectually accept it but to these first century Jews this was blasphemy and shocking to their ears. Everything within them rebelled against this teaching. Everything within them wanted to stop His words and yet something within them drew them closer. Something in His words came with power, came with authority, came with love and gentleness. Something with His words was attractive to their souls and seem to meet a long ache in their hearts. They did not know it but it was the grace of God working in their hearts as the Holy Spirit applied the word of God spoken by the Son of God to dead men walking.

You see verse 26 provides the logic for verse 25. The Father had granted the Son to have life in Himself. Something again of the mystery of the Holy Trinity. That is why John begins his gospel with “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men...”. So He has life in Himself and this life is the light of men - therefore, He can give life to the dead. Not just the physically dead but also the spiritually dead. Those walking around physically alive but spiritually dead and heading for a lost eternity.

Further, the Father has given Him the authority and power to exercise judgment on the living and the dead. When that hour comes and His voice



summons all to stand before Him - all will come, no one will be excluded and as Genesis 18 states “the judge of all the earth will do right.” He will always do what is right and He, the Father, has entrusted that judgement to the Son.

What we see here is very clear teaching by Jesus that one day judgment will come. One day Jesus, the Son of God, will call the living and the dead to stand before Him and He will judge them accordingly. One day evil will be disposed of, decisively, authoritatively and unequivocally. It is quite a sobering thought and it is one, which not only Jesus hearers, but we are ourselves do not want to acknowledge or admit will come to pass.

We do not like the thought or the teaching that one day there is a judgement to come. In fact we are more prone to think that it is God who should be in the dock answering for wars, famines, earthquakes, tsunamis and all the sickness and suffering in the world. People today, maybe unconsciously, think God is answerable to them for all the woes of the world. Maybe that is you this morning. That is the natural response of sinful man. It was the response of those listening to Jesus and it is often our response today.

Until we admit our sinfulness, until we admit the fact that we are sinners before a holy God and realise that our sinful, rebellious heart deserves to be punished we will never see God’s judgments as just.

In a few chapters Jesus will demonstrate the truth of this teaching by raising Lazarus from the dead. On that day He called Lazarus by name and on the hour He is speaking of here He will call all to rise and stand before Him. At that hour all will come out to judgement - some to eternal life and others only to face judgment and damnation in a lost eternity.

Please understand this. All is not over when we die. We have, present tense, passed from death to life in Christ, when we believe in Him as Lord

and Saviour. That is settled. You see verse 24 is the key to understanding of verse 29. Did you get that? Those who hear the voice of Jesus and believe have eternal life. They are the ones who at that hour, then, are raised to eternal life. The opposite is then also true. Those that hear His voice and do not believe well they too are raised but they are raised to judgement and a lost eternity. We find ourselves at quite a crossroads this hour - now and then. ***The decision of which road taken, now, determines which destiny then.***

Here is the challenge. Turn for a moment to verses 6 and 7 of John chapter 5. Jesus asks the man if he wants to be healed? The man responds that he has no one to help him get in to the pool when the pool is stirred so that he might be healed. That little phrase ***“I have no one to help me...”*** is very telling. Sometimes that may be how you feel when it comes to life. I have no one to help me with x, y and z. Well, the good news this morning is that you are not left on your own when it comes to moving from being a dead man walking to being alive in Christ.

Christ has done it all. He did it all in coming to be born of the virgin Mary, to live a wholly sinless life and to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin - so as He says here - those who hear His voice and believe have eternal life. That is His gift and promise to each of us today. It is what He offered to those who were listening on that day in Galilee and He offers the same salvation to you as you read this letter. ***So the hour has come, Now, when those who hear the voice of the Son of God and believe may when the hour has come, Then, enter in to eternal life.*** Which road have you decided to take at this hour, Now, that will decide your eternal destiny at that hour, Then?

*yours in Christ*  
***Rev Dr Alan McCann***



## Alan's Bible Study & Prayer Time



Bible Study continues on Wednesday at 1.00pm. We will continue our study in the Psalms.

Please note the following day and times for prayer times and bible study:

### Wednesday's

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1.00pm-2.00pm | - Lunch time Bible Study in the Bennett Room |
| 7.00pm-7.30pm | - Prayer Time - Kerr Room                    |
| 7.30pm-8.30pm | - Bible Study                                |

Everyone will be very welcome.

God bless

*Rev Dr Alan McCann*

## Scrap to Money to Crosslinks

Any **scrap metal** such as; kitchen utensils, car parts, unwanted trampolines, garden gates, tools of any kind, central heating boilers, etc, etc, collected and redeemed for cash, proceeds to **Crosslinks Missionary Society**.

