



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

20th December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

HOW MANY OF US LEAP OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING
FORED WITH THE ENTHUSIASM OF KNOWING WE
HAVE A VERY SPECIAL JOB TO DO?

Or how many of us wake up hitting the 'snooze button' not relishing our day's work one little bit? Some of us will undoubtedly fall into the second category, but the truth is that there is no need to live routinely hum drum and unfulfilled lives. We are told that God has a very particular job for each of us to do; all we have to do is answer the call.

Today we hear how the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her very special calling ... to be the Mother of Jesus. From that moment on, Mary's life would never be the same again. From that moment on the normal life she had planned with Joseph was to be turned upside down. She was about to embark on a life of great excitement, great uncertainty, challenges, joys and sorrows, but above all, great fulfilment. Answering God's call could never be boring.



We might not get angels knocking on the door, but God calls us each as surely as he called Mary. We might not think we have what it takes to step up to the mark, but the only qualifications God asks are a willingness to make ourselves available, commitment and trust. Mary demonstrates these qualifications when she answers very readily, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." How will we respond this week to what the Lord Himself is asking of each one of us?

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 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me; if he does evil, I will punish him with the rod such as men use, with strokes such as mankind gives. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 88(89):2-5,27,29

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.

Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages.

'He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.'

Second reading

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of the Lord'

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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. Please note that all Masses are fully booked up.

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

Midnight Mass and the 10am Christmas Day Masses will be livestreamed via the Parish Facebook Page.

Please do consider attending Mass on any of the days of the week during the Christmas Season if you are unable to attend Mass on Christmas day.



KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis proclaimed a year of St Joseph this week, which runs until 08 Dec 2021. He has issued a new Apostolic Letter, which is available online. Just type *Patris Corde* into your web browser. The letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

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 for next weekend's Masses on **TUESDAY from 4pm till 6pm only, as Friday will be busy!** 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-4th-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-4-YrB-20th-Dec-2020PDF.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



Here we are... it's arrived... the fourth Sunday of Advent ... and only five more sleeps till Christmas day. Every Radio Station is playing Christmas Carols and songs, the Supermarkets are working hard to provide us with special Christmas fayre and virtual parties are being organised on Zoom. The fun

is about to start, somewhat different from previous but thanks to modern technology we are still in touch with our loved ones.

Speaking of loved ones, this Sunday the Gospel features Mary accepting God's invitation to be the human mother of Christ but this set me wondering how would this effect Mary's family and who were her loved ones?

Well, let's start with her parents who are reputed to be a couple by the names Joachim and Anne ... The story of Joachim, his wife Anne (or Anna), and the miraculous birth of their child Mary, the mother of Jesus, is told for the first time in the 2nd century apocryphal infancy-gospel the Gospel of James . Joachim is a rich and pious man, who regularly gave to the poor. However, at the temple, Joachim's sacrifice was rejected, as the couple's childlessness was interpreted as a sign of divine displeasure. Joachim consequently withdrew to the desert, where he fasted and did penance for 40 days. Angels then appeared to both Joachim and Anne to promise them a child. Joachim later returned to Jerusalem and embraced Anne at the city gate, located in the Walls of Jerusalem. An ancient belief held that a child born of an elderly mother who had given up hope of having offspring was destined for great things, and of course Mary would be highly honoured forevermore.

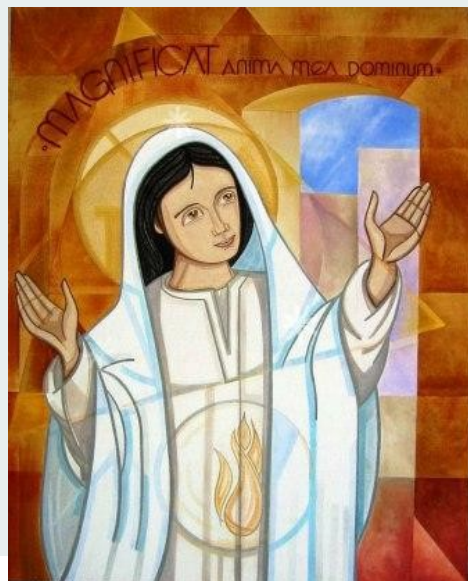
Joseph, Mary's betrothed...Joseph is the man who married Mary, the mother of Jesus and is venerated as Saint Joseph. By accepting the word of the Angel in his dream, not only did he protect Mary but he became the foster father of Jesus and would have been great influence on his upbringing. In our traditions, Joseph is regarded as the patron saint of workers and is associated with various feast days. The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph. Pope Pius IX declared him to be both the patron and the protector of the Catholic Church, in addition to his patronages of the sick and of a happy death, due to the belief

that he died in the presence of Jesus and Mary. Joseph has become patron of various dioceses and places. Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of St Joseph which concludes on 8th December 2021, to read the full Apostolic Letter just search *Patris Corde* into your web browser and this is to mark the 150th anniversary of Joseph being declared Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX.

Then we have the messenger, Gabriel ... he is an Archangel first described in the Hebrew Bible and appeared to Daniel to explain his dreams. He also appears in the Book of Enoch and in today's Gospel where he meets with Mary.

To understand the importance of Mary's role in our Salvation story we have to look to the time and place of Mary's community and their laws and traditions. Mary was a young teenage girl, perhaps fifteen, living at home and betrothed to Joseph. The traditions of the time required the engagement period to be between nine months and a year to ensure that the bride was a virgin and was not expecting at the time of the marital contract. At this time Mary became subject to Joseph and was his property (this is an important point to realise). If Mary was found to be pregnant before the marriage and Joseph was not the father then the law demanded that Mary be stoned to death, a dreadful consequence.

These are things that Mary had to consider before she gave Gabriel her consent to become the instrument of God. Here a young girl accepts to be the servant of the Lord and the mother of God. Mary was the means of God becoming man in order to save humanity and with these words her fiat was completed: *'I am the handmaid of the*



LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

Sunday 20th December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>John Novak RIP</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Mairead McKenzie RIP</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday 21st December <i>Advent feria</i>	No Mass	-	-	-
Tuesday 22nd December <i>Advent feria</i>	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Rita McKenna RIP</i>
Wednesday 23rd December <i>Advent feria</i>	10.00am	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Stanley Jackson RIP</i>
Thursday 24th December <i>Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>John & Barbara Ewing RIP</i>
	6.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Betty Byrne RIP</i>
	8.00pm 9.00pm	St Peter in Chains St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass Holy Mass	<i>Linda McLees' Intentions</i> <i>Norma Crawford's Intentions</i>
Friday 25th December <i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i>	00.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Helen O'Neill & Family</i>
	11.30am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Kathleen Keenan & Family</i>
Saturday 26th December <i>Vigil of the Holy Family</i>	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>A Mother's Prayers</i>
Sunday 27th December <i>Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Martin Wallace RIP</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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137 Admiralty Road,
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KY11 2QL
01383 412084

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Website: www.catholicswife.com

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



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