

WELCOME

On behalf of the Select Vestry and parishioners of Drumsallan Parish Church and myself as Rural Dean in charge of the vacancy I wish to express our sincere sympathy to James's father Alan, mother Mina and to James's sisters Heather, Diane and Laura, his daughter Lacey, and the wider family circle. Please be assured of our thoughts and prayers not only today but in the days that lie ahead.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the mountains -where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip. He who watches over you will not slumber. Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you. The Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.

Ecclesiastes 3

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

EULOGY

I have no doubt that over the last few says you have been thinking about James and reminiscing about your memories of James and I am sure there are many stories.

The family have shared with me that James would have done anything for a laugh. He was a big kid at heart and loved playing with his nephews and nieces. Weather it was banging an empty milk bottle with a wooden spoon and marching around the kitchen with his nephew pretending to be in a band or putting on a face mask with his niece, he was a kid that never grew up.

He was always mischievous and pushed the boundaries, but family was important to him.

Once when children, they were playing hide and seek in the house. After mum found the 3 girls, they searched and searched for James but no sign of him. They started calling for him to come out, still no answer. They searched every room upstairs and down. After many minutes they found James in the wash basket in the bathroom. He stayed quiet the whole time to make sure he won!

James was also a hard worker, helping his dad out or at the farm at his granny Livingstone's.

James would have went with his dad to spread slurry. Approaching the gate, James would have jumped out of the tractor to open the gate and let his dad into the field. His father would tell him to wait there until he spread the load then pick James up on the way back out. On one occasion the tanker overturned in the field. Wondering what the delay was, James went to investigate. When he spotted his dad having a heated debate with the overturned tanker, he shouted across to his dad. His Dad being a little frustrated in the situation, looked up at James and said get back to that gate or you'll be next! "Well you'll have to catch me first da!" James replied.

BLESSING

I would also like to bring James's family some words of comfort from one of our scripture readings that I had read earlier from the Gospel according to John chapter 14 where it says:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms, if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Remember God also tells us in this passage that 'I am the way the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. That is a very important sentence from scripture for each and everyone of us here today.

When we think today of our own lives and our Christian faith and belief. Our faith in God is there in the good times of life and in the not so good times of life but let us remember today that our faith and trust in God our heavenly father is with us to comfort and support us day and daily and will see us through many times of difficulty and sadness.

The Lord's Prayer
Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

As I conclude now I do so by attributing very sincerely and very personally the following words to James.

"James, May God keep you, and watch over you. May The Lord keep watch over you, both now and forever, until we all meet again".
James may God Bless you and keep you in his loving heavenly care.

So for now James, we say farewell. Goodbye is too final. So, farewell James, until we see you again. Amen.