

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

4th October 2020

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FORGET THAT OUR LIVES ARE A GIFT FROM GOD?

What happens when we forget that we are God's creation? What happens when we forget that the planet we live on belongs to God?

Today's parable describes a land owner who leaves tenants in charge of his vineyard. But at harvest time the tenants refuse to pay their rent, failing to recognise the landowner's authority and killing the servants and even the son who are sent for the rent. The tenants appear to have forgotten that the vineyard belongs to the landowner. The tenants had come to believe that they could make up their own rules. They had forgotten that they were accountable. They had certainly forgotten that they had been given responsibilities and entrusted with stewardship.

God is still master of the 'vineyard', and we are the new tenants to whom the welfare of the vineyard has been passed on. The parable was originally targeted at the Pharisees, but for us too, the parable demands some degree of self-examination. We might think of ourselves as good people, but like the first tenants, do we constantly fight shy of accountability? Over the years we each develop our own individual code of conduct. Perhaps we begin to feel that as long as we are living by some kind of moral code we no longer need to be accountable. We begin to imagine that 'being accountable', is just for those who go round getting things wrong. Living by self-made standards is all well and good, but if we do this are we in danger of forgetting about the very high standards that God has set for us.

What happens when we forget that Christ is our cornerstone? When we make up our own rules with little thought for Jesus' teachings, the chances are we will fall a long way short of what God expects. Today's invitation is to raise the bar, step up to the mark, and recognise Christ as our cornerstone.

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



First reading

Isaiah 5:1-7

Against the Lord's vineyard

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard.

My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it.

In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too.

He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me.

What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done?

I expected it to yield grapes.

Why did it yield sour grapes instead?

Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.

I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn.

I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second reading

Philippians 4:6-9

If there is anything you need, pray for it.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation

cf.Jn15:16

Alleluia, alleluia! I chose you from the world to go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last, says the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.
This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER



Why is October called the month of the Holy Rosary?

The answer is relatively simple but needs a historical context in order to be fully appreciated. The short answer is this: October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7.

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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.

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

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 Lynnis** 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 ban 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 passkeeperyou 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

COVID-19 & OUR

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.

Why is October called the month of the Holy Rosary?: CONTINUED

To understand this feast, we need to go back in time. In the 16th century, the Islamic Ottoman Empire presented a serious military threat to western Europe and sent a fleet of ships to attack Christian defences in southern Europe. Pope Pius V recognized the grave danger and organized a fleet called the Holy League to confront the navy of the Ottoman Turks.

On October 7, 1571, the two navies engaged in a pivotal battle that would determine who controlled maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean seas. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships (it was the largest naval battle in Western history for centuries).

Pius V knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented.

The next year, Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honour of the Blessed Mother, originally called Our Lady of Victory. After a few centuries, the name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary to more clearly recognize that prayer was the greatest power at work that day on the seas.

In 1571, the rosary was still a relatively new prayer form for the universal church. Pope Pius V had issued a decree formally establishing devotion to the rosary in the papal bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices* just two years before the Battle of Lepanto. The Holy Father's universal promulgation recognized the growing devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout Europe, as well as the increased prayer of the rosary in various locations. Devotion to the rosary was especially promoted in the 13th century by St. Dominic and in the 16th century by St. Peter Canisius (who, according to tradition, added the final verse to the Hail Mary, in which we pray, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death" — printed officially in the Catechism of the Council of Trent in 1566; the first two verses of the Hail Mary are adapted from Luke 1:28 and 1:42).

The origins of the rosary are complex. The use of knotted ropes to count prayers or scriptural verses (including the Lord's Prayer and the Jesus Prayer) is an ancient practice and is even found in non-Christian cultures. Most probably, the Christian recitation of 150 such prayers was intended to mirror the monastic prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours in which monks prayed all 150 psalms each day.

The structure of the rosary as we know it today developed significantly from the 12th to the 14th centuries as the larger collection of 150 prayers was further divided into groups of 50 and separated by biblical verses or themes (now referred to as mysteries). It is these mysteries, like a grouping of common roses in a garden, that gave the name *rosary* to this prayer form.

The rosary is a living prayer form and continues to develop even in recent times. An invocation known as the Fatima Prayer was commonly added in the early 20th century. In 2002 Pope John Paul II added a new set of five reflections called the Luminous Mysteries which encourage additional meditations on the life of Jesus.

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. For this reason, it has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces for the saints. Remember, every time you pray the rosary you are given the privilege and honour of pronouncing the holy name of Jesus more than 50 times.

The wealth of spiritual graces offered through the rosary comes not from the multiplication of prayers (see Matthew 6:7) but from the imitation of Christ through obedience to the Father's will, according to the example of the Blessed Mother.

Maybe October would be a good month to turn off the radio or podcast as you commute to work or school and pray the rosary instead. See what graces the Lord wants to pour into your life from the rose garden of this daily meditation.

