

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



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**Sixth Sunday of the Year 11 February 2007**  
Next Sunday is the Seventh 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

**The Charity Shop and Repository** within the Parish Centre in Milton Street are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10.30am till 2pm. Visitors to the Parish Centre are always welcome and helpers are always needed. **Contact John Mackie**, the Manager of the Parish Centre, for all bookings and enquiries: tel 858942 or Email: [john.mackie4@btinternet.com](mailto:john.mackie4@btinternet.com)

## **Weekday Mass This Week**

Monday at 11.00am  
Tuesday at 11.00am  
Wednesday at 11.00am  
Thursday at 11.00am  
Friday at 11.00am  
Saturday at 11.00am

## Walk with Me

### in Lent !

For most of us our priorities are realistic and sound; we desire life and health.

These are the qualities we want for those we love. To enjoy health, to share life, to walk steadily in the light are the desires of our hearts.

These are gifts of God and are found in God. By turning to God and living by God's trust we walk the path of life, in the light and warmth of God's love until we come to our eternal health: life in God's presence. What we long for will be found simply in God. What we long for will be found entirely, wholly, with nothing essential missing, in friendship with the Lord.

Lent is the time when we seek to renew that friendship with God. We spend time, each day, raising our minds and hearts to God in prayer. We express our relationship in the way we move away from putting other things in place of God.

### Home is a Holy Place

Our home is the context in which we live our faith and make the Lenten journey. As well as the pressure points there are moments of peace and joy; there are situations which have to be handled delicately and there are periods of silence.

The little booklet - *Walk with Me* - can guide us through Lent at home



## RISK ASSESSMENT

To stay safe in the world today:

Avoid travelling in cars because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home because 17% of all accidents occur in the home.

Avoid walking in the street because 16% of all accidents involve pedestrians.

Avoid travelling by air, rail or water because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transport.

Of the remaining third, 32% of deaths occur in hospital, so avoid hospitals.

Never go to bed because 95% of people die in bed.

However, you'll be relieved to know that only 0.01% of deaths occur during services in church.

Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place to be at any given time is in church.

Prayer is safe too. The percentage of deaths during prayer is even less.

So for safety's sake, attend Church and pray – it could save your life!

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## DIRECTORY

### DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

Some copies of the 2007 Directory of information for the Diocese of Dunkeld are available at the back of the church.

This is priced at £2.50. If you buy a copy, please put the money in the box marked for newspapers.

### Let us pray for

Margaret Smith, Caleb Gardiner, Audrey Soares, John Linehan,

who are seriously ill,

### the sick and housebound:

Winnie Reilly, Nan Brady, Peter Devlin, Janet Thomson,

David Donnet, James Harvey, Frances McKenzie, Moira Brodie,

Ingrid Brodie, Thea Atkinson, Jenny Robertson, Helen Devine, June Herd,

### also

Florence Parker, Frank Payne, Elizabeth Morrison, Adrian Whytock, who died recently

### and

Steven Walker, Vena Smith, Mary Devlin, Evelyn Devlin, Alfred Heffell,

whose anniversaries fall at this time.

## Looking for Happiness ?

A group of graduates, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. The conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain-looking, some expensive and some exquisite — telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

After all had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress.

Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases, it's just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...and then began eyeing each other's cups.

"Now consider this:

Life is the coffee, and the jobs, houses, cars, things, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define nor change the quality of life we live.

Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups . . . enjoy your coffee. "Being happy doesn't mean everything is perfect, it means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections"

## Sacraments of Initiation

The dates for Confirmation and First Holy Communion have been decided and communicated to the parents of P4 children.

The Bishop will come to our parish to administer the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 6 May 2007.**

**First Holy Communion will be on Sunday 3rd June 2007.**

## RITE OF ELECTION

Those who are to be received into the Church in their parishes at Easter will gather in St. Joseph's Church, Dundee for a special Service, The Rite of Election, on Sunday 25 February, the First Sunday of Lent, at 3.00pm. In this Liturgy of the Word, not Mass, they will be received by the Bishop, have their names enrolled and pointed towards the final stages of preparation for being baptised or received into the Church at Easter.

