



Seafield Parish Church of Scotland, Banffshire

www.seafieldchurchbanffshire.org.uk

Parish Post

3rd May 2026

Welcome to your weekly roundup of all that's happening in and around the churches of Cornhill, Cullen and Portsoy, and giving you the chance to read a digested version of John's Sunday message. If you'd like a copy emailed to you or delivered to your home, please let John know on 07941 511192 or jgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

Verse of the Week

'Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.' Colossians 3:15

An invitation to let go of our inner battles and allow Christ's peace to take the lead.

This Week

- Tues 5th May: Coffee 'n Company from 10am to 12 noon in Portsoy Church Centre.
- Wed 6th May: Service in Durnhythe Care Home, Portsoy, 3pm. Come along and join in the singing and chat!
- Thurs 7th May: Monthly Coffee Morning in Cornhill Church Hall, 10am to 11.30am. All welcome.
- Fri 8th May: Banffshire Community Band Concert in Cullen Hall Church, 7pm. Tickets now on sale £6 including refreshments. Donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated, these can be delivered to Dr Kay at Camrose, Reidhaven Street, Cullen or taken along on Thursday 7th at 2pm, when the Hall Church will be set up.
- Sun 10th May: Sunday Services at 9.30am in Cornhill (Service of Holy Communion) and 11am in Portsoy Church Centre, both with Rev John Gow. No service in Cullen.**

Looking Ahead

- Fri 15th May: Songs of Praise Service for Christian Aid Week, 7pm in Portsoy Church Centre, with refreshments afterward. You can choose your favourite hymn for inclusion - there will be a sheet available in church on 3rd and 10th May to let us know! Envelopes will also be available for donations; these should be returned to the church.
- Sun 17th May: Service of Holy Communion in Cullen Auld Kirk at 11am with Rev John Gow
- Sun 24th May: Service of Holy Communion in Portsoy Church Centre at 11am with Rev John Gow



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This Week's Word

Mark 10: 35-45

In this week's Gospel reading, James and John approach Jesus with a bold request, before they've even told him what they want. "*Teacher,*" they say, "*we want you to do for us whatever we ask.*" There's no preamble, no softening. it's just we want something, and we want you to provide it.

It's easy to smile at their audacity. But if we're honest, there's something recognisable in it. Most of us come to God carrying something. A worry about a family member. Troubles with our health. A marriage under strain. A loneliness we didn't expect. A grief that hasn't shifted. And that's not a problem — in many ways, it's where faith begins, in the honest acknowledgement that on our own, we're not enough.

The issue isn't that we come to Him with needs. The issue is when those needs become the whole reason we come to him in the first place, making faith seem something like a transaction to be negotiated. As if we're saying: I'm here talking to you. I've done my part. Here's my list, God. Now do your stuff.

Jesus doesn't roll his eyes at James and John, though. He doesn't shame them. Instead, he asks a question: "*What do you want me to do for you?*"

What they want, it turns out, is a share of his throne, they want the best seats when the glory arrives. They imagine his kingdom works like every other kingdom, with power, hierarchy and reward. But Jesus is heading somewhere very different.

When he speaks of the cup he'll drink from and the baptism he'll undergo, he's not speaking of comfort or celebration. He's speaking of the cross, of a self-giving love poured out along a path that leads not to a throne but to Calvary. James and John want to share in his triumph. Jesus invites them to share in his sacrifice. They want to be lifted up. Jesus is about to be lifted up too, though — on a cross.

If that's what glory looks like in God's kingdom, then everything we assume about power and status gets turned upside down.

When the other disciples start bickering, and it's probably because they wish they'd made the same request first, Jesus speaks plainly: "*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... for even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.*"

Our faith isn't about *getting* our way. It's about *giving* ourselves away.

So maybe when we come to God, we could carry not just our requests and our needs, but a different kind of question too. Not only: what can He do for me? But also: what can I do, through Him, for someone else?

It doesn't have to be impressive. It might be as simple as a chat with the person who sits on the same bench in the park every day. It might be offering a practical skill like cooking, driving or listening to someone who needs it. It might be, if you're involved in the church, putting your name down for a rota you've been quietly avoiding. It might just be something God's been gently encouraging you to do for a while and you've not quite got around to yet.

We want comfort, and that's entirely understandable. But we're also invited to want courage — the courage to be *shaped* by God's kingdom, not just served by it.

Jesus doesn't dismiss James and John's question. He honours it. But he also, softly and carefully, invites them to let their answer grow much bigger than they'd first imagined.

He asks the same of us. So, what small act of love is he asking of *you* this week?