

Welcome to  
**St. Peter and St Paul's**  
Byron Street - Dundee  
for  
**LENT 2007**

### Sunday Mass Times

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

**Lenten Service & Benediction** each Sunday of Lent at 3.00pm (except 1st)  
**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is celebrated at the 11.30am Mass  
**The Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday from 10.15am to 10.45am  
Saturday from 5.00pm to 5.30pm

**First Sunday of Lent 25 February 2007 Year C**  
Next Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of Lent

### Mass this Week:

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

**Afternoon Service and Benediction on  
Sundays of Lent starting 4 March.**

**Parish Priest:** Mgr Joseph Creegan  
**Postal Address:** 29 Byron Street, Dundee DD3 6QN  
**Parish Website:** [www.stpeterandstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stpeterandstpaul.co.uk)  
**Deacon:** Rev Charles Hendry **Tel** 818183  
**Parish Sister:** Sister Mary Rose **Tel** 322304  
**Parish Centre Manager:** John Mackie **Tel** 858942

**E-mail:** [j.creegan@btinternet.com](mailto:j.creegan@btinternet.com)  
**Tel** 825067  
**Webmaster:** Andrew Kelly

**The Charity Shop / Repository** in Milton Street is open Mon, Tues. Wed. 10.30am—2pm



## Why Go To Church?

A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the clergy are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:  
"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.....They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

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## World Day of Prayer

### Friday 2nd March

Service at 7pm in  
United Free Church of Scotland  
(corner of Caird Ave and Marryat St)  
This regular event takes place  
in one of the local churches each year.

**All welcome**

## Katherine Hendry

### sent this email from India :-

I just want to say Hi to everyone in the parish and that Pune is very different to anything I have ever seen, it has completely opened my eyes to what goes on. I would also like to thank everyone for sending me here with their generous donations,

My first week has included having rice, and spicy veg for breakfast, lunch, and tea. It has been hard to get used to but it is okay. I have been to the slum areas and seen such poverty I didn't think possible, and in contrast I have been to schools where the children's first language is English and it is amazing. At one of the centres that I will be working at there is going to be a lot of fundraising to be started by myself and fellow volunteers along with some independent volunteers. This fundraising will go toward school materials, more than one meal a day, and hygiene standards. The centre is a community centre for all the community to send their children to, and also for orphans too, so I will keep you updated with the progress and last but not least the weather is great!! Please keep all the children of Pune in your prayers.

Thank You, Katherine.

## 200 CLUB

The 200 Club has now closed and the Parish received the final £507 from the 200 Club Account.

Thanks to all those who have supported this Parish initiative over the years.

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

**the sick and housebound:** Eric Arnott, Winnie Reilly, David Donnet, James Harvey,  
Thea Atkinson, Moira Brodie, John Davidson, Ingrid Brodie, June Herd,  
Jenny Robertson, Helen Devine, Marie Fagan, Andy Adams, May Boyle, Liz Donnelly,

**also:** May Greig, Florence Parker, **who died recently,**

**and those whose anniversaries fall at this time** John Macgregor, Charles Smith,  
Jessie Moncur, John Moncur.

## ***Lenten Youth Mass*** **For 15 - 30s**

**Sunday 18 March**  
**St Columba's Church, Cupar**

6.30pm: Adoration and Reconciliation

7pm: Holy Mass

For further info contact the Youth Office:

01382 225453

email: youth.office@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

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### **Religious Freedom**

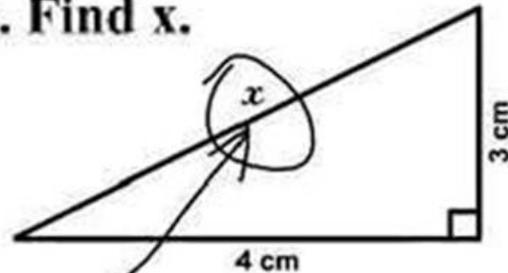
Bishop Tartaglia of Paisley has written a pastoral letter on the subject of religious freedom in the light of the Government's decision to force adoption agencies to deal with same sex couples. Here is an extract:-

"For the first time in the modern era in this country, the Catholic Church is facing the prospect of being forced to act against her faith and against her convictions, or else face legal challenge and possible prosecution. This is a deeply disturbing turn of events and it is not yet clear what kind of precedent this may set for other areas of the pastoral and social activity of the Catholic Church.

