



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

23rd August 2020

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

WHO DO YOU THINK JESUS IS?

As small children we are told that Jesus is the Son of God, and we accept it readily. When we are children God is a kindly father figure who lives in Heaven and listens to our night prayers. When we are small, Jesus is the baby we see in the Christmas Nativity scene. When we are a little older, Jesus is the teller of all those intriguing parables. Once we are young adults we see Jesus as a great teacher, a healer, a worker of miracles and a revolutionary. For some of us, doubts creep in. Is Jesus really the Son of God or simply a good man and a great prophet?

In today's gospel Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say I am?" "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." replies Peter promptly, But this wasn't Peter's opinion from the start. Peter and the other disciples first met Jesus as a fellow human being. By working with Jesus and following his ministry daily, Peter and the other disciples gradually came to the extraordinary conviction that God was working through Jesus; speaking, healing, working miracles and offering eternal salvation.

Today we listen again to Jesus' question. "Who do you say I am?" It seems that the question is stretching over the centuries. It seems that the question is aimed not just at the disciples but at us. Jesus doesn't want us to give the answer we've been taught to give ... our answer has to be from the heart. Our answer might be, "I don't know!" Our answer might be, "I'm not very sure right now." Or our answer might be a resounding, "You are Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus knows that faith is a journey and our answer reflects at exactly what stage of that journey we have reached.

It may be that we think of Jesus as little more than a good man and a great prophet. If this is what we believe, the Bible becomes little more than a book filled with good stories and sound philosophy. If like the disciples we are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, all at once we are opening ourselves to great possibilities.... all at once we have found the key to life's greatest adventure.

The Clergy

Parish Priest:

Fr Kevin Dow

Priest in Residence:

Fr Nicholas Hodgson

Pastoral Assistant:

Rev Pat Carrigan
(Permanent Deacon)



St Peter in Chains Church,
Inverkeithing



Ss John & Columba's Church,
Rosyth



Our Lady of Lourdes Church,
Dunfermline



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

I place the key of the House of David on my servant's shoulder

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

137(138):1-3,6,8

Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36

All that exists comes from him; all is by him and from him.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods!

Who could ever know the mind of the Lord?
Who could ever be his counsellor? Who
could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all
is by him and for him. To him be glory for
ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.

And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER

The Month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heavenly beauty and splendour of the Father, You are the most valued Heavenly treasure.

New Eve, immaculate in soul, spirit and body, Created of the godly seed by the Spirit of God, You are the spiritual Mother of mankind.

Pure Virgin, full of grace then and now, Your whole being was raised Heavenly in full glory, To be elevated above all the hosts within the Kingdom of God.

O Heavenly Mother, Queen of Heaven and earth, I recognize the glory of your highest title, The Immaculate Heart of Mary!

Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, You who continuously intercedes on our behalf, Please present my need before your loving Son Jesus.

(In your own words, make your special request here. Do not just mention



a word. Speak to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as you would speak to another person, begging your Heavenly Mother to plea to Jesus on your behalf, that you be granted this special request.)

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I know that you are now presenting my need before Jesus, For you have never turned away those in dire need.

Mother dearest, I await your favourable answer, Submitting myself to the Divine will of the Lord, For all glories are His forever and ever.
Amen

A Spiritual Communion for use when not able to receive our Lord physically:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Sacrament of Reconciliation - if you wish to make an appointment with Fr Kevin to go to confession (with all necessary safeguards in place), please contact him at the presbytery or by email.

Parish Safeguarding Coordinators Patricia Watt (PiC); Lisa Quinn (J&C); Jane Imrie & Margaret Hall (OLOL)

Baptisms & Marriages Arrangements for weddings (for which six months notice is required) and Baptisms should be made by appointment with one of the clergy.