Contact : Lynn Rodgers, 07970974604.

## Carrickfergus Food Bank (JVC Church)

Please place non-perishable donations into the 2 black bins in the entrance hall. The food is delivered monthly.

Thank you for the continued support which is very much appreciated.

## Craic 'N' Craft



# CRAIC 'N' CRAFT




Ladies of all ages, would you like a warm safe place to meet twice a month to chat, have a cup of tea/coffee or to bring your craft project to work on???



We are planning to have a ladies' night on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month starting on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Membership will be £2 per night just to cover any costs.

We understand that not everyone likes to drive or to be out in the evenings, please don't worry as we can arrange lifts to and from the Church



We will meet in a room upstairs but again don't let that put you off as the lift  will be on for anyone who needs it.

Please put a reminder on your calendar for the 6<sup>th</sup> when we hope we'll have plenty of chat and good craic all washed down with a nice cuppa.



If you need any more information please speak to Hazel, Donna or Anne Langley. See you there.



## Trinity Tots - Toddlers Group



Thursday mornings, 10.00am - 11.30am  
for play, chat, snacks, singing and craft.

Thursday mornings for play, singing, craft and snacks. Babies, toddlers and their carers will be assured of a warm welcome. 10.00-11.30am.

God Bless  
*Trinity Tots Team*

## Storehouse



Storehouse continue to help those in need within our community. Please contact me if you have items of unwanted furniture and I will gladly arrange a collection.

Thank you for your support.  
*Donna Harrison*

## Select Vestry

If anyone wants an item raised at the Select Vestry please contact:

: [secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](mailto:secretary@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)

Drew Buchanan: [treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@holytrinitycarrick.org.uk)

or any member of SV. This includes booking the church hall for any events.

## Prayer Team

*Alison Allen, Joan Harvey & Libby Todd*



Two members of the Prayer Team will be meeting in the Prayer Room on Sundays after the service to lift your prayer slips. Two members will also be available at the front of the church to pray with you at this time each week. We will rotate in these roles so you will see different faces from week to week. Please do ask if you would prefer prayer in the privacy of the prayer room. The slips will continue to be lifted weekly and on 4 occasions as previously (usually over 4 weeks but may be over a longer period). Therefore, please do continue to make use of our prayer request box situated in the front hall of the church. As always, be assured that information on the slips remains confidential. We would encourage you to complete a prayer slip after you have attended for prayer so that we can continue to pray for your situation when we meet together.

If you would be interested in being part of the prayer team we ask that you consider this and know that we would dearly love to have your support. Please do approach one of us.

*On behalf of the prayer team*

## Carrickfergus Baby Bank

We thank you for the support and ask for donations of nappies, new baby grows, wipes, lotions, baby bath shampoo etc. Please place the items into the bin provided. The contents are delivered each month.

## Young At Heart



see you there.

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd March at 11.00am. We are really looking forward to a fun morning of armchair aerobics. This activity will be suitable for all our ladies- no running or jumping required- but a lot of laughs guaranteed! Hope to

God Bless

*Yvonne and her team*

## C.M.S Ireland Used Postage Stamps



Is it really only a couple of months since Christmas? As the old saying goes..."time flies". Thinking back to Christmas I want to thank you again for the time and effort you took

to save and donate those used Christmas stamps. And as we look forward to the coming of Spring I want to urge you forward to continue your splendid effort. As I've said so often.. every stamp counts. Remember the money earned from the sale of those stamps is used to support Christian based projects in Africa by Church Missionary Society in Ireland. The stamps box is in its' usual place on the church table. Please remember to leave a good margin of envelope around the stamps.

*Yvonne Best*

## Fellowship Café at Holy Trinity



**Every Thursday  
10.30am – 12.30pm**

February turned out to be an indifferent month. Some weeks we were busy others, not so busy. The occasional ‘quiet’ Thursday can also be a blessing. It gives us an opportunity to relax and enjoy the company of our visitors. Fellowship with our visitors (and amongst ourselves) is the main focus of our café. It was good to welcome some new visitors during February. One actually joined us for worship the following Sunday morning. Another blessing.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our café any Thursday to join in with the craic, to enjoy good food and then wash it down with unlimited tea/coffee/juice.

AND it’s all free of charge, unless you choose to make a donation. All our profits are passed to local, national and international worthy causes.

If you enjoy the craic and the chat, we can accommodate you.

