



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

6th December 2020

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

APART FROM PEOPLE WHO BUILD MOTORWAYS,

most of us have no idea of the enormous amount of work involved in shifting huge swathes of earth to make way for a new road. Clearing a path and making the route straight is quite a task, and it's soon forgotten by the motorist who expects the roads to run smoothly.

So clearing a path is something which most of us get round to only once a year, and even then it's only a few yards of paving stone outside the back kitchen!

This gives us a false sense of security in Advent when we are repeatedly told to clear the path for the coming of the Lord. We can end up thinking that it's just some minor chore which we will get round to and which won't take us long to polish off. But, in fact, preparing the way for the Lord is motorway stuff. It's no mere spring-cleaning. It's not tidying the garden. It's about a constant, deep-digging, dirt-removing look at the way we live our lives. It demands a willingness to recognise where we have gone off the track, and a determination to do something about it.

To be baptised by John the Baptist was a life changing decision. To be baptised in Jesus Christ is to play with fire and the Holy Spirit. And to renew our baptismal fervour in Advent is the only real way to prepare for Christmas.



**PRE
PARE
THE
WAY**

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 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it

‘Console my people, console them’
says your God.

‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to her that her time of service is ended,
that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from
the hand of the Lord
double punishment for all her crimes.’

A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness
a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God
across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill
be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the
Lord has spoken.’

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to
Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
‘Here is your God.’

Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm
subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all
go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering
lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

84(85):9-14

*Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your
saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Second reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

*We are waiting for the new heavens and the new
earth*

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never
forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thou-
sand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The
Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as
anybody else might be called slow; but he is being pa-
tient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and every-
body to be brought to change his ways. The Day of
the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar
the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and
fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be
burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you
should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait
and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky
will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the
heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised:
the new heavens and new earth, the place where
righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends,
while you are waiting, do your best to live lives with-
out spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

*A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for
the Lord*

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ,
the Son of God. It is written in the book of the proph-
et Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before
you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for
the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for
the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people
of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were
baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed
their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he
lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his
preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, some-
one who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit
to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I
have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit.’

DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER



This coming Tuesday we also celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The second week, there are two candles and we remember that Christ said, "Where there are two or more of you gathered in my Name, there also shall I be."

ADVENT PRAYER:

Lord, as we enter into the second week of Advent, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for your only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve you with pure hearts.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

ON THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:
JESUS DID SAVE HIS MOTHER

1 ADAM AND EVE
Consider this analogy: (1) A man falls into a muddy pit and someone pulls him out. Now the man is "saved" from the pit but still has the stain of mud on him as a result of falling into it.

2 VIRGIN MARY
(2) Now imagine a woman is about to fall into the same pit, but at the moment she is to fall, someone stops her. She too has been saved, not just from falling into the pit, but from getting stained by the mud. In the same way, Mary was saved by Jesus by the same sacrifice on the cross, applied in a different point in time, by preventing her to be stained by original sin at the moment of her conception, so she could be worthy to carry the Son of God.

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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

Robert Breslin RIP 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:

Pro-Life Advent Rosary [THIS MONDAY]

Join people across the Archdiocese on Zoom to pray for unborn children, their mothers and all Pro-Life intentions. Each Monday at 7:30pm in Advent. To register, visit bit.ly/RosaryAdvent2

DIY Abortion: Make Your Voice Heard [THIS TUESDAY]

A Zoom session to learn how to respond to the Scottish Government online consultation on early medical abortion at home. 7:30pm, Tuesday 08 December. Register at bit.ly/DIYabortion

Be Still

Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM helps you cut through the cacophony of consumerism to ensure prayer is the priority in your prep to celebrate the birth of Christ. This Zoom event takes place at 7:30pm on Monday 14 December. No registration required - join using this link bit.ly/BeStillWebinar

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 (deadline 01 January). Or for more info email: sranna.marie@staned.org.uk

Stay updated

To receive a monthly update from the Archdiocese straight to your inbox, subscribe at archedinburgh.org/news-events (scroll to bottom of page). Or email matthew.meade@staned.org.uk and put 'subscribe me' in the subject bar. The December update can be found at bit.ly/ArchDecUpdate.