Sacrament of the Sick / Hospital Visitations Those who require the Sacrament of the Sick at home should contact the Parish Office to arrange for Fr. Dow to visit. The Anointing of the Sick should ordinarily be arranged prior to any prolonged hospital visit. The Catholic Chaplain to the Victoria Hospital is Fr Gowans of St Marie's Kirkcaldy (Tel: 01592 592111). In cases of emergency where you or a family member require the pastoral assistance of the Catholic Chaplain (emergency cover is provided by the various priests in Fife) please request this from the nursing staff at the hospital. For patients in Queen Margaret Hospital please contact Fr Chris Heenan at St Margaret's (625611) **Please note that a patient/family request must be made before the clergy can visit.**

Names for sick list Names can only be added by the person themselves or by a member of the family. Please advise the Parish Office of any name to be added or removed.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK AND INFIRM

Canon McAllister,
Maureen McLeod,
James Morris,
Elaine McCormick,
Sandra Graham,
Ester Wren,
Daniel Cornet,
Ann-Marie Bevan,
Patricia Phee,
Angie Kempson,
Margaret Lynch,
Edith Bryant,
Elizabeth McVay,
Veronica Fogherty,
David and Lynn Dean,
Colin Reid,
Martin Lacey,
Sandra Christie,
Eleanor Haggett,
Susan Stevenson,
Elizabeth Byrne
and Jennifer Imrie
Our Lady, Mother of the sick—pray for them

OF YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

All those who have died as a result of Covid-19 and all who have no one to pray for them

Fidelium animae per misericordiam Dei requiescant in pace. Amen

MAKING A DONATION

During this time of Church closure, and no public Masses being celebrated, you have very little chance of supporting the ongoing mission of the parish and upkeep of our church buildings.

We thank you for all that you have contributed in the past, and if you are able to continue your support, which can also be Gift Aided, we would be eternally grateful. God bless.

Below are the details for the bank accounts for each church if you wish to make your donation directly into the bank account:

St Peter in Chains—
RBS A/C No:
00600297
Sort Code: 833300

Ss John & Columba's—
RBS A/C No:
00114865
Sort Code: 832339

Our Lady of Lourdes—
RBS A/C No:
00249131
Sort Code: 833300



The obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time

Public Worship

As from the 15th July we have been able to open our 3 churches, following both the bishop's and the government guidelines.

We will only be able to continue to open our churches if enough parishioners volunteer to assist with the cleaning after each Mass...

- You may attend any weekday Mass, instead of attending the Sunday one;
 - If you are shielding, it's important that you do not come out to Mass at all;
 - We will need to record your name and address when you attend Mass, in case you need to be traced;
 - We are not allowed more than 50 people in church.
 - Seating according to physical distancing rules. Currently, Rosyth would have a capacity of 30, Inverkeithing will also be about 30 and Dunfermline is 48. Households may sit together. **You will be guided to a seat by a passkeeper—you will not be able to sit where you normally do.**
 - **You are legally obliged to wear a face covering.** Exemptions are children under 5 and those with a condition such as asthma.
 - You will need to sanitise your hands on entering and leaving. This will be provided. Please
- avoid touching statues and other surfaces. If you wish to light votive candles, please place them in the basket provided for this purpose (*We ask you not to light the candles yourself, as your hands have flammable liquid on them...*)
 - There will be no music or singing, no readers, ministers of communion, altar servers or sacristans. Only the priest will be allowed in the sacristy and toilet facilities will not be available.
 - Mass will be celebrated without the Gloria or Creed and only one reading, psalm and the gospel.
 - Holy Communion (under the one species) will be distributed after the final blessing and people are asked to leave immediately.
 - For holy Communion, please keep your face covering in place when you receive Holy Communion, and then step to the side, remove mask, consume and replace mask.
 - Offertory donations may be placed in baskets as you leave the church at the end of Mass
 - There will be no Teas etc. after Mass.
 - We will suspend the Holy Hours to focus on Mass, until we can resume normal services.
 - The church will have to be cleaned after each Mass.
 - We will need a team of at least 2 pass keepers, and 2 or 3 cleaners for each Mass. Please consider volunteering your time and help make this all possible.
 - My thanks to those who are presently volunteering to clean the churches at the end of each period.

COVID-19 & OUR

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DID YOU KNOW.....



This week we celebrate the feast of St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine of Hippo, on August 27. She is particularly known for her perseverance in prayer.

Here are some amazing facts about this incredible saint that are sure to inspire your faith in God's omnipotent power!

1) St. Monica's example converted her husband and mother-in-law

Even though the fourth-century saint was a Christian, her parents gave her away to a man named Patritius. Both he and his mother were pagans and had violent tempers. St. Monica endured this with patience and kindness, and her example eventually led to their conversions to Christianity.

