



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

7th March 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

CHRISTIAN WRITERS TEND TO SEE THE EPISODE WHEN JESUS OVERTURNED THE TEMPLE TRADER'S TABLES AS A SIGN OF THE HUMAN SIDE OF JESUS.

He was genuinely angry and lashed out at those who were abusing the real purpose of the Temple.

One such writer, Origen, points out that each one of us has to allow our own tables to be overturned if we are to worship God in spirit and in truth. And Lent is the time for clearing the decks of those obstacles that prevent us from serving God to the best of our ability.

If we're honest then we'll admit that there are many things that get in the way of our spiritual life. We know how we'd like to be, but we never seem to get round to it. It's not that we're headline sinners. It's just that we tend to drift. Perhaps we need to allow Jesus to overturn the tables of our lives and to chase out what is getting in the way.

Origen points out that the cattle in the Temple represent attachment to earthly things, since they require constant husbandry and need looking after at all times. The sheep symbolise the senseless way in which we act, wandering without rhyme or reason. The doves conjure up images of empty and unstable thoughts, or 'flightiness', while the coins of the moneychangers portray all that we strive for but which brings us no good.

Jesus says that for true worship to happen in the Temple all these things need to be cleared out. And the same is true of our lives. Lent gives us the chance to reset

our sense of values, to ask ourselves whether all the effort we put into getting and having, into consuming and spending, into keeping up appearances is really doing us any good. And St Paul hints that if we go with the flow then we are probably missing the boat. For what God asks of us seems foolish to those who do not believe. Whereas, in fact, God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.



The Parish Clergy

Parish Priest:

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

Exodus 20:1-17

The Law given at Sinai

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall have no gods except me. 'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.' *The Word of the Lord.*

Responsorial Psalm

18(19):8-11

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

The crucified Christ, the power and wisdom of God

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. *The Word of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Jn3:16

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
God loved the world so much that he gave his
only Son: everyone who believes in him has
eternal life. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eter-
nal glory!

Gospel

John 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

DEVOTIONAL LIFE & PRAYER

Daily Prayer Intention in the midst of the Pandemic—Archbishop Leo in has recent Social Media address to the members of the Archdiocese, has asked that we pray the Memorare each day with the intention of a swift end to the current crisis.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known, that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



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, and Jennifer Imrie
Our Lady, Mother of the sick—pray for them

OF YOUR CHARITY, PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Tam Higgins (Dunfermline) 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



ST. JOSEPH

Blessed Joseph, husband of Mary, be with us this day. You protected and cherished the virgin; loving the child Jesus as your Son, you rescued him from the danger of death. Defend the Church, the household of God, purchased by the blood of Christ. Guardian of the holy family, be with us in our trials. May your prayers obtain for us the strength to flee from error and wrestle with the powers of corruption so that in life we may grow in holiness and in death rejoice in the crown of victory.
—anonymous

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Year of St Joseph - Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of St Joseph, which runs until the 8th December 2021. He has issued a new Apostolic Letter, which can be read online. Just type **PATRIS CORDE** in to your web browser. The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

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.

NEWS & EVENTS

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**

Parish Clergy: As you will have hopefully seen on the Archdiocesan and parish social media, the Archbishop has announced the appointment of Fr Joshua Kauras, a priest of Bauchi Diocese, Nigeria as the new parish administrator with effect from the 10th April 2021.

Fr Kevin, our current Parish Priest has received a Commission as a Regular Chaplain to the Army, and will be leaving the parish after the Easter celebrations.

Fr Joshua will arrive in the parish 20th March for the start of the hand over process and will share in the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter with us here (*depending on what we are allowed to do –covid restrictions permitting*).

Fr Kevin was initially appointed Parish Priest of St Peter in Chains and Ss John & Columba's in September 2015 and during that time has overseen with the generous assistance of the parishioners, a new roof on the church in Rosyth, paid off the Rosyth parish debt to the diocese, led the celebrations for Inverkeithing's 40th anniversary, organised parish missions with guest preachers, as well as ministered to the daily life of a parish. Since September 2018, Fr Kevin has also been the PP of Our Lady of Lourdes, and with the creation of the new parish of The Most Holy Trinity, has worked to bring the 3 different communities together as one parish, fit for the praise and glory of God.