NEWS & EVENTS

Obligation to attend Mass: The Bishop's have as yet not reinstated the obligation and so as we approach the colder weather, it may be good to remind ourselves that doors and windows of the churches must be kept open for air flow, and so we advise either dress for winter, or perhaps stay at home and watch online...

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.

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 10am & 1130am & Ss John & Columba's Church (St John's PS) - Saturday 21st November at 10am. Due to the government restrictions, we are only allowed 50 people in church at at time, therefore in OLOL, we will hold 2 Masses. At each of the 3 Masses, there will be enough space for a child, plus 4 family members only. Further details will be made available nearer the time

40 Days for Life: will take place outside the Chalmers Clinic in Edinburgh from 23 September to 01 November. The purpose is to pray for an end to abortion; parishioners are asked to consider taking part for an hour or so. For more details visit www.40daysforlife.com/edinburgh

Season of Creation: The Caritas, Justice and Peace Commission invites parishioners and priests to a short retreat on Sunday 04 October, the Feast Day of St Francis. It takes place 2:30-4.30pm on Zoom, and marks the end of the Season of Creation. The retreat will explore the Pope's encyclical *Laudato Sì* and will "focus upon how we can renew our lives, personally, in parishes, and in community, and influence the behaviour of our government and business". Registration is at https://tinyurl.com/Retreat4Oct

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/2020/09/the-kids-bulletin-27th-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/4thOct2020-27thSunOrdTimeYr-APDF.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



The need has arisen for me to quote an old friend, Fr Alex – "I've had a hell of a week!"

Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but it certainly felt like it. Commitments and appointments kept piling up but nothing seemed to be happening then on Friday

everything came together and we're back on the straight and narrow and even BT turned up to sort out a long-standing problem.

Long-standing problems can be the bain of a person's life, our society and our community. At the moment we are fighting Covid, a pandemic that we seem to have no answer to vaccine wise, but thankfully our research scientists and medical teams throughout the country are learning more and more about the virus and can tailor treatment in a far more appropriate way.

Our businesses are going through a tough time and employment is less secure with redundancies on the horizon and folk are starting to worry about their futures.

These personal worries are leading to a stressful time and of course may lead to other complications and affect a person's health.

No longer can we meet up for a coffee and a wee bit of cake, or go to the gym or evening class. There's no meeting after Mass nor is there any outlet for the various clubs and groups that used to meet on a regular basis. We are in a situation where we are not allowed to have visitors into our home and even sitting in the garden with a friend will soon disappear as the weather gets colder and wetter. Heading for a second lock-down is the greatest fear of many!

But this is where you come in, yes, you!

You may not think that you have personal skills or talents, but you do!

Communication with each other is vital at this time and nowadays we can do that in so many different ways.

Starting with the basics we can lean across the garden fence and share a drink (of your own choice) with a neighbour and have a natter. Move your chairs onto the street, weather permitting, and you have a groups conversation. This

happened in our street to celebrate a 50th Birthday and it was a great event and everyone was socially distant.

Amazingly we have all learnt the skills and mastered the technology that not only lets us meet up with relatives and friends locally but indeed all over the world. We are in a way enjoying the company of others but in a different way.

All that I've written seems to be so very far away from the Gospel we hear today, but it isn't. To do all the things in this modern world needs a new commitment. We now have the discipline of working from home and Home Schooling and even shopping on line and the same applies to our Christian faith. We carry on in a slightly different way.

Throughout the sequence of parables that we have heard in the past weeks Jesus is pushing the same message to the Scribes and Pharisees: You had your chance but your superiority complex excluded you from the message preached by John the Baptist. You, as Leaders of the people failed to recognise John as a prophet and messenger from God and caused his arrest and ultimately his death. The same applies to Jesus. The poor and the lonely accepted God's Word and understood that Jesus was indeed the Christ, the Messiah and they repented and returned to the Love of the Father.

Remember what Jesus said? "It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone"

So, where are the keystones in this modern age? Let me suggest to you that in our weaknesses and all our needs our faith forms us. As we live a Christian life rejected by some in society it is by the example that we transmit, despite our faults, that makes us keystones in the modern world.



LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday 4th October	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	Pro Populo
Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year (A)	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-
Teur (11)	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	Hugo Donaldson RIP
Monday 5th October in the 27th Week of the Year	No Mass			
Tuesday 6th October Memorial of St Bruno	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	Charles Glackin RIP
Wednesday 7th October Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	Kathleen McHale RIP
Thursday 8th October in the 27th Week of the Year	10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Funeral Mass	Thomas Murphy RIP
	7.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	
Friday 9th October in the 27th Week of the Year	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	-
Saturday 10th October in the 27th Week of the Year	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	Craig Cunningham RIP
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	-
Sunday 11th October Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year (A)	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	Margaret Connelly RIP
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	Pro Populo
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	-



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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