



Assembly
Monday 22nd March
with Father Patrick Lagan

Welcome: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**

Opening Hymn: 'Above All' Lizzie Rea

Opening Prayer: Lord, help us to draw near to you in this the 5th week of Lent. We place before you, our intention to follow and serve you in all we do and say. May we have the courage to put aside anything that distracts us from you and acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow and continue our journey of repentance, we pray that our sacrifices will be pleasing to you. We make this prayer, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading: A Reading from the Gospel of John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.
I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection:

Intercessions: Lord, as we enter the 5th week of Lent, help us to draw near to you in humility and sorrow. We ask you, to hear and answer the prayers we make today.

Lord, may we lead a life of service, By offering our talents and gifts to enhance the lives of others.

Lord, may we lead a life of service, By being willing to offer up our sufferings for your glory.

Lord, may we lead a life of service, By accepting the dream, you have for each one of us.

Lord, may we lead a life of service, By ensuring that we give a welcome to those from all religious traditions, cultures and faiths.

We take a moment to call to mind anyone or anything we wish to pray for.

United as the children of God, we bring all our prayers together in the words Jesus, our first teacher, taught us. **Our Father.....**

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we know that following you is not easy, that coping with suffering is not easy, but with your grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit, may we be granted the strength and courage to cope. Be with us, we ask, on this Lenten journey and help us to remember that your own spirit can guide us in the right direction. We want to do better. At times this seems overwhelming, but with your help, we know, anything is possible. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: ‘ Above All’ Lizzie Rea

