

Church Planting Week

Northern Ireland, April 25-May 3, 2022





The Mission of the Euro Partnership

To mobilize the global Church to lend tangible support, engage in collaborative efforts, and deepen mutual learning alongside the Church in Europe as they pursue the multiplication and renewal of local churches.

Core Values

The three “Greats” given by Jesus

- The Great Commandment (Mark 12) - *“Love God and Each Other”*
- The Great Commission (Matthew 28) - *“Go and Make Disciples”*
- The Great Collaboration (John 17) - *“That they may be one as We are One”*

Mutual Learning

The Church of Jesus Christ is a learning community. As we plant new churches and seek the renewal of existing churches, we affirm that there is much to learn. Members of the larger global Church have much to learn from the European Church. Members of the European Church community have an opportunity to learn from their global partners.

Indigenous Authority

All of our church planting efforts are in partnership with European Christian leadership on the ground. We are true partners who learn from each other and who resource each other. We collaborate with the established church to stimulate renewal and multiplication. With mutual respect, we submit to the final authority of the indigenous leadership of those with whom we partner.

Respect for History and Culture

Europe has a rich Christian history and heritage. We as a partnership are rooted in the historic Reformation and aligned with the historic Christian orthodoxy. We long for the fresh wind and fire of the Holy Spirit to move among the churches of Europe, but we do so with a deep appreciation of the Spirit's long-standing work among these churches.

Innovation and Experimentation

Fresh expressions of the church are welcome in this partnership as a recognition that the Church is always seeking to contextualize her mission. We move forward boldly and in faith, believing that the moorings of our faith will always hold. Some experiments will bear fruit and some may not, but we are committed to a learning posture and an openness to trying new and innovative approaches to ministry.

Expatriate Communities

We recognize the massive and historic movement of persons from one place to another around the globe. Immigration and global mobility make both permanent and temporary expatriate communities a reality in almost every city on the European continent. We value the presence of diverse people and affirm the need to reach all people for Jesus Christ no matter where they are living. We also affirm the need to plant international churches, language-specific churches, and missionary churches focused on communities that originate in another culture.

Retreat Schedule

Tuesday, April 26

5:30 p.m. - Tea (evening meal)
7:00 p.m. - Opening session
9:00 p.m. - Evening prayer

Wednesday, April 27

8:30 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Morning prayer & Gospel reading/imaginative scripture prayer
9:30 a.m. - Planting Stories 1 & 2, group sharing
10:45 a.m. - Coffee break
11:00 a.m. - Planting Stories 3 & 4, group sharing
12:15 p.m. - Lunch
2:00 p.m. - Walking the St. Patrick sites
6:00 p.m. - Evening meal out
Golden threads and evening prayer

Thursday, April 28

8:30 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Morning prayer & Gospel reading/imaginative scripture prayer
9:30 a.m. - Planting Story 5, group sharing
10:45 a.m. - Coffee break
11:00 a.m. - Planting Story 6, group sharing
12:15 p.m. - Lunch
1:15 p.m. - Prayer walking
2:00 p.m. - Planting Story 7, group sharing
3:15 p.m. - Coffee break
3:30 p.m. - Planting Stories 8 & 9, group sharing
4:45 p.m. - Golden Threads
5:30 p.m. - Tea (evening meal)
Evening prayer and communion

Friday, April 29

8:30 a.m. - Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Morning prayer, palms up palms down prayer, and sending liturgy
10:30 a.m. - leave for Dublin Airport



Spiritual Practices

Prayerful Imaginative Scripture Reading

1. Take your Bible and a journal and find a quiet place where you will not be disturbed.
2. Select a Gospel account of one event in the life of Christ. If you need a place to start, try Mark 10:17-22. After a brief prayer inviting God to allow you to imaginatively enter this experience and encounter Jesus, spend a few minutes day-dreaming on the passage. Read the passage a couple of times slowly, imagining yourself in the scene. What is Jesus doing? What does his body language tell you? Imagine he looks at you. What does he say? Write down anything that comes to mind.
3. After thanking God for the gift of time spent with Jesus, ask for help in reflecting on your day in light of what you experienced while imagining yourself face-to-face with Jesus.
4. Allow the events of the day to replay before you. Accept whatever comes into focus, no matter how trivial it initially appears to be, as a gift from God. Ask for help to discern God's presence in the experience.
5. Choose one experience, one moment, one conversation, one thought or feeling. Imagine where Jesus was in it. What were his reactions? What was he feeling, thinking, and what might he have said if he had spoken?
6. Write in your journal anything you might have learned, questions you have, your feelings and thoughts, or anything else that seems worth remembering.
7. End your time by thanking God for gifts received during this process.

