



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

28th November 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

A MAN GOES ON A JOURNEY LEAVING HIS SLAVES IN CHARGE, EACH WITH A JOB TO DO;

a doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day.

But did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? Could it be that the slaves were guilty of only doing their jobs once they thought the master was returning. There's a greater point here of course ... not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into a great whirlwind of things we should have been doing all along. We are not waiting for Jesus' return in the same way we would wait for a bus; we have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake, not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place in this world and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.

At the moment the news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. We are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day onwards.

The Parish Clergy

Parish Priest:
Rev 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 Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.

Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and
come down!

– at your Presence the mountains would melt.

No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19

*God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine
on us and we shall be saved.*

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help.

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.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send
you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you
have been enriched in so many ways, especially in
your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has
indeed been strong among you so that you will not be
without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are
waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and
he will keep you steady and without blame until the
last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because
God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus
Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Ps84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

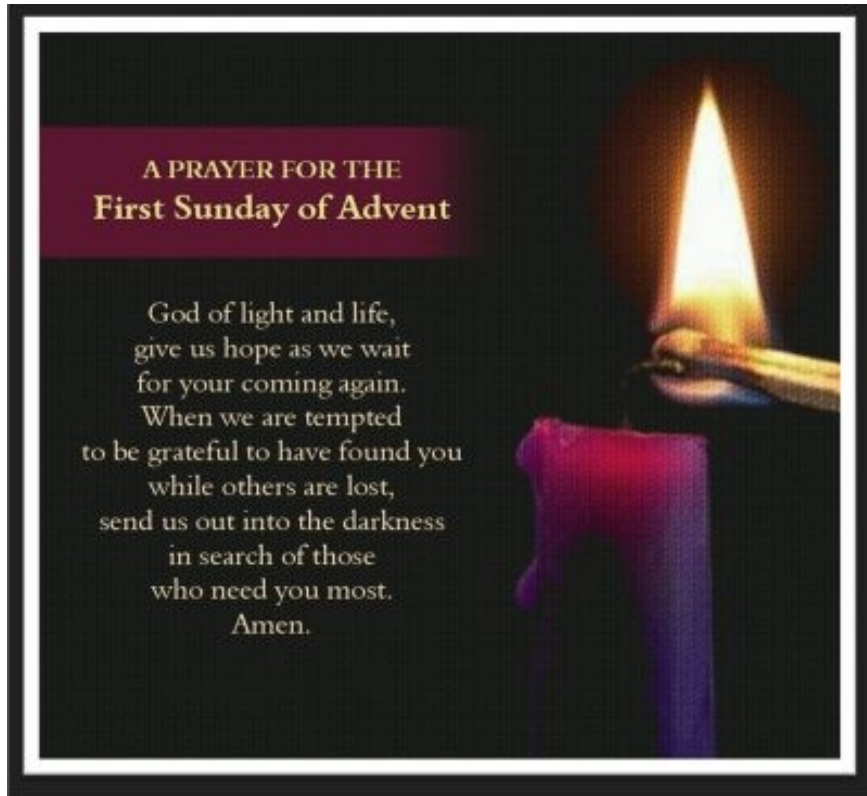
*If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you
asleep*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay
awake, because you never know when the time will
come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone
from home, and left his servants in charge, each with
his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay
awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when
the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight,
cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must
not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all:
Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.



DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER



dus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ's kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Most people think of Advent as those last days to get the shopping done and cards written and sent off before Christmas, but there is more to Advent than just that!

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these "last days" (*Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2*), as God's people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God's past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exo-

perfectly represents the church's cry during the Advent season.

The season of Advent is split into two parts, so as to balance the two elements of remembrance and anticipation, the first two Sundays in Advent (through to 16th December) look forward to Christ's second coming, and the last two Sundays (December 17th – 24th) look backward to remember Christ's first coming. Over the course of the four weeks, Scripture readings move from passages about Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival by John the Baptist and the Angels.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE SICK AND INFIRM

Canon McAllister,
James Lynch,
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

And 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*

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.

COVID-19 & OUR PARISH

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.
- 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.



News from the Archbishop:

COVID-19

Updates for our Archdiocese can be read at the coronavirus updates page on www.archedinburgh.org

Diploma in Catechetics

More people are registering for the Archdiocese's Diploma in Catechetics. Lectures take place on a Thursday evening on Zoom, so you can learn from the comfort and convenience of your home. To register visit bit.ly/CatecheticsDiploma. Or for more info email: sranna.marie@staned.org.uk

International Day of Solidarity

The first Sunday in Advent is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Please keep the people of Palestine in your prayers, and find out more about the current situation in the Holy Land from sources such as www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk

Archbishop's Advent Talk

Archbishop Leo will give an Advent talk entitled 'Unwrapping Christmas' on Zoom this Sunday (29 November) at 7pm. The event is open to all. Please register at bit.ly/UnwrappingAdvent

DIY Abortion: Make Your Voice Heard

Take part in this Zoom session to learn how to respond to the Scottish Government consultation on early medical abortion at home. You'll learn how to make the best possible response to stop unsafe DIY abortions in Scotland. Register at bit.ly/DIYabortion

Pro-Life Advent Rosary

Join people across the Archdiocese on Zoom to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. Begins this Monday at 7:00pm and each following Monday in Advent. To register, search 'Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh' on Eventbrite.

