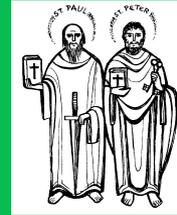


Welcome to
St. Peter and St Paul's
Byron Street - Dundee



Parish Priest: Mgr Kenneth McCaffrey **E-mail:** ken.mccaffrey@btopenworld.com
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Parish Website: www.stpeterandstpaul.co.uk **Webmaster:** Andrew Kelly
Deacon: Rev Charles Hendry **Tel** 818183
Parish Sister: Sister Mary Rose **Tel** 322304

Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year 2 September 2007
Next Sunday is the 23rd Sunday of the Year - Year C

Sunday Mass

Anticipated Mass on Saturday at 6.00pm
Mass on Sunday at 9.30am & 11.30am

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11.30am Mass

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday from 10.15am to 10.45am
Saturday from 5.00pm to 5.30pm

Earlier in this century, someone claimed that we work at our play and play at our work. Today the confusion has deepened: we worship our work, work at our play, and play at our worship.

*"The intuitive mind is a sacred gift
and the rational mind is a faithful servant.
We have created a society that honours the servant and
has forgotten the gift."* A.Einstein

Weekday Mass
This Week

Monday at 11.00am
Tuesday at 11.00am
Wednesday at 11.00am
Thursday at 11.00am
NO Mass on Friday
Saturday at 11.00am

The Last Word

Each week, for the past 31 years, I have written a Newsletter (apart from a few holiday weeks). I can't claim it was much of a burden - I had always too much to say and, as my friends know, I am rarely stuck for words. Occasionally I felt limited by just one page, so in this final week I am going to take advantage and spread myself across the middle pages. The purpose of a parish newsletter is always to communicate a message which is not your own and to remember that the words are only seed and it is really up to the Holy Spirit whether they have any effect and take root. In this double spread I offer you some concluding thoughts.

I have enjoyed being a parish priest. I am grateful to God and the Church for the life I have had in the four parishes. I am especially grateful for the many parishioners whose faith and love have supported and encouraged me. I have made many mistakes, had my share of being hurt and I had many occasions to regret the hurts I have caused others along the way. I have tried things which failed; going through old papers I am reminded of initiatives which sank without trace.

As parish priest, the highlights have been the Sunday Eucharist and school Masses, the inspiration of the faith and love of parishioners.

I have been in hot water too many times to worry about any single occasion. Prudence and self-interest might have led me to speak less, but I now regret not having spoken out more.

On black days there were always children to lift me, with their honesty and innocence. I have received love in abundance from a number of families and friends and I often appreciated the sense of a verse from Belloc:

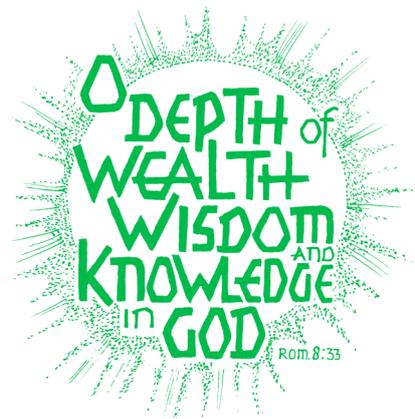
"From quiet homes and first beginning,
Out to the undiscovered ends,
There's nothing worth the wear of winning
But laughter and the love of friends."

There have been those whose lives influenced me and provided a compass. Cardinal Tom Winning was one of them. I drew from his moral strength and courage and above all his leadership.

I became a priest towards the end of the Second Vatican Council. Those were days of hope and new beginnings. The vision is still there but the Church (and that means all of us) has taken cold feet. In Scotland today men are appointed bishops at an age when the rest of the world is retiring; it is the triumph of caution over mission and fear over hope. Like the Israelites in the desert, many long for the good old days when, although slaves, they felt they knew where they were in Egypt.

Anyone who is even slightly involved with the Church knows that things have to change. The focus is very much on finding priests to cover Sunday Mass in too many places; there isn't much concern for the issue of building Church: reaching out, welcoming new members, the way we initiate them and the quality of liturgy. The good is frequently the enemy of the better. As long as the ship is still afloat, only a few notice or care we are just drifting.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune" as Shakespeare wrote. We missed the tide of *Duc in Altum* which could have generated so much enthusiasm, direction and energy. Some people have quizzed me on why I am retiring as if physical energy and strength are the determinative factors; their very question reveals a mindset which limits the Kingdom. The energising elements are: spiritual and moral strength, a sense of purpose and direction, enthusiasm and a hierarchy of values.