We must of course defend ourselves by all legitimate democratic means. The bishops have made and continue to make representations to those in power. It is the right and duty of the Catholic faithful to make their concerns known to their elected representatives in local government, in the Scottish Parliament and at Westminster. I strongly encourage you to write to your Councillors, MPs, MSPs and Members of the House of Lords making the point that regulations deriving from equality legislation are unacceptable if they damage religious freedom and the right of conscience."

Some people are worried about falling standards in GCSE Maths exams. Just to reassure, here is a pupil's answer :-

**3. Find x.**



*Here it is*

After careful scrutiny, the Department of Education has accepted the answer in this instance, but has instructed examiners to be more explicit in setting exam questions in future. So you see, there is no need to worry about falling standards !

*The wife picked up the telephone, listened a moment, and said, "How should I know, that's 200 miles from here!" and hung up. The husband said, "Who was that?" The wife said, "I don't know; it was some woman wanting to know 'if the coast is clear'."*



For the first Sunday of Lent I was going to preach on Commitment.

But now I am not so sure.

## *In the depths of our being we discover our worth*

"I have found only one religion that dares to go down with me into the depth of myself" wrote GK Chesterton in *Orthodoxy*. This is precisely what Jesus did in the desert, as we hear in the Gospel of Luke. He was led there by the Spirit and he went down into the depths of himself to determine whether he would be able to respond fully and freely to God's call to be the suffering saviour of sinners. In the depths of himself, he had to choose whether to exercise his power as Son of God for himself or for others. He had to decide whether his power would bring him riches and prestige or simply the knowledge that he was doing God's will. From that experience Jesus emerged, as Chesterton would describe his own experience, "so fresh and new that one could be grey and gouty - but only five minutes old".

We go into the depths of our being to discover ourselves and find God there. Jesus' experience of the depths of himself and of God is described as being 40 days in duration, thus recalling the 40 days of Moses on Sinai, the 40 days of Elijah's flight to Horeb and Israel's 40 year trek through the wilderness. In his experience, Jesus affirms his complete reliance on God.

Of course our experience of the wilderness takes many different forms. When the Church of Scotland minister, George Matheson, moved to his second charge at Innellan, Argyllshire, he was horrified to feel that he had lost his faith in God and had become an absolute atheist. "I believed nothing" he wrote later, "neither God nor immortality. I tendered my resignation to the Presbytery, but to their honour they would not accept it. They said I was a young man and would change. I *have* changed." He stayed as minister in Innellan for the next 18 years, then moved to Edinburgh till his retirement, all the time coping with very poor eyesight amounting to almost total blindness. He wrote the much loved hymn: "*O love that will not let me go*" which sums up his own Christian experience in times of struggle and darkness. At times when he felt he had let go of God, he discovered that God had not let go of him.

When we go into the depths of ourselves we become deeply conscious of our weakness, our weak faith, even our unbelief. What is more significant is that it is there we also find God. This is exactly the focus of Lent: God, his compassion, love, power and mercy. It would be a mistake to think Lent is concerned with what I give up. Lent is making space, time, opportunity for God to embrace me in the depths of my being.

The primary question of life is: "Who am I?" Though many never ask it, our answer or lack of answer shapes the form and quality of our lives. If we do not know the answer, everything we do is provisional. When Moses encountered God he needed to ask God: "Who are you?" God indicated that the answer is more than our name, more than our occupation. Another way of phrasing the question is: "To whom do you belong?" God kept telling his people: 'You are my people, you belong to me'. We need to belong, for it is there we are loved and love, it is there we discover who we are.

God's love for us is a love that will not let us go. As parents will not desert their children, as we belong to one another, so we belong to God for his love will not let us go. The 2nd reading this Sunday assures us: "*No one who believes in him will be put to shame.*" The 1st reading: "*It is the Lord who brought us forth into freedom.*" Lent invites us to rediscover our identity and true worth. We have worth because we are loved, loved by God. Not by our own means or efforts, but by the love (grace) which bathes us, we are given worth and a future of hope. We need that kind of Lent.