Mary's Meals Double the Love

Donations made to Mary's Meals between now and 31 January 2021 will be doubled by the UK Government up to £2 million. You can donate through the Mary's Meals website.

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

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...

Online Google Mass Booking Form: will be available on Fridays from 4pm till 6pm only from now on. Once the booking form is closed, a post will be uploaded to the parish Facebook page advising if there are any places left, and these will be available on a first come first served basis on the Sunday.

SSVP St John & St Columba/St Peter in Chains Christmas Appeal

Obviously Christmas is going to look a lot different this year but now more than ever people need our assistance. Due to the current restrictions we do not intend on making up hampers, as in previous years, so we will not be collecting donations of non perishable foods. However we will be trying to help people with their gas, Electricity and food vouchers but can only do this with your help and your donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations can left in our collection boxes as you enter the church, in person to James Meade, David Hunter or any member of the SSVP or if online to our Clydesdale bank account Sort Code 82-67-25 Acc No 80453899 Account Name SSVP AE02042 If you need any further information please call Fiona Meade on 07709261584, thank you for your help.

SSVP Our Lady of Lourdes. Christmas appeal

The Covid 19 Pandemic has made us acutely aware of the many people and families in need of help. We are unable to collect food and toys as usual. In the past you have shown great generosity and we are again asking for your help please. We hope to be able to distribute food vouchers and help people in any way we can. Our collection boxes can be found on entering and leaving the church. Cheques can be made payable to SSVP Our Lady of Lourdes Church. On line donations details—OLOL SSVP Sort code 80-08-09. Account Number 06002932. Bank of Scotland. We are grateful for any help you can give and please be assured of our prayers at the difficult time.

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/2020/10/the-kids-bulletin-1st-sunday-of-advent.pdf>

Children's Liturgy material for you to use at home with the children can be found here: <https://archedinburgh.org/wp-content/uploads/Advent-1-Yr-B-29thNov2020PDF2.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. 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



People get caught out at the most unusual and unexpected times. We have all seen the passenger on the bus or train who has fallen asleep and we are left wondering if they have missed their stop.

Again, I remember a colleague, after a hard Night shift, not returning to the Police station. Many radio

messages were transmitted but no response came back. Night shift were held on duty to supplement the Day shift. A special briefing of the double Team was held in preparation for a search and as we went out to the car park there was the missing Panda car complete with PC John Doe in the driving seat sound asleep. Poor guy was so tired he didn't make it into the building. On the other hand, his little nap probably let him drive home safely.

Worst of all is when you get settled down on the couch, everything you need for a comfortable viewing of the film that's about to come on the TV, crisps, some chocolate and perhaps a beer all ready at hand... Then you wake up, the TV is playing an advertising channel, the beer is flat and the central heating has switched itself off. Film missed!

Christ tells us in today's Gospel "Stay awake!" but not in the way written about above. No, he's telling us something else!

Mark seems to have taken the parables of the Talents and the ten bridesmaids and condensed them into the reading we hear today. The warning is wait for the Lord who is at work. The doorman is a symbol of those people who hold responsibility in the church, who are not the owners of the church but only hold the keys of the church, a temporary position.

Our work for the church which is really an example of our commitment to our community is a honing of our Christian lifestyle; taking part in the common daily prayer of the Church, sharing in the Eucharist, in catechesis and other similar events including social activities (when we are allowed again).

Taking part in these commitments allows not for a singular '*coming*' of Christ but for many. We view

his coming in our sisters and brothers who find change in their life. Christ comes to us giving us strength and wisdom; Christ comes to us through prayer, strengthening us in our inner conviction of his presence. Christ comes to us in our daily living offering peace. Christ brings people back to the church.

The prophets have told us time and time again that the circumstances and the events that bring renewal and growth in values also bring the Lord to your table. Christ comes in many, many ways: He comes in his resurrection, through happy events in our life that fill us with joy. Christ brings to the poor the hope of social justice. Other times in our lives Christ comes to us through his passion and death. Because Christ comes to us throughout our daily lives, we have a commitment to him to serve our modern contemporary world.

Christ tells us to *be alert* because many of us start out full of generosity and verve but then we lose sight of the target and suddenly we are mere administrators and activists without a passion for the Lord. We are committed to the works and movements within the church and life becomes full of contradictions. Marvels are performed for a while, then without warning we fail.

We do useful things but are unaware of the moment when we should change our path. We do our own work but refuse Christ entry to our mind or our hearts. We keep Christ at bay and ignore the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, those who are *alert* don't suffer in the uncertainty of others who are not fully open to Christ. Their openness brings Christ not only to themselves but to other people too!

*"Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when
the time will come."*

LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday 29th November <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Helen McLaney RIP</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 30th November <i>Solemnity of St Andrew</i>	No Mass			-
Tuesday 1st December <i>in the 1st Week of Advent</i>	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Deceased of Close & Cunningham Families RIP</i>
Wednesday 2nd December <i>in the 1st Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Francis Larkin RIP</i>
Thursday 3rd December <i>Memorial of St Francis Xavier</i>	7.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Neil Sinclair RIP</i>
Friday 4th December <i>in the 1st Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Willie Davidson RIP</i>
Saturday 5th December <i>in the 1st Week of Advent</i> <i>Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Matthew Forsyth Watson RIP</i>
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Keane Family rip</i>
Sunday 29th November <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Anna T Connor RIP</i>



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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