My earliest memory of this parish of St Peter & St Paul was when I was 10 and my grandmother, Teresa Laing, lived in Wetherby Place. We would arrive there and discover she was more often along at the church praying and I was sent to tell her we had come for tea (or so we hoped!) The paschal candlestick in St Peter & St Paul's was donated by my late uncle, Jack Laing, in memory of her.

This spirit of prayer is a great strength of this parish along with the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist, daily Mass, Wednesday adoration, welcoming the stranger, the outreach to families seeking baptism, the Easter Triduum. I thank you all for your faith and witness, but especially those who walked with me in the Journey of Faith on Thursday evenings. Of all the weekday parish gatherings, the future will stand or fall on that. Parishes may busy themselves with so many other groups but the Journey of Faith and RCIA hold the future, believe me.

These are the things that make you a light. The sun still shines when it is hidden by cloud. There is a lot of cloud in the Church these days and Jesus Christ seemed a failure before he met his friends after the Resurrection; wisdom and maturity can emerge from apparent failure.

The poet Aeschylus offers this insightful reflection on failure:

'He who learns must suffer.
And even in our sleep, Pain that cannot forget,
falls drop by drop upon the heart,
and in our own despair, against our will,
comes Wisdom to us by the awful grace of God.'

In the story of the chosen people, God led them into the wilderness and exile so that they could discover the true God who does not threaten or punish them and be enabled to enter into new relationships with him, in intimacy and communion. We are still making that discovery. For most people, the parish is the main experience of the Church. Through one small group of people God lets us see ourselves and a future we can have. He deals with every obstacle, especially the great one - sin, he takes it on himself and he uses our sins - *O happy fault* - we sing on Easter night - *which brought us so great a Redeemer*.

We do not go to God by getting everything right and perfect; that was the mistake of the Pharisees. Richard Rohr puts it this way: "Have you ever been loved well by someone? So well that you feel confident that person will receive you and forgive your worst fault? That is the kind of security the soul receives from God."

May that continue to be the experience and the gift of this parish community.

*My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God, and I didn't.
For Sale: Wedding dress, size 8. Worn once by mistake.*

*The woman applying for a job in a Florida lemon grove seemed far too qualified for the job.
"Look Miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual experience in picking lemons?"
"Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied. "I've been divorced three times."*

*John was on his deathbed and gasped pitifully. "Give me one last request, dear," he said. "Of course, John," his wife said softly. "Six months after I die," he said, "I want you to marry Bob."
"But I thought you hated Bob," she said. With his last breath John said, "I do!"*

Let us pray for Kenny MacDonald, **who is seriously ill,**

the sick and housebound: Rose Winter, Liz Donnelly, Alex Kane, Rose Farquhar,

Stanley McKelvie, **who died recently,**
and David Campbell, Peggy Finlay, Margaret Dailly, **whose anniversaries fall at this time.**



Bingo for SCIAF
on Sunday 9 September at 7pm.
Tickets cost £1,
which includes refreshments from
Brida Tennant and Pat Gray.
All Welcome.

VOCATIONS
AWARENESS WEEK
9 – 16 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Annual Vocations Mass will be
in St Andrew's Cathedral at 7pm
on Thursday 13 September.
Everyone invited.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee
Sunday 16 September 2007 at 3pm

Catholic Charismatic Renewal
in the Dunkeld Diocese

is hosting a weekend of Scripture
Teaching led by Frances Hogan on
Friday 14th and Saturday 15th September
2007.

St. Patrick's Church Hall, Arthurstone
Terrace, Dundee DD4 0RT.

The timings are:

Friday : 7.00 p.m. - 10.00 p.m.

Saturday : 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Thank you for last Sunday's **SPECIAL**
COLLECTION for the Bishop's
Mensal Fund. You gave £337.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank all of you who are members
of the parish of St Peter & St Paul for your
kindness to me, for the hard work, support
and encouragement, for the witness of your
faith.

There is one person who never allows me to
mention her by name but since I am leaving,
there is nothing she can do about it now, so
THANK YOU, Sister Mary Rose, for the
work you do for this parish, especially for
the sick and housebound.

THANK YOU for your unfailing support,
cooperation and commitment to me, as
parish priest, over the past 6 years.

THANK YOU for looking after the church,
the sacristy and for doing the many jobs that
no one else wanted to do. Through you God
blesses this parish community.

Joseph Creegan.

Proclaiming Our Faith

The latest figures for the campaign relating
to our parish are that £101,584 was pledged
by parishioners and £30,844 has been
contributed. The parish has also received
25% of the sum contributed, as reported in
a recent Newsletter.

Education Aid **for the Third World**



“They're
from
Gordon
Brown -
millions
of A
grade
GCSEs”