2) She prayed for St. Augustine for 17 years before his conversion

Much of what St. Monica is known for is her persistence in prayer. Her son, St. Augustine of Hippo, lived a life of immorality, most notably that of lust and impurity, before converting to Catholicism. Throughout these years, she endured a tremendous amount of suffering. Augustine rejected her on multiple accounts, but she continued to love, pray and nurture her son throughout his wayward time.

3) She felt discouraged, but never gave up

St. Monica cried many times over her son's transgressions, but received affirmation from God on several accounts. St. Monica had a dream in which she wept over her son, and a figure told her that he was still with her. In his autobiography, *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*, St. Augustine wrote, "that it was my soul's doom she was lamenting..." The figure told her to be at peace, and "see that where she was there I was also." She also received encouragement from a local bishop, who told her that "God's time will come." He added, "Go now, I beg you; it is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

4) She knew her purpose in life

St. Monica wept, prayed and sacrificed for her son for many years. Her greatest desire in life was to see her son's conversion to Catholicism, and once this happened, she believed her purpose in life had been fulfilled. She said to Augustine just a few days before she came down with a fever that caused her death: "*My son, speaking of myself, nothing earthly delights me any longer. I do not know why I am still here or why I should remain here. I have no further earthly desires.*"

5) She is the patron saint of wives, mothers, conversions, alcoholics and abuse victims

Especially in a time where conversion is needed in our world and we see the tragedy of abuse in our Church, St. Monica is a great example of faith and hope. God's grace is infinite, and he will never abandon us, even if it seems as if he is not present. Let us look to St. Monica's example of persistence—that God will never abandon us, even in the hardest of times.

St. Monica, pray for us!

Mass Intentions Please try to have any intention that is required to be said on a particular date in a month before hand. On occasion when a funeral takes place, the stated intention will be moved to the next available date.

Bulletin Notices All notices should be with Fr Kevin in Rosyth by Thursday morning for inclusion in the weekend bulletin

NEWS & EVENTS

Fr Nicholas: as you may be already aware, the Archbishop has recently announced that Fr Nicholas is to become the parish administrator of the parishes of Duns, Eyemouth & Berwick upon Tweed. Fr Nicholas takes up this appointment at the start of September. We thank him for his assistance with our Masses over the past year whilst he has been in residence in our parish.

Lebanon Appeal People throughout the world were shocked to see and read about the explosion in the port of Beirut earlier this week. Aid to the Church in Need Lebanon expert Father Samer Nassif, said that the Christian zone of Beirut was “completely devastated”, with at least 10 churches destroyed, 300,000 people homeless and many others suffering, with livelihoods “totally destroyed” by the blast. He said: “Yesterday in one second, more damage to the Christian quarter of Beirut was done than throughout the long years of the civil war. “We have to build it again from the ground up.” “Aid to the Church in Need UK” has opened up an Appeal for the People in Lebanon. If you can help perhaps you would consider donating via their website.

Church halls: these remain closed at the present time until advised by the Archbishop that it is safe to open them up.

Parish Groups: currently remain suspended during this period also.

Time of private prayer: now that the public celebration of the Mass has been allowed, we will stop the periods of private prayer, to cut down on the time in church—and yes, I know that sounds wrong, but so is dying on a contagious virus!

Prayer resources <https://archedinburgh.org/call-to-prayer-for-this-sunday/>

Parish First Holy Communion celebrations: because of the on going pandemic and the closure of our churches, the scheduled celebrations have been provisionally moved to the following dates after consultation with the senior management teams in our parish schools: Our Lady of Lourdes Church (St Margaret’s PS) - Saturday 7th November at 11am & Ss John & Columba’s Church (St John’s PS) - Saturday 21st November at 10am.

Children’s Sunday Newsletter: Copy and paste this link into your web browser and it will take you to this weeks edition of a newsletter designed especially for our younger members of the parish <https://thekidsbulletin.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/the-kids-bulletin-21st-sunday.pdf>

Children’s Liturgy material for you to use at home with the children can be found here: <https://archedinburgh.org/wp-content/uploads/23rdAug21st-SunOrdTime-Yr-A-PDF.pdf>

OUR VIRTUAL PARISH...

as you all know, whilst all public services, activities, clubs, etc are currently on hold. Public Masses have resumed, but with certain restrictions in place. We do not know when the government will allow us to resume everything as normal, and so please bear with us. Let us pray that the all clear may come soon, and that the virus does not claim anyone from our parish community.