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/2020/11/the-kids-bulletin-2nd-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-2-Year-B-2020PDF2.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



The snow fell this week and the Christmas trees and lights went up in many houses as we attempt to bring a little cheer into this extraordinary year with an extended Christmas Season. We see the hope that Christmas and all that it means brings to Christians around the world. A child is

to be born... A child with a story like no other.

If we dig out our Bible and in some cases dust them off, we can turn to the Gospel of Luke where, one day and one chapter at a time starting on the first day of December we can read the story of Jesus the Christ. The Gospel readings will finish on Christmas Eve and before we offer presents to each other we will know why this baby was born.

But who was Luke? Who was the man behind this particular Gospel and who was he writing for? The second part of the question is answered by the man himself. He was writing for a sponsor named Theophilus who may have been a well to do Christian. This was a common custom of the time and it would be expected that the dedicated work would be copied and the resultant scrolls circulated to Christian communities.

Luke was probably a Greek from Antioch; a disciple of Saint Paul, who calls him *'the beloved physician'*, a Gentile convert who became a missionary.

The writings are noted for the characteristics typical of classical historical methods and the intended audience was primarily Gentile converts to Christianity. Luke makes use of Mark's writings as source material and he tells us of the way in which Paul transmitted the customs and beliefs from the first Christian community, and how the facts were passed on. Also, there is a special place for Mary and her role in her Son's ministry.

So, Luke not only tells us about the life of Christ but he also records the life of the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles (Academic note: The writings were probably written between A.D.70 and 85... see me!!! Wait for the Quiz night!). Put together the Gospel and Acts form a unified statement of God's acts in salvation history, with all His promises to Israel fulfilled in the life of Jesus and the life of the Church.

Interweaved through the life of Jesus are the stories of other prominent figures in the early

Church and the message of Christ is reinforced in many ways.

If we look at the Gospel and in particular say the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem we can see a parallel in the Church's mission to the world and all nations as preached by Saint Paul in his journey to Rome as described in Acts with all the emphasis on Jesus being the Son of God and the Son of Man, who brings universal salvation for all of us as realised by Christ through His death and resurrection.

You've just read the story of Luke, now will you read the story of Christ as penned by the Gentle Physician, one chapter a day in the lead up to Christmas... a bedtime story for the children perhaps, adapted for their ages and bringing the family together.

In doing this we can respond to today's Gospel where Mark tells us how John the Baptist announces the coming of the One sent by God, the One who is our Salvation.

So here we are in the second week of Advent preparing for Christmas, buying gifts and food and wine for a slightly diminished celebration. But there is no need to have a diminished Spiritual celebration.

Five minutes a day for the first twenty-four days of December and as we read we can offer a prayer: *Day by day, Oh, Dear Lord, Three things I pray, To see thee more clearly, Love thee more dearly, Follow thee more nearly, Day by day.*



LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday 6th December <i>Second 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>
Monday 7th December <i>Memorial of St Ambrose</i>	No Mass	-	-	-
Tuesday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception</i>	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Kitty Lloyd RIP</i>
Wednesday 9th December <i>in the 2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Mary Harding RIP</i>
Thursday 10th December <i>in the 2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Kath Tipping RIP</i>
Friday 11th December <i>in the 2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Francis Larkin RIP</i>
Saturday 12th December <i>Mem of Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> <i>Vigil of 3rd Sunday of Advent</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>A forgotten Soul in Purgatory</i>
Sunday 13th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Brian & Glen Gilmartin RIP</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



Parish Office
67 Aberdour Road,
Dunfermline
KY11 4QZ

Phone: 01383 722202 (office)
01383 412084 (Presbytery)

E-mail: admin@catholicswfife.com

Website: www.catholicswfife.com



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