



# The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The text below has been sent to:

Presbytery Clerks, Ministers, OLMs/Auxiliaries, Interim Moderators, Locums, Readers, the Diaconate, Ministry Candidates, Probationers & Session Clerks

Dear friends,

It was only 1°C when I stepped out of the house this morning but there have been milder days of late and we can almost say that Spring is in the air. And with Spring comes Easter.

Though the First Minister has indicated that there is the possibility of limited church openings for Easter, we can be sure that serious restrictions will remain in place. Though it's inevitable, and perhaps for the best, some of us will be disappointed that Easter this year will not be markedly different to how it was last year. I for one can hardly think about Easter without the singing of *Thine be the Glory* in a packed church.

But our devotional patterns can certainly continue and to that end I am going to offer a series of daily reflections running from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. These will be available through the Church of Scotland social media channels and will be released each morning at 8am. They will also be available to download and place on your own digital platforms. Further, text versions will be available for local printing if desired and non-digital folk will be able to access them via phone: 0333 340 9200.

Each episode will include readings, prayers, reflections and music; with ministers, deacons, elders and others from across the Church taking part.

Whilst I'm sure that many congregations will be producing their own material (which is great!) I hope that these can be complementary to local content and helpful to those without the wherewithal to do things locally. My further hope is that these daily reflections will remind us of our essential unity and that we belong to a body of believers that stretches beyond our parish boundaries.

Might I also take this opportunity to remind you of the Photography Competition that is currently running under the Moderator's banner. '*The Cross - Hidden in Plain Sight*' is an invitation to find images of the cross as they appear all around us, both in nature and in the built environment. There are categories for Primary and Secondary ages and for over 18s. All the details are online: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/moderators-photo-competition> - lots of entries are already coming in but it would be great to see more from children and young people before the closing date of Wednesday 17 March. If you have contact with local schools, might you pass on the invitation?

Finally, as we continue through Lent, may you have a growing sense of the nearness of the Lord and know that with Him, we'll find ourselves soon enough at Calvary and in turn at the empty tomb.

With every blessing,

**Rt Revd Dr W Martin Fair**  
**Moderator**  
**General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**