Prayer Walking

As simple as it sounds, prayer walking is mindfully taking a walk while conversing (talking and listening) with God. As you walk, remember the words of Galatians 5:25, "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Start by paying attention to your breath. Breathe deeply, at least four seconds in and four seconds out, and begin by thanking God for your breath, and for the ability to move your body.

As you walk, unite the rhythm of your steps to the rhythm of your breath. No need to force it. Simply allow this pattern to emerge naturally. It may become 3-4 steps on the inhale, and 3-4 steps on the exhale, perhaps with a couple of steps between breaths.

On your walk, you will pray for at least these three things:

1. For the people who have walked this way before, and will walk after you. Pray for houses and the families in them, for raising children, for the poor, for crops, animals, businesses, churches, hospitals and those who work in them. Just allow yourself to notice your surroundings and pray God's blessing on them – whatever comes to mind.
2. Pray in thanksgiving for the way that your path in life has opened up before you. You have no doubt experienced great joy and great suffering in your life. God is with you amidst it all. Pray for the constant presence of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the comfort of Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for openness to the path ahead of you. Pray that your steps will be marked by trust and obedience to the Holy Spirit, that you will let go of the need to plan and control your own life, that you will walk in courage and not in fear.

Spiritual Practices, Cont.

Palms up, Palms Down Prayer

1. Begin by sitting in a comfortable upright position, resting your hands in your lap. Take a few deep breaths.
2. Pray these words from Psalm 139:23-24:
*Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.*
3. Then, review your day with God – asking God to show you your day. Start at the beginning and work your way through: The conversations you had, the work you did, your leisure time, the food you ate, people you were with, things you purchased, read, watched, listened to, disappointments, sorrows, surprises, joys, worries. Is there anything you need to confess? Anyone you need to forgive, or ask forgiveness of?
4. Then, *hold your palms down, as though you are letting go, and release the day to God.*
5. Then, hold your palms up, as though you are receiving a gift, and ask God what you need to receive (love, forgiveness, rest, confession, assurance, etc). Imagine it is placed as a gift in your hands.
6. Sit in stillness for a few moments and enjoy God's presence in this moment.
7. End by praying this affirmation from Psalm 139:1
*You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.*

Rest in the knowledge that God knows you and loves you.



Daily Prayers

Tuesday, April 26, Evening

What do you want me to do for you?

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.
- Psalm 27:4

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."

So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."

"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Question for the day:

What do you want Jesus to do for you? What is the gift you are seeking from him?

Prayers for those we love.

Prayers for those who are hurting.

Blessing

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.

Christ under me;

Christ over me;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.

This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light;

Christ as a shield;

Christ beside me

on my left and my right.

Daily Prayers

Wednesday, April 27, Morning

What burden do you want to lay down?

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.
- Psalm 27:4

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Question for the day:

What burden do you want to lay down?

Prayers for those we love.

Prayers for those who are hurting.

Blessing

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
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Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

Daily Prayers

Thursday, April 28, Morning

Do you still not see or understand?

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.
- Psalm 27:4

Mark 8:14-21

The disciples had forgotten to bring bread, except for one loaf they had with them in the boat. "Be careful," Jesus warned them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod." They discussed this with one another and said, "It is because we have no bread."
Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"
"Twelve," they replied.
"And when I broke the seven loaves for the four thousand, how many basketfuls of pieces did you pick up?"
They answered, "Seven."
He said to them, "Do you still not understand?"

Question for the day:

What do you still not "see" or understand about what you are encountering here? What questions is this experience raising in you?

Prayers for those we love.

Prayers for those who are hurting.

Blessing

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.
Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.
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Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

Daily Prayers

Friday, April 29, Sending Question
What is your wine from water?

One thing I have asked of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek Him in His temple.
- Psalm 27:4

John 2:1-10

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

Question for the day:

What is your wine from water? What miracle arose from something simple and unexpected?

Prayers for those we love.

Prayers for those who are hurting.

Blessing

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.

Christ under me;

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Christ as a light;

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Christ beside me

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Evening Prayer

Every Night

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 8:38-39

Silent Reflection

Review the Question of the Day



Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with a restless
discomfort

About easy answers, half-truths, and
superficial relationships,
So that you may seek truth boldly and
Love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at
injustice, oppressions,
and exploitation of people, so that you
may tirelessly work
for justice, freedom, and peace among
all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears
to shed with those who suffer
from pain, rejection, starvation, or the
loss of all that they cherish, so that you
may reach out your hand to comfort
them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough
foolishness to believe that
you really can make a difference in this
world, so that you are able,
with God's grace, to do what others
claim cannot be done.

And the blessing of God the Supreme
Majesty and our Creator,
Jesus Christ the Incarnate Word Who is
our Brother and Savior,
and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate and
Guide, be with you
and remain with you, this day and
forevermore. Amen