

Diocese of Dunkeld

St Peter and St Paul

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The Charity Shop and Repository within the parish centre are open from 10.30 - 2.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays

***Sunday 10th February 2008
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT [YEAR A]***

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday [anticipated Mass of Sunday] : 6.00 p.m.

SUNDAY : 9.30am and 11.30 a.m.

Monday: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Tuesday: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Wednesday: Mass at 11.00 a.m.

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Saturday: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

Anticipated Mass of Sunday at 6.00 p.m.



**Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on weekdays this week
Sacrament of Reconciliation - after Mass Saturday Morning & Saturday
Evening and on request at any other time**

THE INEVITABLE CONFLICT....

It has often been said that conflict in life is inevitable. What matters is how such conflict is dealt with. We can find ourselves from time to time in some form of conflict with others. We sometimes need to call on a third party to help us to resolve such conflict. We can also be aware of conflict within ourselves; we can be pulled in two different directions at once. Sometimes we know deep down that one of the two directions we are being pulled in will not serve us or others well. We have traditionally spoken of this as an experience of temptation.

The gospel reading describes Jesus' experience of temptation. We are given a glimpse into an inner conflict as he begins his public ministry. At his baptism, Jesus had an experience of God his Father, assuring him that he was the beloved Son, and filling him with the Holy Spirit. Shortly after his baptism in the Jordan, he had a very different kind of experience in the wilderness, an experience of Satan, tempting him to take a very different path to the one on which his baptism had launched him. At his baptism, Jesus was sent forth by the Father in the service of others; in the wilderness, Satan tempts him to be self-serving — to look out for his own physical needs, to gain a following by indulging in the spectacular, to sell his soul for the sake of power and status. The gospel reading portrays what must have been a very real conflict within Jesus. At the very end of Jesus' public ministry, we are given a glimpse of another conflict within him. In the Garden of Gethsemane, he struggled with the temptation to avoid the cross that lay before him by pulling back from the mission which began at his baptism. On both occasions, at the beginning and end of his ministry, in the wilderness and in Gethsemane, Jesus resisted the temptation that assailed him. He resolved his inner conflict in favour of remaining faithful to God's call and to the mission that God had entrusted to him.

The letter to the Hebrews says of Jesus that 'he has been tempted as we are'. In becoming like us, Jesus experienced temptation as we do. None of us are strangers to temptation. If it was a struggle at times for Jesus to remain faithful to God's call, it will certainly be a struggle for us. We will find ourselves pulled in a direction that does not correspond to God's will for our lives. Unlike Jesus, we will sometimes find ourselves taking that direction, going down a path that falls short of what God wants for us. In that sense, the story of Adam and Eve in the garden, which we read in today's first reading, is the story of us all. According to that story, Adam and Eve had great scope to enjoy the goodness of God's creation, but there was a limit. They were tempted to ignore this limit, to reach for something that was out of bounds for them, and they surrendered to that temptation. Their failure to be faithful to what God asked of them stands in sharp contrast to the faithfulness of Jesus in today's gospel reading. St Paul, in today's second reading, reflects on that contrast between Adam and Christ.

If the story of Adam and Eve is very much our story, St Paul would remind us that the story of Jesus can also be our story. We have been baptised into Christ; we receive him in the Eucharist; his Spirit has been given to us. When we are tempted, therefore, we do not stand alone. At such moments, the Lord is present within us and around us, helping us to be faithful to God's will for our lives as he was. The Lord wants to live out his faithfulness to God in each one of our lives; his grace is at work in our lives to enable us to be as faithful to God as he was. Lent is a season when we are called to be less of an Adam figure and more of a Christ figure. It is a time when we consciously strive to allow our lives to be shaped more by the story of Jesus than the story of Adam. In Lent we try to identify the temptations that are most significant for us; we acknowledge honestly the ways in which we have surrendered to such temptations, and we invite the Lord to enter our lives more fully, so that the story of his faithfulness to God's call becomes our story to a greater degree. If that happens for us this Lent, we will stand with confidence to renew our baptismal promises this coming Easter Sunday.

