**Order of morning Prayer for St.Patrick’s Day**

Let us say...

People...... I bind unto myself today

 The strong name of the Trinity,

 By invocation of the same,

 The Three in One and One in Three.

Leader........ Way back in 1987 a colleague of the day the Rev. Bob Judkins

 excitedly showed me this book, The Cry of the Deer ..by David Adam.

 A book in the Celtic tradition which inspired me two years later to work

 with the Iona Community. The words and prayers this morning are

 from this book.

Leader........ let us say together....

 I arise today, through God’s strength to pilot me:

 God’s might to uphold me,

 God’s wisdom to guide me,

 God’s eye to look before me,

 God’s ear to hear me,

 God’s word to speak to me,

 God’s hand to guide me,

 God’s way to lie before me,

 God’s shield to protect me,

 God’s host to save me

 From every one who shall wish me ill,

 Afar and anear,

 Alone and in a multitude.

Leader......... As St.Patrick prepared himself for the conflict that lay ahead, he put his

 faith in the Divine Reality. He was not alone in his battle, for the Almighty

 was with him, the Father was there to uphold, guide and protect. For him

 and his people of the Celtic Church, God is a living and glorious reality to

 be encountered each day, in each event and each decision.

Leader........ let us the pay attention to the Gospel....read by Julie.

Leader........ Prayers for Others....

 To see Christ in others is the beginning of a great adventure: to discover

 that we do not possess Him, but that He comes to possess us.

 Jesus said, ‘ I was a stranger and you received me in your homes’. There is a Celtic Rune of Hospitality used by the Iona Community which says...

People I saw a stranger at yestere’en.

 I put food in the eating place,

 drink in the drinking place,

 music in the listening place,

 and in the sacred name of the Triune

 he blessed myself and my house,

 my cattle and my dear ones,

 and the lark said in her song

 often, often, often,

 goes the Christ in the stranger’s guise.

 Jesus still says...’ where two or three are come together.....I am there’.

 Let us in quietness gather and embrace both friends and strangers

 now, as we bring them all in our prayers of intercession.

Leader......... The discussion piece of spiritual writing is read from Basil Hume’s book

 ‘The Mystery of Love’.

Leader To declare the Presence of God is one of the most exciting things we can

 ever do. We should thrill with excitement, our hearts should burst with

 joyful alleluias. To know the Presence can never be dull if we are dull it is

 because we are out of touch.

 St.Patrick like all Celtic Saints knew well the Presence of God.

 We must stop talking about Him; stop searching for Him in books and

 distant places, and learn that He has already found us and is within.

 So let me say...as we conclude...and hear your resounding affirmation

 acknowledging God’s Presence with us...

Leader The Lord is with us.

People. **He is with us, indeed. Amen**

Leader...........Closing Blessing

 God’s own Presence with you stay

 Jesus shield you in the fray

 Spirit to protect you from ill

 Trinity there guiding you still.