



# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

*13th December 2020*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHRISTIAN AND SOMEONE WHO IS NOT A CHRISTIAN BUT IS SIMPLY A VERY GOOD PERSON?

Well, it could be said that a very good person uses his or her own agenda. A Christian testifies to Christ. St John the Baptist understood this very well. St John the Baptist understood that he had come as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He hadn't come to change the world or work miracles or offer salvation ... he had simply come to prepare the way for a man who could. The gospels and the course of history are filled with men and women who have borne witness to Christ, some very famous and some we will never hear of. St John the Baptist was probably the most significant because he sets the precedent. So how is St John the Baptist's example relevant to the rest of us?

In a legal context a good witness is someone who doesn't try to put their own interpretation on events. A good witness is someone who recognises the importance of truth and doesn't taint it with their own agenda. St John the Baptist takes 'witness' to another level. We are not just to report the truth, but to channel it with understanding, humility and an appreciation of our human limitations. We provide good witness when we have done something good or clever, but are careful to give God credit for it. We provide good witness when we follow Jesus' teaching but trust in God to magnify our human effort.

Advent is a time for us to wake up and see the light. Advent is a time for us to re-assess the job we feel God has set for us and to get on with it. Advent is a time we clear the obstacles and prepare straight pathways. Advent is the time we recognise that God is at the wheel.

#### **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 61:1-2,10-11**

***He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord***

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,  
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,  
freedom to those in prison;  
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,  
my soul rejoices in my God,  
for he has clothed me in the garments of  
salvation,  
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,  
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,  
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,  
as a garden makes seeds spring up,  
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise  
spring up in the sight of the nations.'  
*The Word of the Lord.*

### Responsorial Psalm

**Luke 1:46-50,53-54**

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy.

*My soul rejoices in my God.*

### Second reading

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

***May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ***

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do

anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Is61:1(Lk4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.  
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

***'There stands among you the one coming after me'***

A man came, sent by God.  
His name was John.  
He came as a witness,  
as a witness to speak for the light,  
so that everyone might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER

### CHRISTMAS MASSES IN OUR PARISH

*Do to the on going pandemic and the restrictions that this places upon our movement and ability to gather in large numbers, we must continue to adhere to the government guidelines of a maximum of 50 people (if social distancing allows such).*

*The following Masses (with extra Masses) will be celebrated to mark Christmas.*

#### **Thursday 24th December**

5pm Vigil Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes

6pm Vigil Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes

8pm Vigil Mass in St Peter in Chains

9pm Vigil Mass in St Peter in Chains

#### **Friday 25th December**

Midnight Mass in Ss John & Columba's

10am Mass in Ss John & Columba's

11.30am Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes

Booking Forms are currently in each of our churches and parishioners can book places at Mass whilst they are in attendance this week. Once the forms have been collected in, we will see how many spaces are left at each Mass and an online Booking Form will be produced and open for further bookings.



### 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

Mrs I Doig RIP,  
Josephine Martin  
RIP and all those  
who have died as a  
result of Covid-19  
and especially those  
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:

### Pastoral Letter

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland has issued a pastoral letter on the Covid-19 pandemic titled 'Light Shines in Darkness'. You can find it on the Covid-19 section of [www.bcos.org.uk](http://www.bcos.org.uk)

### Pro-Life Advent Rosary

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 for week's event (14 Dec), visit [bit.ly/AdventRosary3](https://bit.ly/AdventRosary3)

### AdventRosary3

### Be Still

Sr Anna Marie McGuan RSM helps you cut through the cacophony of consumerism in preparation to celebrate the birth of Christ. This Zoom event takes place at 7:30pm on Monday 14 December. No registration required – join on the night using this link [bit.ly/BeStillWebinar](https://bit.ly/BeStillWebinar)

### 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](https://bit.ly/CatecheticsDiploma) (deadline 01 January). Or for more info email: [sranna.marie@staned.org.uk](mailto:sranna.marie@staned.org.uk)

### Advent Healing Service

New Dawn Scotland invite you to take part in an Advent Healing Service, led by Augustinian Friars at Clare Priory in Suffolk. It takes place on YouTube at 7:30-9:00pm on Friday 18 December. For details visit [www.newdawninscotland.com](http://www.newdawninscotland.com)



**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.

**Congratulations** to the children of the parish who made their 1st Confession on Wednesday evening from St John's Primary School. May the Lord bless them in His love.

