



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney's Lent Course 2024

THE WAY TO THE CROSS

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY



WORDS FROM OTHERS REFLECTING ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Today you're invited to reflect on words from others.

For the poetry what images does it evoke for you? Does it chime with specific parts of the readings from Sunday? How does it speak to you and your journey of faith.

There is a reading from 'On Baptism' by Tertullian. Tertullian (c. 155- 220) was an early Christian author based in Carthage - an ancient city in modern day Tunisia. He was the first writer to use the term 'Trinity' in writing in Latin. What does this passage on baptism mean to you - does it resonate with your reflections on Jesus' baptism in Mark 1?

The Rainbow Never Tells Me
by *Emily Dickinson*

The rainbow never tells me
That gust and storm are by,
Yet is she more convincing
Than Philosophy.

My flowers turn from Forums—
Yet eloquent declare
What Cato couldn't prove me
Except the birds were here!

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886) was an American poet, she was born, lived and died in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her poems often deal with themes of death, immortality, society, nature and spirituality.

Collect for First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose Son fasted forty
days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we
are but did not sin,
give us grace to
discipline ourselves in
submission to your
Spirit, that as you
know our weakness so
we may know your
power to save;
through Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God,
now and for ever.
Amen.

from On Baptism by Tertullian of Carthage
(translated by Rev. S. Thelwall)

Chapter I.—Introduction. Origin of the Treatise.

HAPPY is our sacrament of water, in that, by washing away the sins of our early blindness, we are set free and admitted into eternal life! A treatise on this matter will not be superfluous; instructing not only such as are just becoming formed (in the faith), but them who, content with having simply believed, without full examination of the grounds of the traditions, carry (in mind), through ignorance, an untried though probable faith. The consequence is, that a viper of the Cainite heresy, lately conversant in this quarter, has carried away a great number with her most venomous doctrine, making it her first aim to destroy baptism. Which is quite in accordance with nature; for vipers and asps and basilisks themselves generally do affect arid and waterless places. But we, little fishes, after the example of our ΙΧΘΥΣ Jesus Christ, are born in water, nor have we safety in any other way than by permanently abiding in water; so that most monstrous creature, who had no right to teach even sound doctrine, knew full well how to kill the little fishes, by taking them away from the water!

A note: The word ΙΧΘΥΣ (ikhthus) in Greek means “a fish;” and it was used as a name for Jesus, because the initials of the words Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς Θεοῦ Υἱὸς Σωτὴρ (i.e. Jesus Christ the Son of God, the Saviour), make up that word.



“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Mark 1.15

Usual Weekly Pattern

Sunday
RCL Eucharist
Readings and Collect

Monday
Delving Deeper into
the Readings

Tuesday
Words from Others
(sacred & secular)

Wednesday
Resources from the
Arts

Thursday
Contemplative Acts

Friday
Personal Reflection
- what this means to
me

Saturday
Acts & Deeds