Please remember Fr Kevin in your prayers as he prepares to leave parish ministry and for Fr Joshua as he prepares to take over the responsibilities of pastoring in our parish with the able assistance of Deacon Pat and you the holy people of God.



NEWS FROM THE ARCHBISHOP:



Lent event 1: INSPIRE prayer talks

Register now for the remaining talks in the Archdiocese's INSPIRE talk series for Lent. Guest speakers will guide you prayerfully through the season. All talks on Zoom, 7:00pm-7:45pm. If you miss a talk you can find it at bit.ly/ArchYouTube

TALK 3: *Prayer as a Relationship Reflected in St Teresa of Avila*, with Sr Sally Rollo. 7pm, Tue 16 March. Register: bit.ly/LentRollo

TALK 4: *Praying the Passion according to St Mark*, with Archbishop Leo Cushley. 7pm, Tue 23 March. Register: bit.ly/LentCushley

Lent event 2: Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross, organised by the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, is on each Monday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. The Stations are followed by a short reflection by a priest of the Archdiocese. You can register now on Eventbrite: <https://standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com>

Healing Service

New Dawn in Scotland is hosting a Lenten Healing Service at 7:30pm-9:00pm on Friday 12 March on Zoom. The theme is 'Repent and believe the good news' and the event is led by Fr Stefan Park. Visit <https://newdawninScotland.com/> for the link to join the service.

Lent resources

The Archdiocesan Catechetics Commission has produced a range of resources for Lent that will assist adults and children to deepen their understanding of this holy season and aid them in their prayer life. Find them in the resources section at: <https://archedinburgh.org/pastoral-governance/catechetics/>.

Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund

a donation has been made from the bank account of St Peter in Chains to the AICF to assist in the care of our retired priests, in particular Canon Agnew the first resident PP and Canon McAliister the last resident PP, thank you for your concern for your much loved former pastors.

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

ST JOSEPH'S PRAYER BOOK:

As you may know, this year has been specially dedicated by the Holy Father to St Joseph. The Archdiocese has published a little family prayer book to mark this occasion. It has lots of lovely prayers and practical suggestions to help families, and especially our young ones, to stay connected with the Lord and their faith during the time that places of worship are closed or have limited capacity and are so unable to come to Mass.

To this end, we would like to try and get a free copy to every home in the parish as a spiritual gift to them during difficult times. This is perfectly doable within the present Covid guidelines* but ... we need your help!

We are looking to get a team of volunteers (zoning areas of Dunfermline, Rosyth and Dalgety Bay and a few from each main towns/villages in our geographically huge parish) who would be willing to deliver them during their legitimate time of exercise. All being well, there would be a contact person in each place for you to liaise with should you wish to make sure you get a copy or know of people who would appreciate one. These contact people would have extra copies available.

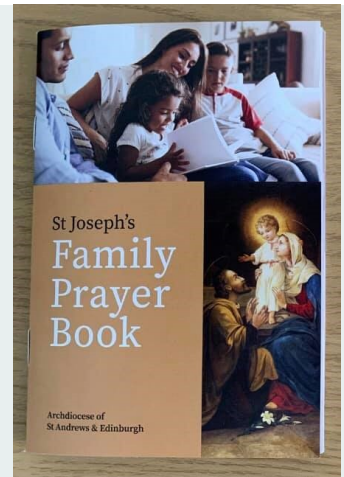
Our parish database is old and out of date but, with local knowledge and ingenuity, we think we could do this pretty well. (We also hope to update our database somewhat in the process. More of which later).

If you are interested and wish to help, please email the parish on admin@catholicswife.com and we can start taking things from there.

Our copies will hopefully arrive soon and we would we would aim to have as many of them as possible delivered in time for the Feast Day of St Joseph on 19 March.

[*Covid guidelines include things like: delivery during exercise only, wearing disposable gloves/face coverings at point of delivery, copies of book in disposable, clear bag, packages of books left for 72 hours before ready for distribution etc.

Any and all help will be greatly received! St Joseph, pray for us.



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



Emotions!

