

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

Sunday 17th February 2008
SECOND 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: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: Mass at 10.00 a.m. {chair of St Peter}

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

TRANSFIGURED - CHANGED - LOVED

If any one of us were to look back over the past number of years of our lives, we would more than likely be able to identify times when life was difficult, and other times when all seemed well. Last Sunday the gospel reading put before us a testing time in the life of Jesus. This Sunday the gospel reading presents us with a very different moment in Jesus' life, when his experience of God calling his name in love left him transfigured.

Many of us might find it easier to identify the wilderness type of experience in our lives. Painful experiences have a way of staying with us long after we have moved on from them. Today's gospel reading, however, invites us to recall the mountain top experiences we may have had. These are the times when, in the words of Peter in today's gospel reading, we said, 'It is wonderful for us to be here.' What was it about his experience on the mountain that made Peter say that? He and the other two disciples saw Jesus in a way they had never seen him before. The glory of God shone through Jesus in a way that had never happened before. On the mountain top they had an experience of God, and that is why Peter said, 'It is wonderful for us to be here.' We could say that they had an experience of heaven. The experience was so wonderful that they did not want to come down the mountain.

The experiences in our own lives that make us say, 'It is wonderful for us to be here', are also going to be, in some way, experiences of God. We will not necessarily have to go up a physical mountain to have such experiences of God. We can be fortunate enough to experience something of God's love in and through the people that cross our path in life. In the response to this morning's psalm we prayed, 'May your love be upon us, O Lord.' The Lord's love can come upon us in and through those we meet. Similarly, something of God's passion for justice and for truth can be revealed to us through people who enter our lives. Whenever we experience those divine qualities of love, justice and truth in others, we may find ourselves saying, 'It is wonderful for us to be here.' God can also touch our lives in ways that do not directly involve other people. Time on our own in the presence of nature can leave us with a deep feeling of wonder and gratitude. Such experiences are ultimately experiences of God.

Jesus spoke of God as the God of the living, not of the dead. Any experience that leaves us feeling more alive is an experience of God. I am sure you could probably think of many such experiences. Whenever we have opportunities to be creative, for example, we generally feel more alive. The most wonderful expression of human creativity is when a man and a woman come together in love and bring forth new life in the form of a child. I can only imagine that to look upon one's newly born child is to feel fully alive. That is surely an experience of God. There are other ways in which people can be creative. A writer creates something with his or her pen, carpenters with their tools, artists with their brushes and paint. When such people create well and look upon what they have created, they invariably feel more alive. Therein lies an experience of God. Others have the gift of helping to create community. People who are involved in bringing others together in ways that nurture them are being very creative. Again, when such people do that well, they feel more alive because of it. That too is, ultimately, an experience of God. We all have the capacity to be creative in some way. If God is the Creator and we are made in God's image, it follows that to be human is to be creative.

Today, we give thanks for all those deeply satisfying experiences in life that anticipate the full experience of God that awaits us beyond this life. We can draw strength from such experiences as we face into the more painful experiences of life, when God can seem absent. God who was present to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration was equally present to him on the hill of Calvary, bringing him through the experience of death to new life. God is present to us in our own Calvary experiences too, even if that presence is less tangible. In the words of today's psalm, we can be assured that the Lord looks on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death.

Thank you for last week's collection. of £ 839.05

There will be a **SECOND COLLECTION TODAY**
for the work of the **CATHOLIC EDUCATION**
COMMISSION

THE HOUSE OF GOD

THANK YOU for donations received towards the refurbishment of the Church. The total to date is £4080. Money received in July from Proclaiming our Faith was £5,599 and this will also help with the cost. A full balance sheet will be published when available and when all work is complete.

Some minor problems prevented our return this weekend. Hopefully we will be back soon.



SCIAF Wee Boxes

Last year, SCIAF supporters all over Scotland raised over £870,000 to help people living in poverty around the world. This year with your help we hope to raise even more.

Why not make a WEE change and give up crisps or chocolate or walk instead of using transport – put the money you save in your WEE BOX.

Your WEE change can help make a **BIG** change to someone else's life.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT on Wednesdays

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - July 17th 2008

We still have places available. £50 deposit is due by the end of the month .To secure your reservation. Phone John on 858942

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
In St David's High Kirk, Strathmore Avenue
Friday 7th March
7.00 p.m.
ALL WELCOME



LENT 08
Saturday 23rd February 2008

Retreat Day for Young People

Pastoral Centre, Lawside Road,
Dundee, DD3 6XY

Suitable for teenagers in S4-S6 and young adults 18-25

Led by the youth of the Diocese and + Fr Jim Walls

Music, prayer, discussion, meditation, Mass, and take-away lunch

Parental consent forms necessary
for under 18s - call 01382 225453

