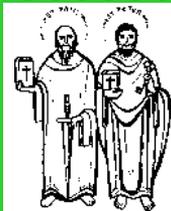
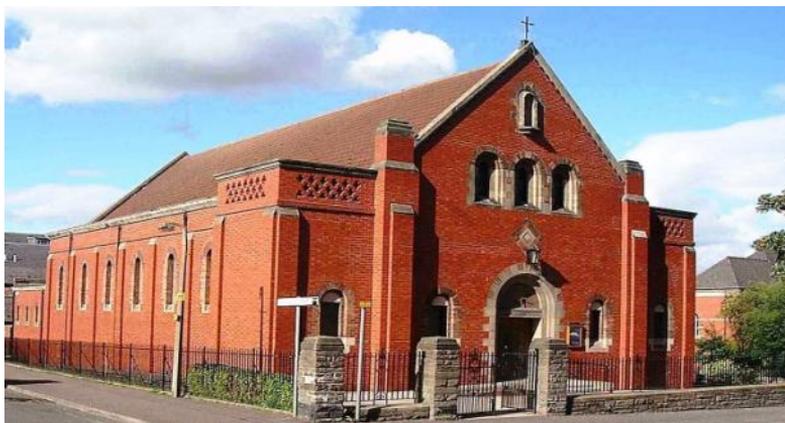


Welcome to St. Peter and St Paul's Byron Street - Dundee



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Seventh Sunday of the Year 18 February 2007
Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent - 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

There will be afternoon Service and Benediction at 3pm on the Sundays of Lent beginning on the second Sunday - 4th March - since we will be at St Joseph's for the Rite of Election on the first Sunday.

We have Sunday afternoon services during Lent and Advent to offer opportunities for Prayer and Reflection.

This is Parish Prayer time.

Weekday Mass This Week

Monday at 11.00am
Tuesday at 11.00am
ASH Wednesday at 11.00am & 6.30pm.
Thursday at 11.00am
Friday at 11.00am
Saturday at 11.00am

Breath-Taking, Life-Giving Lent !

We are coming to Lent. A few more days and Ash Wednesday will be here. But where will we be? What chance does Lent have in our modern lives, busy lives, lives with diaries which determine how we spend our days, football, sport, TV? Apart from remnants of Mardi Gras and Carnival, Lent is unknown to the wider society.

Lent is so vital in a Church like ours that if we lost it, we would quite naturally have to invent it all over again.



Has Lent slipped away from us so quietly that we hardly noticed? In the early Church, Lent's 40 days evolved as part of a late winter/early spring cycle whose centre became the baptism of adults and children who were ready to embrace life in the body of Christ, the Church.

Lent was the time of planting for new life. That is why the Rite of Election is on the First Sunday and is hosted by the Bishop. That is why the Rite of enrolment for children is on the First Sunday of Lent (although I noticed that in one Dundee parish this happened last Sunday and the people probably never even noticed the significance - thus Lent is gradually eroded).

Each year I choose one thing to make my focus for Lent and I share this with you. The source of the Church's energy is the Word of God. You could make these six weeks a time of reading the word of God at home. Just 15 minutes a day, reading some of the wonderful stories of the Old Testament. Especially if you have never read it before, read about Jonah and how his meeting with God changed his life. Or read about Job who had everything, lost it all, found God and found everything again. Of course you could read one of the Gospels or a letter of the New Testament. And if you still think Lent is about giving up something, you will find a sacrifice in the time given over to read the Word of God.

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 25th February, the First Sunday of Lent, at 3.00pm. [It takes place in St Joseph's this year because the Cathedral is closed for the installation of a new heating system]

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. Please come to St Joseph's to support those who are making this journey of Faith into the Church.



Let us pray for Margaret Smith, Caleb Gardiner, Audrey Soares, John Linehan,
Kenny Macdonald, **who are seriously ill,**

the sick and housebound: Billy Lamond, Peter Devlin, Nan Brady, James Harvey,
David Donnet, Chris Donoghue, Joan Robbins,

and Mary McAnally, Irene Kiddie, Annie Carroll, Heidi Devlin, Susan Conway,
Patrick Rice, Charlie Craig, Harry Craig, James Dailly, Margaret Dailly,
Ronald Mackie, Pamela Robertson, Margaret Nolan, Anne Hume,
Joseph McGarry, **whose anniversaries fall at this time.**

Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY

It is a day of Fasting and Abstinence.
There will be Mass on Ash Wednesday at
11.00am and 6.30pm.

Walk with Me in Lent !