### **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-3rd-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-3-Yr-B-13Dec2020-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. 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



This Sunday Father Kevin and I will be looking wonderful in Pink! (Not really my colour but I think Father has the figure for it *Editors note—real men wear pink!*).

Actually, the colour of the vestments is rose and the rose-coloured candle will be lit signifying the 3rd Sunday

of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday' Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: *'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.'*

All that been said, you should have seen the Deacon's face when he realised that this week's Sunday Gospel was the same as last week's but written by the Evangelist John and another wonderfully informative interpretation of this event would have to be found.

Now scripture is my 'thing'; I like to delve into the events of the times and discover that our traditions go all the way back to the 'Tribes of Judah' and therefore the things we do were done by Jesus, the Christ, himself.

So, John was *'baptising'* or bathing people in the Jordan river as a means of purifying them and hastening the coming of the Messiah. This wasn't a new phenomenon as many Jewish groups or sects followed this formal cleansing procedure. This of course irked the members of the Sanhedrin, the politicians and High Priests and they wondered who was this person who took it upon himself, without their permission, to preach the coming of the Lord. With their curiosity aroused they promptly sent their agents to question John: "Who are you and what are you doing?" The Baptist told them quite simply "I am not the Messiah" but the interrogation continued "Are you Elijah?", "Are you the Prophet?" John answered "No" Again they asked "Who are you?"

In the words of the prophet Isaiah John told them: *"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord!"* But he continued "I baptise you with water, but among you stands one whom you do not know... although he comes after me, I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal".

John the Baptist kindles in us the expectation of a saviour. In hindsight it is easy for us to say that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, but for the

people of the time, those who were actually hearing John it must have been so difficult to imagine what this saviour might be.

We see John preaching without permission from the religious authorities, not only that he accepts all comers, the beggars, the prostitutes and the tax collectors for these ordinary folk came seeking forgiveness and they came from far and wide.

John does ask for a commitment from these people however, a coming together with each other in solidarity, as they try to straighten out their lives. We are seeing today in the Gospel how the people were accepting a baptism as a way of making public their decision and promise to change. Like New Year resolutions these promises are fragile and can be easily broken and lost and the root of a fault stays with us. John is leading us to Christ!

Continue reading this chapter: Christ doesn't need conversion, nor does he need John's baptism. Being the Messiah, the Saviour he has come to us to join sinners who are searching for the way to forgiveness. By accepting baptism from John Jesus is making the point you are to seek justice for everyone and reform your own life.

At the moment of rising from the water a voice from heaven was heard: "You are my Son in whom I am well pleased." And in that instant God asked Jesus to start his ministry of salvation.

In your Baptism you received the Holy Spirit and were made Priest, Prophet, and King, gifts lying dormant within you until your coming of age becoming a full member of the Church on Confirmation and the gift of Holy Communion.

Today John calls you to begin your ministry... the conversion of your life and stability in Christ.



## LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

<b>Sunday 13th December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Brian &amp; Glen Gilmartin RIP</i>
	<b>11.00am</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>Delores McGartland RIP</i>
<b>Monday 14th December</b> <i>Memorial of St John of the Cross</i>	<b>No Mass</b>	-	-	-
<b>Tuesday 15th December</b> <i>in the 3rd Week of Advent</i>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>James Close RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 16th December</b> <i>in the 3rd Week of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Bonnie Gauson RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 17th December</b> <i>in Advent feria</i>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Pete Thom RIP</i>
<b>Friday 18th December</b> <i>Advent feria</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Maureen &amp; Ian McGregor RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 19th December</b> <i>Advent feria</i> <i>Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Bob Breslin RIP</i>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	St Peter in Chains	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Marie McFadden RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 20th December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>9.30am</b>	Ss John & Columba's	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>John Novak RIP</i>
	<b>11.00am</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Mairead McKenzie RIP</i>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes	<b>Holy Mass</b>	<i>Pro Populo</i>



### 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@catholicswufe.com](mailto:admin@catholicswufe.com)

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



*The Most Holy Trinity is a parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.  
A Charity registered in Scotland Number SC008540*