During this trying time, whilst Masses are being celebrated with a smaller number of parishioners physically present in our churches, Fr Kevin will continue to celebrate Mass live from Rosyth and recorded in Inverkeithing to be later added to the parish Facebook Page. If there is a desire for the videos to be added to our Youtube channel, please advise that you would like this to happen.

All of these Masses and services are being ‘live streamed’ through the parish Facebook pages: “The Catholic Parish of the Most Holy Trinity” and “Most Holy Trinity Parish-Our Lady of Lourdes Church.” If you have Facebook and you have not already ‘liked’ these pages (why wouldn’t you have already?!), then please do so and keep in touch with the parish.

If you do not have Facebook, then please subscribe to our parish YouTube channel, where Masses are uploaded for you to view.



DEACON PAT'S PONDERINGS



Here's a question for you ...
Have you ever hoovered a lawn? No, I'm not kidding, that was my task on Monday morning. There had been an accident with the bean bag and the outershell had to be washed. We took it outside to decant the polystyrene balls into a plastic bag and thanks to

an obstinate zip that suddenly opened and a slight breeze that was blowing at the time we suddenly had a volcanic eruption of plastic that was carried all over the lawn. It was reminiscent of the Icelandic eruption of 2010 and when the storm settled I had a section of grass that looked as if it was covered in hailstones!

The Hoover was deployed and there I was busy hoovering the grass much to the bewilderment of the neighbours and passers-by. Many explanations later the job was finished and everything was back to normal. Well, as normal as things can be at the moment. The thing is, daily events can take us by surprise and catch us out. Sometimes these incidents are easily resolved. Others cause more difficulty and need to be worked on before a solution is found.

Finding solutions can be an onerous task, grinding away at our intellect and can even lead us to doubt in ourselves and our beliefs. We can fall away from a way of life which we know is right and we can deny our beliefs not only to ourselves but to others as well. We turn our backs and walk away from a situation because we have lost our inner strength. Listen to this for inner strength, it is a scrawled message written on a wall during the Holocaust: *"I believe in the sun even when it is not shining. I believe in love even when I cannot feel it. I believe in God even when He is silent."*

In today's Gospel Jesus recognised Peter's inner strength despite his human weaknesses and sets about testing not only Peter but the other Disciples too. Christ is testing Peter's faith.

'Who do people say the Son of man is?' The Disciples answer with comparisons with some of the Prophets from the Old Testament. But, Peter is pressed, and he answers 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God'. Read the passage yourself and recognise the faith of the man who becomes our first Pope, but before that read Matthew 13:31-33 and how one parable of the Kingdom of God already foretold the Church. Now today we have the foundations of that Church being explained in this Reading: Firstly, faith in Jesus, the Christ and Son of God. It focuses on Peter and his primacy among all the Apostles. It suggests that the Church will always need a visible head and this is the successor of Peter, the Pope.

Faith in the Son of God, which we hear Peter, among the other Apostles, is the first to proclaim, really is a gift from God. His faith is not a human opinion nor is it a sentimental attachment; he is truly inspired by God.

What a wonderful gift, to be truly inspired by God!

Can you believe how our lives would change if we lived our lives holding on to a faith that would sustain us in ways that lead us dramatically to the love of God? The Divine inspiration brought to us by the Holy Spirit would revive us all in our bodies and our souls. We would see each other differently and more importantly we would respond to each other differently.

Peter is an endearing man as far as I'm concerned, he is a man who made mistakes but he was also a man who recognised his mistakes and worked at putting things right.

What if? What if Jesus were to tap you on the shoulder sometime this afternoon and ask you the question "Who do people say I am?" Take a minute to think the question through.

I wonder what your answer would be!



LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday 23rd August <i>Twenty-First Sunday of the Year (A)</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-
Monday 24th August <i>Feast of St Bartholomew</i>	No Mass			
Tuesday 25th August <i>in the 21st Week of the Year</i>	10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-
	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's		-
Wednesday 26th August <i>in the 21st Week of the Year</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Gerry Welsh RIP</i>
Thursday 27th August <i>Memorial of St Monica</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's		-
	7.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	
Friday 28th August <i>Memorial of St Augustine</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>MaryAnne Watson RIP</i>
Saturday 29th August <i>Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	-
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Gerry Welsh RIP</i>
Sunday 30th August <i>Twenty-second Sunday of the Year (A)</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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