



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

14th March 2021

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

JESUS LIVED BY ONE ABIDING RULE.

He knew that his integrity was the one thing that could not be taken away. His life could be taken, but his integrity could not. Today we are asked to live our lives by that same rule. We must know who we are; and we must adhere to who we are with every ounce of integrity we possess.

We all admire people who have the courage of their convictions. We admire their confidence, and we admire their openness. If we have ever had something to hide we know how difficult it is to feel good about ourselves. There must have been times in all our lives where we have been tempted to deceive, keep something a secret, or simply lay low and hope that problems will blow over. Keeping our integrity intact is not always easy, especially when we have used our own flawed agendas to go by.

Today's gospel makes reference to an Old Testament Story. Just as Moses used a bronze serpent to remind the Israelites of their sinfulness and steer them towards better choices, so we are asked to look upon Jesus as our guiding light. We are asked to see Jesus' light in every corner of our lives and make good choices on a daily basis. It might sound easy to make good choices, but so often we disguise our choices, to hide our real motivation, we might not even be aware that we are doing it. The most important clue to making good decisions is to ask whether we would have any qualms about pinning our choices up on a noticeboard under a spotlight. With our choices on public show, how confidently would we face a challenge? Would our integrity remain intact?



God sent his Son so the world might be saved. We are saved when we continue to make those right choices, remembering that we are not condemned for our bad choices if we can recognise them and move on.

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 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 136(137):1-6

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,

if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Second reading

Ephesians 2:4-10

You have been saved through grace

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it. *The Word of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Jn3:16

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel

John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.
For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.
And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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**

Reopening our Churches:

As the First Minister recently announced, we will be allowed to open our Churches back up and allow up to 50 parishioners to attend Mass, following the 2 metre social distancing allowing. This can take place from Friday 26th March.

Our plan is to hold Masses starting from the Vigil Mass in St Peter in Chains on Saturday 27th, which is the weekend of Palm Sunday.

We will be going back to using the Google Forms, to allow for booking of places at Mass to take place.



HOLY WEEK & SACRED TRIDUUM:

Maundy Thursday (1st April)

Mass at 7pm in Ss John & Columba's Church

Good Friday (2nd April)

The Passion of our Lord at 3pm in ALL 3 Churches

Holy Saturday (3rd April)

Vigil Mass at 8.00pm in St Peter in Chains Church

Easter Sunday (4th April)

Masses at 09.30am in Rosyth,
11.00am & 5.00pm in Dunfermline



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 3: 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 our own Fr Kevin this week. You can register now on Eventbrite: <http://standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com>

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/>.

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.

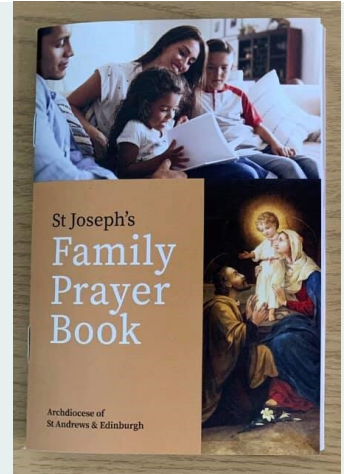
Our parish database is old and out of date but, with local knowledge and ingenuity, we think we could do this pretty well. (We also hope to update our database somewhat in the process. More of which later).

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



Oops!

I just about missed the deadline for this week's Bulletin because I've been running about daft doing other things and trying to plan out a way of visiting loved ones

as we ease out of Lockdown. That's the thing ... We are all looking to the future at the moment and especially to Easter and the Churches being open for the Triduum, so this fourth week of Lent which is Laetare Sunday (Remember how Fr Kevin looks like in Pink? *EDITORS NOTE- ROSE*) we are allowed a wee celebration.

Here in the UK, we also use this celebration of the Church to mark the secular celebration of Mother's Day, so there is a gentle reminder in case you've forgotten.

