



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

27th December 2020

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (B)

FR KEVIN AND DEACON PAT WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY & HOLY CHRISTMAS, AND TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR KIND WISHES, CARDS AND PRESENTS RECEIVED IN THIS JOYFUL SEASON.

We would also like to thank the stewards in each church, that oversee the check-in and help escort the parishioners to their seats and then clean and disinfect the churches after Mass. Without their help and assistance, we would not be able to open our churches at all—thankyou! To all who helped to decorate our churches in preparation for this year's Christmas marathon of Masses, with flowers, decorations, trees and the crib scenes, again thankyou for your support to our parish.

This is a shorter newsletter this weekend, for obvious reasons, but please note from the back page that all weekday Masses during this current Level 4 of Government restrictions, will take place in Ss John & Columba's Church, Rosyth to allow us to make use of the 'live streaming' facilities located there. We will follow the usual weekday schedule of times (except Friday [New Year's day] when Mass will be at 12 noon.

No bookings are required to attend a weekday Mass, but please remember that we are limited to 20 places. If you are able to attend one of the week day Masses in place of a Sunday Mass (to allow workers to attend at the weekend), please do so. Our chief stewards at each church have the booking forms for the next few weekends, so please speak to them with regards to booking a place at a Vigil/Sunday Mass.

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 **Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3**

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **127(128):1-5**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Second reading **Colossians 3:12-21**

Family life in the Lord

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always,

because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Heb1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord

DEACON PAT'S PONDERINGS



Christmas morning, just before dawn. The desk lamp sheds a pool of light which doesn't quite illuminate the whole room but lends an ambience of tranquillity to the study. The calm before this happy hectic day. Santa hasn't been yet, but of course he visits the adults last. He's been to the house next door.

The happy laughter of the children, the giggles of fun and the shrieks of delight as presents are opened can be heard from across the fence. Lights are coming on all along the street and no doubt the cry of "Santa's been!" echoes in every house.

It's a different Christmas this year. Last night we had four Vigil Masses and three Masses today in an attempt to let as many people celebrate the Nativity of Christ before we succumb to strict regulations on the Feast of St Stephen, the first Deacon or Boxing Day as it's known in this country. I don't know why!

Coffee in hand I look at the readings from the Office of Vigils (first office of the day) and the words of Isaiah are once again prominent as he foretells the coming of the Prince of Peace (Is 11:1-9).

Isaiah is the first to announce the Messiah, namely, a King just like David but much, much better. Here he is being presented like a shoot, a new plant, coming from the stump of an old tree already felled. This how Isaiah suggests that the presents leaders and kings are without much faith and they will disappear in the depths of history. The bad guys will disappear into the darkness of time but a new light will appear... a true descendant of David.

This new light coming into the world will be more than just a descendant of David, he will be Emmanuel, a new David and here he is called son of Jesse just like the original famous King of Israel.

Emmanuel, in him the Spirit of God would dwell forever just as all the Prophets foretold and he would renew the people of God.

This Christmas we have to become a people of Joy, Hope and Love because if we don't all the gifts of Emmanuel, the Messiah, Christ are lost.

We have the Joy of friends, family and our Christian community and we have seen the silver lining of Covid as people strive to help their

neighbours, caring for others in so many, many ways. Fundraisers have been prominent but the joy the postman brings with a handwritten card or the shouted hello from the child to an older person living in isolation are also so very, very welcome.

The Hope that Emmanuel brings is unbounded. As with the birth of any child we receive the gift of hope that things will be better in the future. With the birth of Emmanuel, we receive the gift of hope that things will be better forever.

With the love that Emmanuel brings we are granted the ability to see people in a new light and realise that justice and salvation is something for every individual. We become a people guided by the Holy Spirit, a people of love and when these things come together and intertwine, we become a people of Christ, a people of Peace.

The day is almost done, the drive pasts are finished and the socially distanced outdoor exchange of presents completed. As we drive home looking forward to dinner the car is filled with tradition Christmas Music as the radio station plays the countdown to the most popular Carol. For once, the UK's voting public have got something right...

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth; Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming; With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand: So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the wise men from Orient land, The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger! Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend! Behold your King! your King! before him bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is Love and His gospel is Peace; Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother, And in his name all oppression shall cease, Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we; Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Author's note: Dawn on Christmas morning was 08:46 GMT

LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

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>
Monday 28th December <i>Feast of the Holy Innocents</i>	No Mass	-	-	-
Tuesday 29th December <i>Memorial of St Thomas Becket</i>	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Kevin J Tobin RIP</i>
Wednesday 30th December <i>Christmas Octave by date</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Clare Pennock & Family</i>
Thursday 31st December <i>Christmas Octave by date</i>	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Maureen Greene & Family</i>
Friday 1st January <i>Solemnity of Mary Mother of God</i>	12.00noon	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>For peace and an end to the global pandemic</i>
Saturday 2nd January <i>Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Therese & Eric Allcock RIP</i>
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Marie Styan's Intentions</i>
Sunday 3rd January <i>Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Annie Lynch & Family</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Neil Sinclair RIP</i>



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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*The Most Holy Trinity is a parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews & Edinburgh.
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