This is an important event in the Church's calendar. All are invited to participate.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Monday 12 February

Mass in St Joseph's, Wilkie's Lane at 7pm

Celebrated by Bishop Logan

A National Celebration to mark the 40th Anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal worldwide will take place in St. Stephen's, Dalmuir, Clydebank Saturday 17 February, At 11 for 11.30am - 5.30pm Prayer and Praise, Celebration Mass.

The Prayer Group is running a free bus, leaving the church at 9am. If you are interested please contact Anne Ferrie (827543), Steve Lavery (203269) or Gerry McLaughlin (900061) or e-mail [gerry.mcl@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:gerry.mcl@blueyonder.co.uk).

If you have already said you will go please make sure we have your name.

*A man was stopped by the police who appeared behind him with a flashing blue light. He put his window down and then the officer asked him:  
I suppose you don't know why I am stopping you?*

*In a moment of mad optimism he replied:  
Are you by any chance looking for directions?*



You would not believe what I had for supper.

# Living on the Edge

Despite all the progress of today's society, there are millions of people in the world who live on the very edge. Some are hungry and living on the edge of life, some are marginalised and living on the edge of society, some are living on the edge because of addiction, others through loneliness, others through chronic illness. More and more people in Britain are living on the edge because of poverty; many live on the edge of life because they know no other way.

In modern Britain voluntary organisations, movements and private organisations abound — all dedicated to addressing needs. Government pours massive sums of money into tackling deprivation and human need. Go into any bookshop and you will find a large section dealing with how to live better, avoid stress, understand yourself, be successful in relating to others in work and social friendships. Some people make a fortune out of directing the lives of others, techniques, personality trainers and the like. There is money to be made in it!

Since Jesus came that we might have life, we are not surprised to learn that he too had something to say about life on the edge, but his approach is rather different. Jesus, believe it or not, did not address the Beatitudes to us, at least he did not have us at the front of his mind. He was talking to the poor folk of his day, to the outcasts and he was talking about life in the rough, life at the edge. His attitude would never attract a government grant for a voluntary organisation, for he says (Gospel this Sunday) Blessed are you who are poor, hungry, weeping, blessed are you when people exclude you and insult you. At first hearing it is a funny kind of Gospel (good news?) but Jesus proclaims there is a blessing for them in their plight, if only they can understand and accept it.



Living at the edge offers a ground-level view of humanity. Being helpless and useless and hopeless can lead to an appreciation of just how precarious the human condition really is and how much we depend on God. Being ridiculed and persecuted teaches the limits of human justice. Sadness speaks of the fleetingness of human happiness. All the experiences of life at the edge can be formative lessons for being truly human. They can be hard, very hard lessons, but they can lead to real human fulfilment.

Occasionally, we can have a taste of living on the edge. When it happens, cherish it. We may think we are fortunate in living well away from the edge, but we are deprived of those bare blessings. There is nothing wrong with a big house, except that it may be a symbol of yourself; there is nothing wrong with lots of holidays, except that they may foster escape from reality. There is nothing wrong with money, except that it insulates us from the radical feeling of humble dependency. These blessings promised by Jesus are not rewards, they are not extras, they are not supernatural consolations (*bad time here but make up for it later!*). These heavenly blessings are the working out of our human experience on earth.

There is no substitute, no supplement for authentic human experience. It is not always comfortable and we can always find a distraction. We may insure ourselves against it, shield ourselves from it, live nearer the centre and the surface where life is easier, less exhausting and smoother, but there remains this tantalising question of Jesus' blessings. Perhaps that is why Jesus chose to live as a peasant: he was afraid of getting too far from basic human existence.

This Sunday Jesus reminds us that those at the edge have a head start in the journey to the blessings he offers. That is why riches and power have always been a problem for him. So if you ever find yourself at the edge - it may be worry, illness, loss of job or uncertainty, consider the possibility of exploring the blessings of which Jesus speaks: the Blessings of the Edge .