



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

3rd January 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

“FROM ETERNITY, IN THE BEGINNING, HE CREATED ME, AND FOR ETERNITY I SHALL REMAIN.”

All the best books have great beginnings, and St. John's gospel is no exception. The gospel begins with an eighteen-verse introduction, which we call 'The Prologue'. The prologue contains intriguing themes such as creation, life, and truth. Through it all, John refers to Jesus as the 'Word'. If John had been writing today, would he have used different language? To us the word 'Word' is simply a means of expression. In John's day the word 'Word' had greater implication. To understand today's gospel, we need to know that in Hebrew Scriptures the 'Word' had a power of its own. The 'Word' was not just a sound or an expression, but something with its own life. The 'Word' was an agent of creation.

We can see this for ourselves in Genesis. 'God said, "Let there be light," and light appeared.' God's 'Word' has the power to create. To call Jesus the 'Word' was to attribute to him the ability to make things happen. We can bring our own understanding of the 'Word' to help us understand this gospel. Our own understanding of words is of language, understanding and communication. Perhaps to describe Jesus as the 'Word' is to imply that he was sent as a communication between God and us.

How would we have recorded the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? We may have been tempted to record his great deeds as any well-trained newspaper reporter may have done. We may have been tempted to place him in a political or historical context worthy of any great public figure. John however, begins his gospel by placing Jesus fairly and squarely at the centre of creation itself. The story starts with the bold statement that Jesus is the meaning behind creation, life and truth. It's a great beginning. Can we put down John's gospel; tell ourselves this has no relevance in our lives or do we keep turning the pages.

“In the beginning was the Word: and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” [John 1:1]

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 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you, the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Second reading

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance,

that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Mt2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

The visit of the Magi

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of
Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

DEACON PAT'S PONDERINGS



It's strange what you think about when you wake up in the night. I pinged just after 1am the other morning and that was me, wide awake for the next few hours. As I lay there, I found myself going over various events that had occurred in our lives this year. I thought of the rest of

the family being so near yet so far away. I dedicated a prayer to those IT wizards who provided us with the means to make video calls which let all our families be together at least on the screen.

Thankfully we had decent summer and that was a bit of a substitute for lost holidays and we were coming out of lockdown. Days of brightness lay ahead!

News from America told us that developments were being made in the search for a vaccination and we realised that the research team was being led in San Diego by Kate Broderick... our Kate Broderick who went to Saint Margaret's Primary and Saint Columba's RC High School. There was a sense of pride going about our city with that news.

The family managed to get together a couple of times while adhering to social distancing rules and we had some good times. Some friends moved away and that was sad but we still keep in touch. Then the big event, the puppy arrived and that was and still is a life changer. Hard work, but fun and she is so full of love.

Then there were new schools for some but all the children had to get used to restrictions not normally found in the classroom. The exam results, although no exams took place and that was a stressful time. As the academic year progressed, we saw pupils being asked to wear masks in the corridors. However, as research progressed and new facts came to light senior pupils were asked to mask up even in class, disheartening for both teacher and student.

Summer drew to an end and so too our liberty as the virus took hold again and new restrictions put in place, but the Churches were open for public worship and we were allowed to have fifty folk in church for Mass. The liturgy was changed a little and Holy Communion was distributed at the end of the Mass as we left the building. Things were strange but the volunteers at all three churches in our Parish have been doing and still are a

magnificent job and we all have to thank them for their efforts in stewarding the services and cleaning and sanitising the buildings afterwards.

Don't know how it happened but suddenly I was organising a family get together and I was struggling to decide whether it should be a sit-down meal in the house of a barbeque in the garden or even a picnic somewhere nice.

A beach party came to mind and we would have plenty of space for the children and dogs to explore. The BBQ could be organised and of course it had to be somewhere near so that none of us had to drive for obvious reasons (local laws permitting) Might be better to hire a mini-bus and have designated driver and we could go further afield. It would be the perfect day, a day of fun and love. Perhaps we could I must have fell asleep for the next thing I knew it was time to get up.

Time for coffee and the realisation that we were about to celebrate the Epiphany, the three wise men arriving in Bethlehem to signify the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

2020 will be a year remembered for so many different reasons but hopefully 2021 will bring personal epiphanies to many people and they have a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization in their life, perhaps the Holy Spirit will guide some to revert to their Catholic faith. Who knows?

May God bless us all in the coming year and may our prayers lead us to peace and our meditations to tranquillity,

Orra Best for 2021!

Deacon Pat



LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

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>
Monday 4th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i>	No Mass	-	-	-
Tuesday 5th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i>	6.30pm	Ss John & Columba's	Confessions	<i>Aloysius Kennedy RIP</i>
	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	
Wednesday 6th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Denis Sullivan RIP</i>
Thursday 7th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i>	6.30pm	Ss John & Columba's	Confessions	<i>Donors Intention</i>
	7.00pm	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	
Friday 8th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Isabel Doig RIP</i>
Saturday 9th January <i>Weekday of Christmastide</i> <i>Vigil of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>	10.00am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>Jim Norman RIP</i>
	5.00pm	St Peter in Chains	Holy Mass	<i>Dona Lynch</i>
Sunday 10th January <i>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.30am	Ss John & Columba's	Holy Mass	<i>John Gavin</i>
	11.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Dave Speed RIP</i>
	5.00pm	Our Lady of Lourdes	Holy Mass	<i>Prop Populo</i>



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



MHT Parish Office
67 Aberdour Road,
Dunfermline
KY11 4QZ
Phone: 01383 722202

Parish Priest Resident at:
The Presbytery
137 Admiralty Road,
Rosyth
KY11 2QL
01383 412084

E-mail: admin@catholicswife.com

Website: www.catholicswife.com

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



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