Aye, it's been an emotional week for our Parish and Parishioners. All of us have become aware of the news that we are losing our Parish Priest and that he is moving

on to a new post where I am sure he will excel. Personal reactions are exactly that... personal but I am sure there has been sadness in the hearts of many, including mine. My ministry has been allowed to grow and flourish under his direction and the curtesy extended to me as a new member of the clergy will always be appreciated. The knowledge he has shared in so many ways, sometimes a gentle nudge, sometimes a firm guide but mostly through that weird sense of humour he has! Unfortunately for him I have his phone number so I can call for help as and when.

As, for us, we now have to support our new Priest in his new ministry as he serves us in our sacramental needs helping our community to grow in Christ. We have a new shepherd who I am sure will guide and teach wisely. He will need help and assistance in many areas. But hey! We're all Fifers either by birth or adoption and we know how to extend the hand of friendship.

This Sunday we have readings full of emotion and unexpected behaviour from Jesus:

'The Gospel presents a dramatic scene where Jesus shows himself as Lord of the Temple. It does not seem in character to see Jesus with a small whip of cords physically driving out the traders in cattle, sheep and pigeons – animals to be used in sacrifices. And the moneychangers. They were needed because only Jewish money could be offered in the Temple. Roman coins had the image of Divus Augustus (the 'divine Augustus') and so were regarded as idolatrous; they had to be exchanged for Jewish coinage.

Jesus objected not to the trade as such which was quite legitimate but to its being done in the temple precincts, "my Father's house". "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Such business should have been carried on just outside the temple precincts but we know that in our own time hawkers try to get as close to the action as possible, especially if they have competition. It is also not at all impossible that the temple authorities connived at

the practice and may have even benefited if the traders had to "rent" spaces in the Temple to do their business.

This would explain the priests' anger at what Jesus was doing. "What's going on here? What sign can you show to justify what you are doing?" Jesus replies: "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." They come back: "It has taken 46 years to build this temple and you can raise it in only three days?" This was indeed true and, in fact, the building had not yet been fully completed at this time.

But Jesus was speaking about another sanctuary, another temple where God lived – his own body. Through this event we are reminded during Lent of what we are preparing to remember and celebrate – the death and resurrection of Jesus.

A hard saying

It is the very heart of our faith. But, as Paul explains, writing to the Christians of Corinth, Jesus' death to the Jews was (and is?) a stumbling block, a scandal, an insurmountable obstacle. It was impossible for them to accept that the Messiah, their Saviour and King, could suffer such an ignominious death at the hands not only of Israel's enemies but even more of his own people. That just could not be; God could not allow it.

To the Gentiles, the pagans, it was meaningless. Power and domination and influence were what counted in their world. The idea that someone executed like and with common criminals should be worshipped as Lord was nonsense, it was something to be ignored and laughed at and rubbished – as it still is by many in our own society today.

God's wisdom

But to those who have been called and who answer the call – be they Jews or Gentiles, men or women, slave or free – it is the power and wisdom of God. The death of Jesus to any objective observer seems like utter failure, to believe in such a Lord seems stupid but those with the eyes of faith can see the power of love in that death.'

<https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/lbo31/>

LITURGICAL TIMETABLE FOR COMING WEEK

As in accordance with the current Government legislation, all of our churches remain closed to public acts of worship. Mass will however, be celebrated by Fr Kevin and livestreamed onto the Parish's Facebook platform: <https://www.facebook.com/catholicswfife>

Sunday 7th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	11.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday 8th March <i>in the 3rd Week of Lent</i>	No Mass			
Tuesday 9th March <i>Memorial of St Frances of Rome</i>	7.00pm	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Allan Wade RIP</i>
Wednesday 10th March <i>Feast of St John Ogilvie</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>In Thanksgiving for Fr Kevin's Ministry</i>
Thursday 11th March <i>in the 3rd Week of Lent</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	
Friday 12th March <i>in the 3rd Week of Lent</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Vhairi Harding RIP</i>
Saturday 13th March <i>in the 3rd Week of Lent</i>	09.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Stella Morrison RIP</i>
Sunday 14th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	11.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>



The Catholic Parish of The Most Holy Trinity



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