If you prefer peace and quiet to read or just relax, we can accommodate you as well.

Our café is open to everyone, so please bring a friend along with you.

You can keep up to date by following us on facebook at:

“Holy Trinity Fellowship Café”

Yours in Christ’s service,

***Anne & Maurice Langley***

**God is good † all the time**



## Creche Rota –March 2025



2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Lauren Baird	Gemma Fittis
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Fiona Moody	Joanne Hunter
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Carolynne Lafferty	Lorraine Ross
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	NO CRECHE FAMILY SERVICE	
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Maureen Lunn	Laura Kerr

Many thanks,  
***Laura Kerr***

## Tea & Coffee Rota

Team	Team Members		
1	Ann Calvert	Tracey Bowden	Joanne Hunter
2	Arlene Macartney	Hannah Hulme	Marilyn Hulme
3	Lorraine Hagan	John Doherty	Gail Doherty
4	Yvonne Best	Jennifer Hamilton	
5	Wenda Gray	Sue Majury	Eva Dunn
6	Kel McDermott	Drew Buchanan	Karen Buchanan
7	Lorraine Ross	Maureen Lunn	Adrienne Tasker

Team	Dates	
1		30 <sup>th</sup> Mar
2		6 <sup>th</sup> Apr
3	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr
4	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr
5	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr
6	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	4 <sup>th</sup> May
7	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	11 <sup>th</sup> May

***Karen Buchanan***  
Hon Secretary

## Welcome Team Rota

Teams	Dates	
Jack Blair Hazel Blair		16 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Karen Buchanan Jenny Wightman		23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar
Liz Adair Janis Gibson		30 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Maureen Lunn Adrienne Tasker		6 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Eva Dunn Eleanor Steele		13 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Sharon McNeill Alison Moffett		20 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Kel McDermott Maurice Langley		27 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Libby Todd Marjory Edgar		4 <sup>th</sup> May
Ann Calvert Lorraine Hagan		11 <sup>th</sup> May
Yvonne Best Jennifer Hamilton		18 <sup>th</sup> May
Joanne Hunter Laura Kerr		25 <sup>th</sup> May
Arlene Macartney Wenda Gray	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	1 <sup>st</sup> Jun
Donna Harrison Sue Majury	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	8 <sup>th</sup> Jun
Elaine Wright Joan Cummings	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	15 <sup>th</sup> Jun

***Karen Buchanan***

# Holy Trinity Chair Rota

Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4	Team 5
Kel McDermott	Dougie Hempton	Graeme Hunter	David Sprott	John Fittis
Colin McIlwaine	Simon McDonald	Jim McNerlan	Charlie Killow	Daniel Lafferty
Garry Richmond	Phil Moody	Bert Macartney	Richard Hambleson	
Peter Moffett		Maurice Langley		

Team	Dates			
1		2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	4 <sup>th</sup> May
2		9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	11 <sup>th</sup> May
3		16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	18 <sup>th</sup> May
4	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr	25 <sup>th</sup> May
5		30 <sup>th</sup> Mar		



**Please note:** Some teams need additional help. If you think you can help, please contact Simon.

Please take note of church announcements regarding organisations using the church and possible need to put out and put away chairs each week. If possible, please liaise with the others in your group.

Thank you  
*Simon McDonald*

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# Sunday Services

Date	Reading Number	Reader	Title & Prayer Leader	Book	Chapter & Verses
2 March 2025	1st Reading	Lorraine Ross	<b>HC</b>	Amos	Chapter 7 verses 1 - 9
	2nd Reading	Rev Alan McCann	Prayers Fred Shasko	Jeremiah	Chapter 7 verses 8 - 15
9 March 2025	1st Reading	Wenda Gray	<b>Service of the Word</b>	Amos	Chapter 7 verses 10 - 17
	2nd Reading	Terry Shimmon	Prayers Rev Alan McCann	1 Kings	Chapter 22 verses 13 - 23
16 March 2025	1st Reading	Helen Fittis	<b>MP</b>	Amos	Chapter 8 verses 1 - 8
	2nd Reading	Colin McIlwaine	Prayers Daniel Lafferty	Amos	Chapter 8 verses 9 - 14
23 March 2025	_____	_____	<b>Family Service</b>	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
30 March 2025	1st Reading	Jenna Macartney	<b>Service of the Word</b>	Amos	Chapter 9 verses 1 - 10
	2nd Reading	Hannah Hulme	Prayers Yvonne Best	Amos	Chapter 9 verses 11 - 15

*Colin McIlwaine*