

Diocese of Dunkeld
Scottish Charity No SC001810

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

The Year of St Paul

Sunday 17th August 2008

TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR [A]



SUNDAY MASS

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

SUNDAY : 9.30am and 11.30 a.m.

Monday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Tuesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Wednesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Saturday: No Morning Mass

Silver Wedding Mass at 3pm

Weekday Morning Mass, after discussion and consultation with those who attend, will now be at 9.30 a.m., unless announced.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

on Saturday after Morning Mass

5.00 - 5.30 p.m. on Saturday and after Evening Mass

on request at any other time

The Collection for Sunday 10th August was £858.04. Many Thanks

Today there will be a SECOND COLLECTION for the Bishop's Mensal Fund

Please pray for: **Nessie Clark & James Ward**, recently deceased; for **Catherine Gray, Alice Donachie, Clifford Maclean, Agnes Lynch, Catherine Stewart, Mary Kelly, Joe Shearer [Snr], George Harrio, Rose Cabrelle & Jean McInally** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

There is now a list at the back of the Church for the names of our recently deceased and anniversaries who will be prayed for each weekend. Please enter the names before Wednesday if you wish them in the newsletter.

We also will remember all those who are sick at home or in hospital. [John Davidson & Winifred Reid]

**Scottish National Pilgrimage
in honour of
St Margaret
Patroness and Queen**

**Sunday 7th September 2008
at
3.00 p.m.
in
Carfin Grotto
Principal Celebrant
Cardinal Keith O'Brien
Preacher
Bishop Joseph Devine**

EXAM RESULTS

Many of our young people have recently received the results of the exams they sat in May. Our thoughts are with you and we hope you have been able to show your true skills and receive the recognition you deserve. Of course, if you passed them all with flying colours we are pleased for you, but if you did not do as well as you hoped for or expected we are still on your side. The important thing is to try to do your best. And should it happen that things don't turn out as you had hoped, then remember there's always a next time. Learning is lifelong not just something found in the classroom, and a very wise person once said you have to travel past failure on your way to success. Good luck!

Our schools return this week and we wish every success to those who start school for the first time, those who begin their secondary education in St John's High and the new St Paul's Academy and those who will look forward to Higher Education in College or University.

We remember those who will teach our young people and form them in the values of the gospel, as they share not only knowledge but your own life experience with our young. The late Cardinal Winning often noted that 'teaching is a noble vocation and a true expression of love' We pray that all the young people in the schools in this Diocese will grow in wisdom and love, inspired by Jesus, the first and greatest teacher.



The **DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MASS** will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral, on Wednesday 17th September, at 7.00 p.m. Please mark that date in your diary and come and join Bishop Vincent and the priest of the Diocese in praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life..

Fr Ben has now returned to Uganda to start further studies at the Uganda Martyrs University in Kampala. He enjoyed his time here in St Peter and St Paul's and wants to extend his thanks to all who made him so welcome and gave him the opportunity to see a small part of our lovely country, experience life in a caravan, eat fish and chips in Arbroath, walk the beach at St Andrews, go to the pictures and he assures me his only problem was the weather. I thank Pauline Veal who met him on arrival in Scotland and then took him to the airport on Friday morning for his flight to Amsterdam and on to Entebbe. He asked if he could, with permission of his Bishop, return again, if not next summer then very soon. I assured him of a warm welcome. I should say that the Central Heating in the house has been on almost constantly and I dread the next bill!

JOURNEY OF FAITH

I have had a few requests to reintroduce the **JOURNEY OF FAITH** on Thursday evenings. Please let me know if you would wish to be involved and we will make arrangements for Thursdays beginning in early September.

CATHOLIC PAPERS

There is a selection of Catholic Papers available at the back of the Church. The Scottish Catholic Observer keep us in touch with the church in Scotland.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to families recently on the birth of children. If you wish to arrange a Baptism in the parish, please have a word with Mary Margaret Wilson who will make the necessary arrangements.

GIFT AID

If you pay Income Tax, please consider joining the Gift Aid Scheme in the parish. It is a painless way of contributing that little extra to the parish and the diocese. See Brida Tennant or Margaret McBeth.

THE YEAR OF ST PAUL

Please see the Decree from Rome about the Year of St Paul which is on the notice board at the back of the Church. We will be arranging special events to mark this year as we have been designated the Pilgrimage Church for the Diocese.

RESHAPING YOUR THOUGHTS

We tend to admire people who 'stick to their guns', who have a conviction about something and hold to it, even when put under strong pressure to do otherwise. We have less sympathy with those who change their views to suit the situation, who express one view to one person and a very different view to another person. We rightly feel that such people are not to be trusted or relied upon.

Yet, sticking to our guns is not always the best course of action. We need strong convictions based on the values of the gospel, but we also need to be flexible enough to allow our convictions to be shaped in new ways. Sometimes we discover, in dialogue with others, that there are dimensions to some issue that had not occurred to us; sometimes our experience of life teaches us that the issue is more complex than our conviction initially allowed for. As people of faith, we need to be open to the likelihood that the Lord has always something more to teach us, that our strongly held views may not always fully correspond to the Lord's view.

In today's gospel reading Jesus solemnly announces to the pagan woman, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Jesus understood that the initial focus of his mission, and that of his disciples, was to be the renewal of the people of Israel, his own compatriots; only later, after his death and resurrection, would there be a mission to the pagans. What we find happening in today's gospel reading is that Jesus allows this important conviction of his to be reshaped by the persistent pleading of a pagan woman on behalf of her sick child. Jesus met her initial plea with silence; he met her second plea with a comment that can seem a bit shocking to us today: 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' The 'children' were the people of Israel; the 'house-dogs' was a standard term that Jews used with reference to the pagans. The woman was not deterred either by Jesus' initial



silence or by his subsequent comment. With a mixture of perseverance, humility and humour, she expressed a willingness to eat the crumbs that fell from the children's table, as the house dogs often do. Jesus recognised what he called her 'great faith' and, in spite of his initial reluctance, ministered to her and her daughter there and then.

Here was a woman who succeeded in reshaping Jesus' strongly held conviction about the primary focus of his mission. The gospel reading suggests that Jesus recognised that the Spirit of God was speaking to him through her passionate love for her daughter and her equally passionate faith in God's

presence in Jesus. This woman, from a Jewish point of view, was a complete outsider. Yet, she became, in a sense, Jesus' teacher, and Jesus allowed himself to be taught by her.

The gospel reading suggests to us that, like Jesus, we too need to be open to the Spirit speaking to us through those we meet on our life's journey. In our conversations with people, we can discover that some of our deeply held convictions are being unexpectedly challenged. Unlike Jesus, we may not have the freedom to respond to this challenge there and then. However, when we walk away from such conversations and begin to think about what was said, we can find ourselves questioning what we had been very sure about. It can happen that such questioning can bring on something of a crisis for us. We might even find ourselves wondering if our faith is growing weaker. It may be, however, that God is simply purifying our faith. God may be trying to open us up to a new horizon that we had not been aware of. God may be showing us that there is more to God's purpose for our world and for our lives than we had realised.

Jesus' convictions were reshaped by someone who was very much an outsider, a woman in a man's world, a pagan in a Jewish world. In a similar way today, those from whom we think we have the least to learn can often have the most to teach us. A pagan woman's passionate concern for her ailing daughter showed Jesus that the gospel ministry to the pagans could not wait until after his death and resurrection. The passionate commitment to the healing of others that is often to be found among those who do not see themselves as part of the church can sometimes reveal for us the deepest meaning of the gospel. We pray today for the openness to recognise and respond to the movement of the Spirit, wherever it is to be found.