The booklets are available at the back of the
church - costing 50p each.

Dunkeld Diocesan Directory

All copies were sold last week, but there
are now some more at the back of the
church. Cost £2.50.

*It is alleged that Ally McCoist and Bobby
Lennox were once having a casual conversation
about, funnily enough, football. McCoist asked
Lennox how he thought the current Ibrox side,
stuffed with expensive foreign players, would
make out against the Lisbon Lions (for those
who don't know, Celtic's European Cup-winning
side of 1967). Lennox didn't think it a
worthwhile comparison and refused to say.
After some persuasion he finally relented and
gave his opinion that the Lisbon Lions would
probably lose 1-0. McCoist was quietly
triumphant at this until Lennox went on to add:
'But you have to remember some of us haven't
trained for 25 years'.*

Actual Answering machine messages recorded :-

*Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am
capable of receiving messages.
My owners do not need sliding doors, windows
or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They
give to charity through their office and do not
need their picture taken. If you're still with me,
leave your name and number and they will get
back to you.*

*If you are a burglar, then we're probably at
home cleaning our weapons right now and can't
come to the phone. Otherwise, we probably
aren't home and it's safe to leave a message.*

SCIAF

for a just world

Please collect a SCIAF
Lenten pack from the back
of the church. In it you will
find the box for Lenten
offerings for the poor - the
theme this year is that
through this **Wee Box**, a
Big Change can happen in
the lives of the poorest people in the world.
There is also a card to be sent to the Prime
Minister about the G8 - for the World cannot
wait - and a bookmark: "*The earth is the Lord's
and all that is in it.*"



A New Rota for Readers is available at the
back of the church. May I thank the Readers for
this service to the parish.

Bird Flew - Bird Flu



The Alternative to Violence

Once upon a time, there was a good and kind king who had a great kingdom with many cities. In one distant city, some people took advantage of the freedom the king gave them and started doing evil. They profited by their evil and began to fear that the king would interfere and throw them in jail. Eventually, these rebels seethed with hatred for the king. They convinced the city that everyone would be better off without the king, and the city declared its independence from the kingdom.

But soon, with everyone doing whatever they wanted, disorder reigned in the city. There was violence, hatred, lying, oppression, murder, rape, slavery, and fear. The king thought: What should I do? If I take my army and conquer the city by force, the people will fight against me. I will have to kill so many of them, and the rest will submit only through fear or intimidation, which will make them hate me and all I stand for even more. How does that help them—to be either dead or imprisoned or secretly seething with rage? But if I leave them alone, they'll destroy each other, and it breaks my heart to think of the pain they're causing and experiencing.

So the king did something very surprising. He took off his robes and dressed in the rags of a homeless wanderer. Incognito, he entered the city and began living in a vacant plot near a garbage dump. He took up a trade — fixing broken pottery and furniture. Whenever people came to him, his kindness and goodness and fairness and respect were so striking that they would linger just to be in his presence. They would tell him their fears and questions, and ask his advice. He told them that the rebels had fooled them, and that the true king had a better way to live, which he exemplified and taught. One by one, then two by two, and then by the hundreds, people began to have confidence in him and live his way.



Their influence spread to others, and the movement grew and grew until the whole city regretted its rebellion and wanted to return to the kingdom again. But, ashamed of their horrible mistake, they were afraid to approach the king, believing he would certainly destroy them for their rebellion. But the king-in-disguise told them the good news: he was himself the king, and he loved them. He held nothing against them, and he welcomed them back into his kingdom, having accomplished by a gentle, subtle presence what never could have been accomplished through brute force.

Perhaps you are more impressed by the story of an event which actually happened. If so, be sure to read and prepare for the first reading for this Sunday - **I Samuel 26** - which relates how David spared the life of Saul. Saul was a weak and unjust king and a poor representative of God, but as king, he represented the will of God and David, for his part, revered God's will in him.

Many, through the centuries, have decided that non-violent standards are unrealistic, impractical and therefore not binding. Others, like David and Jesus, have chosen to live in non-violence. We live in a very violent world. There is the danger of suffering violence but the greater danger is that violence may enter our soul. When God exhorts us to forgive, and not to repay violence with violence, it is for our good as well as the protection of our brothers and sisters. Violence corrupts the spirit, it is an addiction and can take root in us. Look how it has spread in the world !

The word to us this Sunday is that we have been created in God's image and are empowered by God to reflect that divine image in all we are and do. Because of Jesus, we are heirs to the divine capacity for love, goodness, mercy and forgiveness. To do otherwise is to shame our heavenly Father and the family to which we belong.