So, why Laetare Sunday? The fourth Sunday in the season of Lent, in the Western Christian liturgical calendar takes this name because traditionally, this Sunday has been a day of celebration, within the austere period of Lent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day. Laetare Jerusalem (Rejoice, O Jerusalem) the Latin from Isaiah 66:10. "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem; and be ye glad for her, all ye that delight in her: exult and sing for joy with her, all ye that in sadness mourn for her; that ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations. (And from the Psalm:) I was glad when they said unto me, we will go into the house of the Lord."

Think I must have learnt something when I did my Degree (LOL!)

Having a look at this week's Readings we might, at first sight, wonder about the First Reading and what its relevance is to Lent, never mind the Gospel. (Remember there is usually a link between the First Reading and the Gospel).

Because of the transgressions of the Jewish people, from the priests down, and because at one point they fell into idolatry and other practices which alienated them from God they were sent messenger after messenger from the Lord but they were ignored. Because of this a terrible punishment fell on the Nation which led to the destruction of the Temple and the city of Jerusalem. Not only was it plundered but the survivors were carried off into exile by Nebuchadnezzar who was the King of Babylonia.

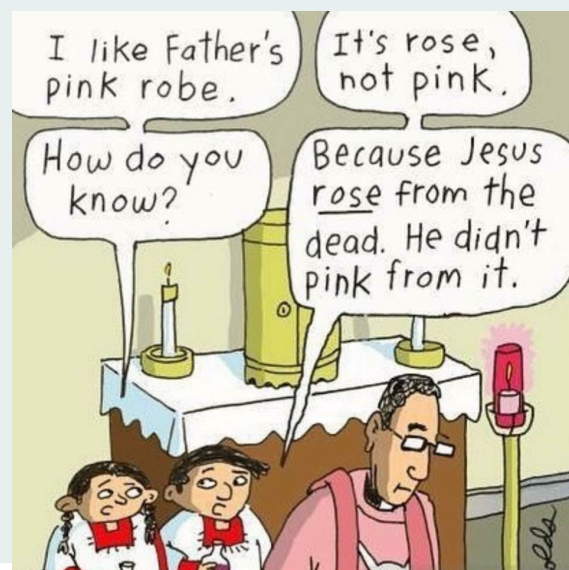
Many, many years passed before Cyrus, the king of Persia became an instrument of God and God's Chosen People were able to return to Jerusalem where they began to establish their traditions and rebuild the Temple.

Jesus reminds us of Moses who was also sent as a prophet and saviour of God's people, but in the desert, they complained bitterly about their conditions and were punished by a plague of serpents.

So, instructed by God, Moses raised up a bronze serpent and anyone who had been bitten and then looked on the symbol recovered. John sees this as a sign of Christ's destiny, a foresight of Jesus being lifted up, not only on the cross but also raised up to be with God in glory. So, anyone who looks to Jesus, the Christ will be saved and given 'eternal life, something that can never be taken away.

And all of this is a sign of God's own love. God sacrificed his only Son so that we might have that eternal life. He emphasises that God sent his Son to save and not to judge or condemn. In fact, no one who puts their whole self in God's hands through faith can be condemned. And it is never too late to make that step of faith.

Conversely, whoever decides not to believe has lost paradise. This is not directed to people of another faith, another religion, another vision of life. No, judgement and condemnation come to those who prefer to alienate themselves from God, reject the light of Christ in preference to the darkness of sin. When we see or meet a true Christian their goodness is immediately recognised and their life leads others to Christ and to God.



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 14th March <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	11.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday 15th March <i>in the 4th Week of Lent</i>	No Mass			
Tuesday 16th March <i>in the 4th Week of Lent</i>	7.00pm	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Linda Mclees' Intention</i>
Wednesday 17th March <i>Feast of St Patrick</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Archbishop Tartaglia RIP</i>
Thursday 18th March <i>in the 4th Week of Lent</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Gerry Collins RIP</i>
Friday 19th March <i>Solemnity of St Joseph</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Fr Joe Walsh</i>
Saturday 20th March <i>in the 4th Week of Lent</i>	10.00am	livestreamed	Holy Mass	<i>Margaret McBride RIP</i>
Sunday 21st March <i>Fifth 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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