Thank you for last week's collection. of £911

The Collection for the Mill Hill Missionaries was £817

There will be a SECOND COLLECTION next Sunday for the work of the CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

SCIAF BOXES are available today and are returned on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thanks for the donation for African Missions put through the letter box some weeks ago.

THE HOUSE OF GOD

We hope to return to worship in the Church next Saturday / Sunday. All the work may not be complete but hopefully enough will have been done for us to move back. Thank you for donations already received for the Presidential Chair and I am grateful for other donations amounting, on Friday, to £1900. I hope to purchase a statue of St Teresa as it is really through the sale of St Teresa's Church that we are able to fund this major refurbishment. In addition we will need a Sanctuary Lamp, some new Sacred Vessels, Thurible, Holy Water Dish and linen.

Please pray for: **Teresa Folan, Frank Siebright, David Millar & Tony Van der Koul, recently deceased; and for John McKinlay, Davina McGiff, Graeme McMahon, Jessie Moncur, Margaret McGarvey, Kevin McGarvey, & Steven Walker** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please remember all the sick and housebound in our parish community and especially those who are in hospital [**Roberta McNally, Helen Traynor, Rose Farquhar, Peter Andrews, Kenny Ragan, Jean McKay & Kenny Macdonald**]

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT on Wednesdays

LOURDES JUBILEE MASS

MONDAY 11TH FEBRUARY - Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Immaculate Conception Church [St Mary's] Lochee

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Join Bishop Vincent in this Mass to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to St Bernadette at Lourdes.

The Rite of Enrolment for children in Primary 4, preparing for Confirmation and First Communion will take place as soon as we move back into the Church. It is a requirement for the reception of these Sacraments that children regularly attend Sunday Mass.

This afternoon, at 3.00 p.m., Bishop Logan will celebrate the Rite of Election for those wishing to join the Church at Easter. You are invited to be present in the Cathedral for this ceremony.

This might be a suitable thought to reflect on this week. It is from the great English Historian - Macauley....

The history of the Roman Catholic Church joins together the two great ages of human civilisation. No other institution is left standing which carries the mind back to the times when the smoke of sacrifice rose from the Pantheon, and when camelopards and tigers bounded in the Flavian amphitheatre. The proudest royal houses are but of yesterday, when compared with the line of the Supreme Pontiffs. That line we trace back in an unbroken series, from the Pope who crowned Napoleon in the nineteenth century to the Pope who crowned Pepin in the eighth; and far beyond the time of Pepin the august dynasty extends, till it is lost in the twilight of fable. The Republic of Venice came next in antiquity. But the Republic of Venice was modern when compared to the Papacy; and the Republic of Venice is gone, and the Papacy remains. The Papacy remains, not in decay, not a mere antique, but full of life and youthful vigour. The Catholic Church is still sending forth to the farthest ends of the world missionaries as zealous as those who landed in Kent with Augustine, and still confronting hostile kings with the same spirit with which she confronted Attila. The number of her children is greater than in any former age. Her spiritual ascendancy extends over the vast countries which lie between the plains of the Missouri and Cape Horn, countries which, a century hence, may not improbably contain a population as large as that which now inhabits Europe. The members of her communion are certainly not fewer than a hundred and fifty millions; and it will be difficult to show that all other Christian sects united amount to a hundred and twenty millions. Nor do we see any sign which indicates that the term of her long dominion is approaching. She saw the commencement of all the governments and of all the ecclesiastical establishments that now exist in the world; and we feel no assurance that she is not destined to see the end of them all. She was great and respected before the Saxon had set foot on Britain, before the Frank had passed the Rhine, when Grecian eloquence still flourished in Antioch, when idols were still worshipped in the temple of Mecca. And she will still exist in undiminished vigour when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral