



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

*13th September 2020*

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

### ON READING OR HEARING TODAY'S GOSPEL STORY

of the merciless servant, each one of us would rightly judge him a mean, low type of man, a heartless man, who puts himself outside the pale of mercy. He throttled his fellow-servant for a paltry debt of ten dollars, and would not listen to the poor man's plea for mercy. When we hear what the king did to this heartless servant we heartily approve and say: "It served him right, he got what he richly deserved."

We had better stop and think for a moment today and reflect that we ourselves may be that merciless servant described in the parable. Every time we have sinned mortally we have incurred an unpayable debt to God. Each time we have received absolution we have come out of God's courtroom as free men. A weight greater than a million dollar debt has been lifted from our shoulders. A fate worse than generations of earthly imprisonment — that is, eternal slavery — has been spared us because of God's loving, infinite mercy. How then can it happen that we could be so heartless, mean, and foolish as to refuse to forgive a neighbour for some offense he has committed against us?

Yet it happens, and it may be that there are some among us here today who continue to have enmity in their hearts against neighbours who offended them. In their hard-heartedness they cannot get themselves to forgive and forget. Are these not following in the footsteps of the merciless servant? Will they not receive the punishment of the merciless servant — a punishment richly deserved? This will be the fate of all unforgiving Christians; they will meet an unforgiving God when they are called to settle their accounts.

That day has not yet come for us. We still have time to put our affairs in order. We still can forgive all our enemies from our heart. If we do not, we are cutting ourselves off from the possibility of having our own sins and offenses forgiven by God. We have the solemn word of our divine Lord for this in the lesson he draws from the parable "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you (that is, deliver us up to eternal slavery) if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

### The Parish Clergy

#### Parish Priest:

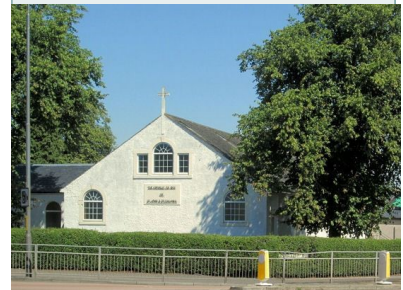
Fr Kevin Dow

#### 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      Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9

***Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you; and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven***

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.  
*The word of the Lord.*

### Responsorial Psalm      102(103):1-4,9-12

*The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

His wrath will come to an end;  
he will not be angry for ever.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.

### Second reading      Romans 14:7-9

***Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord***

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to

life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.  
*The word of the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Jn13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another just as I have loved you,  
says the Lord.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Matthew 18:21-35**

***To be forgiven, you must forgive***

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER

### **The Month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrow:**

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. Due to her feast day on September 15, the month of September has traditionally been set aside to honour Our Lady of Sorrows. All the sorrows of Mary (the prophecy of Simeon, the three days' loss, etc.) are merged in the supreme suffering at the Passion. In the Passion, Mary suffered a martyrdom of the heart because of Our Lord's torments and the greatness of her love for Him. "She it was," says Pope Pius XII, "who immune from all sin, personal or inherited, and ever more closely united with her Son, offered Him on Golgotha to the Eternal Father together with the holocaust of her maternal rights and motherly love. As a new Eve, she made



this offering for all the children of Adam contaminated through his unhappy fall. Thus she, who was the mother of our Head according to the flesh, became by a new title of sorrow and glory the spiritual mother of all His members."

### **A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER OF**

**SORROWS** *Most holy Virgin. and Mother, whose soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow in the Passion of thy divine Son, and who in His glorious Resurrection was filled with never-ending joy at His triumph; obtain for us who call upon thee, so to be partakers in the adversities of Holy Church and the sorrows of the Sovereign Pontiff, as to be found worthy to rejoice with them in the consolations for which we pray, in the charity and peace of the same Christ our Lord. 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,  
Catherine Steven  
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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## DO YOU REMEMBER.....

*It was exactly 10 years ago this week that for ten hours, the first and last Papal State visit took place in Scotland. On a cold but sunny Feast of St Ninian (16th September), the Papal Plane—'Good Shepherd One'—landed at Edinburgh airport, where Pope Benedict XVI was met by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, and Cardinal O'Brien representing the local Catholic Church.*



*The Papal entourage made their way from Turnhouse to Holyrood House, the official residence of the queen in Scotland, where an audience was held and an exchange of gifts between the two heads of state took place.*

*Once the audience was over, the Pope Mobile made it's way through Edinburgh, along Princes Street, which was lined by thousands of people who eagerly awaited a chance to greet the Vicar of Christ, before the cavalcade arrived at St Benet's, the official residence of the Archbishop's of St Andrews & Edinburgh, where the Holy Father after greeting pupils from the local St Peter's Primary School, had a short rest and took lunch with the Bishop's of Scotland.*



*Whilst these events were happening in Edinburgh, Glasgow was seeing bus after bus of pilgrims arriving at Bellahouston Park, and turning the nearby motorway into a giant bus park! Again, thousands upon thousands of people, Catholics and non Catholics filled into the park in preparation for the wonderful celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass presided over by the Pope. The same park in which in 1982 Pope*

*John Paul II had celebrated Mass during his pastoral visit.*

*Holy Mass was a wonderful experience, as the winter sun was slowly setting upon the sanctuary and the Holy Father imparted his Apostolic blessing, before heading to Glasgow airport and flying down to London to continue his time in the UK.*



**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

**Special Collection for the Aged & Infirm Clergy:** a special collection will be held this weekend for the retired priests of our archdiocese. *Please use one of the diocesan Gift Aid envelope available at the back of the churches for this purpose, if you are a tax payer. If you do not pay tax, please also make use of the blue envelopes, but do not fill in the details. That way we know the money is part of that collection.*

**Visits to the Sick:** unfortunately we have still not been given the go ahead to start visiting the sick and bringing Holy Communion to them as yet. I know that this is not ideal, but the clergy and lay ministers would not want to be the cause of spreading any infections from one house to the next. Obviously in cases of extreme nature, Fr Kevin will attend.

**1st Minister's Statement:** Nothing that has been advised by the Scottish Government of late effects our Churches and the celebration of Mass. *The next review is expected on the 1st October.*

**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 of a contagious virus!

**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/2020/08/the-kids-bulletin-24th-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/6thSep2020-23rdSunOrdTimeYr-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



You reach into the pocket of your pyjama trousers looking for a tissue and what do you find? 'Poo-bags'! Yes, 'Poo-bags'! No Handy Andies or any other brand of tissue to blow your nose on, just 'Poo-bags'!

Now you truly know that you are living in the Realm of

Puppyland and your whole world has changed. The furniture has been rearranged and the kitchen towels now hang from an upper cupboard door handle. There are white squares called puppy training pads all over the floors and the Council Cleansing men are wondering what's going on since our normally half-full bin is now bursting to the gunnels with these curious things. Properly wrapped I hasten to add!

The cute little things sits in the front passenger seat well of the car when we travel and she is doing great. No problems with travel sickness and she doesn't jump about. The Pup is so content and looks up with those huge eyes and 'Mum' strokes the little one's head murmuring "Good girl".

'Dad' drives on at a steady pace and all in the world is grand. Then he glances at the Dash-cam... wait a minute, there's no picture, the screen is blank, totally black. 'Dad' pulls over and parks the car. Those eyes are looking up at you, so innocent... the dash cam wire has been bitten through with those sharp little teeth and the look on the pup's face is saying "It wissnae me!" A dog crate has been installed in the car for the pup to travel in, she loves it!

Getting ready for Sunday Mass and I was sure I had laid out a pair of grey socks, but they were missing. Where's the pup? Under the bed of course shedding the footwear!

Going back to the training pads there are the times she missed and of course she didn't mean to pee on the carpet. Do you think? As she gets older you begin to wonder, is she doing this on purpose because the treats have stopped? And, remember those first nights when she howled and howled and howled.

Like having a new baby, you must expect this and your up and nursing and reassuring and every time you lay her on her bed, she gives you just enough minutes for you to get into bed and pull

the covers up, and she begins again. The lack of sleep for both of us is becoming an issue. But that innocent little face just looks at you saying "It's not my fault".

And we could go on, and on, and on. All the mischief the pup gets up to and all the little bits of annoyance she may cause is nothing in the great scheme of things. Do we forgive her? Of course, we do!

Is this the type of forgiveness Jesus speaking of in today's reading from the Gospel? I don't think so. What Jesus is revering to is those who return repentant and we must offer forgiveness. Forgiveness must replace the thirst for revenge. The trials and tribulations we suffer from our companions are nothing compared to our offences against God.

While God forgives all, we do not even seem to give others breathing space. God doesn't demand His rights, but us, oh yes, we demand our rights and in demanding them behave like the wicked servants we read about in Matthew 5:43.

This parable goes far beyond personal problems. The world needs, above all, the forgiveness of God, and those who seek a more just society will not achieve it through accusations and pointing the finger.

In this life we have to learn to accept the repentant sinner and offer forgiveness and welcome them with joy when we are reconciled.

Do you think that goes for the puppy too?



## LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

<b>Sunday 13th September</b> <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year (A)</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Caroline Nwaogu RIP</i>
<b>Monday 14th September</b> <i>Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	<b>No Mass</b>			
<b>Tuesday 15th September</b> <i>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Mary Russell RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 16th September</b> <i>Feast of St Ninian</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Nigel Saunders RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 17th September</b> <i>Memorial of St Robert Bellarmine</i>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-
<b>Friday 18th September</b> <i>in the 24th Week of the Year</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Deceased Members of the Bishop Family RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 19th September</b> <i>in the 24th Week of the Year</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-
	<b>5.00pm</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-
<b>Sunday 20th September</b> <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year (A)</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	<b>11.30am</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-
	<b>5.00pm</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	-



### The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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Dunfermline  
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Website: [www.catholicswufe.com](http://www.catholicswufe.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicswufe/>



*The Most Holy Trinity is a parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.  
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