**St Ignatius’, Carryduff 4 February 2024 2nd Sunday before Lent**

**8:30 am Holy Communion ONE** Hosea 2.14–20 John 3.1–8

**10:00 am Parish Communion** *text on white A5 folder*

Name of all majesty! - Hymn 102

The Collect - Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hosea 2:14–20 - please be seated

In today’s lesson God speaks to his nation as if he was a lover seeking to make someone his wife. They are tender words of love.

*The reader says*  
A reading from Hosea chapter 2 beginning at verse 14

‘Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.  
15 There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she will respond as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.  
16 ‘In that day,’ declares the LORD, ‘you will call me “my husband”;  
you will no longer call me “my master”.  
17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;  
no longer will their names be invoked.  
18 In that day I will make a covenant for them  
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky  
and the creatures that move along the ground.  
Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.

19 I will betroth you to me for ever;  
I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion.  
20 I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the LORD.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Children’s Spot - Ways we say yes or no to God!

Morning has broken - Hymn 58

Sunday Club begins

John 3:1–8 - Please stand

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to John chapter 3, beginning at verse 1 **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.’  
3 Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.’  
4 ‘How can someone be born when they are old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!’ 5 Jesus answered, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, “You must be born again.” 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: The new birth! - Baptism and/or Conversion?

The Nicene Creed

Offertory 562 - Blessed Assurance

Be thou my vision - Hymn 643 v 1,2,4,5

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **in the name of Christ. Amen.**