

Diocese of Dunkeld
Scottish Charity No SC001810

St Peter and St Paul

*29 Byron Street
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Deacon: Rev Charles Hendry [818183]

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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 21st September 2008

TWENTY FIFTH 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 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Thursday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Friday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Saturday: No Mass

**Weekday Morning Mass,
will now be at 9.30 a.m.,
unless announced.**

MASS on Tuesday will be at 7.00 p.m. This is the ST VINCENT DE PAUL NOVENA MASS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

on Saturday after Morning Mass

5.30 - 5.45 p.m. on Saturday and after Evening Mass

on request at any other time

Next Sunday is the 26th Sunday of Year A

The Collection for Sunday 31st August was £822.56 Many Thanks.
TODAY there is a Second Collection for the ECCLESIASTICAL STUDENTS FUND.

Please pray for: **Sr Antoinette LSP [Wellburn], Winnie Reid, Margaret McBennett & Gerry Hannon** recently deceased; for **Hilda Mackie, Mary Gallagher, Irene Duncan, Gordon Gray, Giovanni Baldini, Margaret Clarkston, Andrew Chalmers, Margaret Grant, John Johnston & Fr James Wallace** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

We also will remember all those who are sick at home or in hospital. [Sam McGregor, Fr Bernard O'Connor, Gloria Thomson & Nan Grant]

The Ministry of Healing

Prayer Ministry for healing will be offered after Masses each Sunday. This will take place in the little chapel and parishioners should just come to the chapel and someone will be there to greet them. An explanatory leaflet is available about this Ministry.

PARKING

You are requested not to park on the double yellow lines in Byron Street, even on a Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

SVDP MASS

The St Vincent de Paul society will have a Novena Mass in this Church this Tuesday, 23rd. September at 7.00 p.m. Please support the work of the SVDP.

NOVENA TO OUR LADY ON SATURDAYS
after Morning Mass on Saturdays.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration continues on Wednesdays from after Mass at 9.30 a.m., until 4.00 p.m.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will continue at 11.30 a.m. Mass.

It is for children who have reached their 3rd birthday and have not yet received their First Holy Communion. The mind of the Church is that children who have received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist do not take part in the Children's Liturgy. They remain in Church with the rest of the Community as they are now fully initiated to the Christian Community.

Teas, Coffee and refreshments are available in the Church Hall after 11.30 Mass

READERS LISTS and MINISTERS OF THE EUCCHARIST ROTAS are available at the back of the Church. If you wish a Reader's List by E Mail, please send an e mail to media@stpeterandpaul.co.uk

ST PETER & ST PAUL SCOUTS

The Scouts will have a CAR WASH outside the church during Masses next Sunday, 28th September, to raise funds so that some members can attend a Jubilee Jamboree in the Philippines in December/January 2009/2010.

The scouts have over 80 members and meet each week in the School - Beavers [age 6-8] on Tuesdays from 6.25-7.30, Cubs [age 8-10] on Wednesdays from 6.15-7.45, Scouts [age 10—14] on Wednesdays from 7.50-9.30 and Explorers on Tuesdays from 7.45-9.45. The scouts are also planning to serve Bacon Rolls and Soup on Sundays in the Hall after the October School Break to raise funds for their activities.

Further details from tony@20thdundee.org.uk or www.20thdundee.org.uk

Bishop Logan will lead a **HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS** in St Andrew's Cathedral, today, Sunday 21st September, from 3.00 - 4.00. You are invited to attend.

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.

In this week's issue of the SCO:

Pope in Lourdes - no way back for divorced Catholics
James MacMillan calls for return to traditional liturgy
Many Catholic parishes in England are closing - implications for Scotland
India: Police gag order silences sisters of Mother Teresa

There is no UNIVERSE on sale this week. It is replaced by the Catholic Herald and Times

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.

MARRIAGES IN THE DIOCESE OF DUNKELD

Six months notice is required for a marriage to be celebrated in a church in the Diocese. Please make sure that you speak to the parish before booking any venues for Receptions.

PASSION PLAY - OBERAMMERGAU 2010 and the Rhine/Moselle Valley

7 days flight from Edinburgh from 22—29 July 2010, cost £1,179 [single supplement: £79, insurance: £36] To reserve your place a deposit of £150 is required. For further information contact John Mackie on 858942. ATOL Protected and a coach will leave from the parish for Edinburgh Airport.

PARISH CENTRE - DIARY DATES 2008

29th November: St Andrew's Nigh Supper Dance: 7.30—midnight. Tickets £6.00
6th December: Christmas Fayre from 10.00 - 12.00
7th December: Festive Bingo Eyes Down at 7.00
17th December: Helping Hands Christmas Lunch
Sunday 17th December: SVDP Christmas Lunch 12.00 - 3.00 [Tickets £4.00]
20th December: Parish Christmas Dinner Dance. Dinner at 8.00. Tickets £15.00
Hogmanay Dinner Dance; 7.30 - 1.00 Dinner at 8. Tickets: £20.00

The Parish Centre will be closed from 1st—12th January 2009

CHRISTMAS CARDS and CALENDARS on sale shortly in the Parish Centre

ST JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL

The Family Mass and First Year welcome Mass with Bishop Logan will take place on Thursday 2nd October at 7.00 p.m.

THE UNEXPECTED

For most of us, our day to day life can be reasonably predictable. One day is much the same as the day before. We have a certain routine that we tend to keep to. Many of us do not like our routine to be disturbed. However, we also know from experience that the unexpected can suddenly come along and throw our routine up into the air. Some misfortune can strike us or those we love and nothing is ever quite the same again. Or, alternatively, wonderful news can come to us out of the blue and everything we subsequently do is bathed in a new light.

That element of the unexpected is very present in today's gospel reading. There is something very surprising, even shocking, about the way that the landowner in that story operates. Most employers do not give the equivalent of a day's wage to somebody who only does an hour's work. If they did, their business would not last very long. Why would anyone want to work for a day if they were given a day's wages for an hour's work? The story that Jesus tells is decidedly not about the human way of doing things. Rather, in story form, Jesus is giving us a picture of God's way of doing things, and God's way of doing things is very different from our way. As the Lord says in today's first reading: 'My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways.' Because God's ways are not our ways, we will often find God surprising and even disconcerting, as listeners to the parable today continue to find the behaviour of the landowner disconcerting.

We know from experience that people can surprise us; they do not always behave as we might expect them to. Some people might surprise us in a negative sense. They do not measure up to our legitimate expectations of them; they disappoint us. Others can surprise us in a positive sense. They far exceed our expectations; they show us that there is more to them than we ever realised. Today's parable suggests that God will surprise us in that positive sense. God's goodness is always greater than we realise; God's generosity far exceeds our expectations — indeed, can never be contained by human expectations. God does not give to us in accordance with what we have earned. God does not calculate how much we have done and then treat us accordingly. God does not put our efforts on one side of the scale and then put an equal amount of God's favour on the other side of the scale to balance our efforts. God's mind and heart work on a far greater and more generous scale that is normal among human beings. Sometimes we can imagine God in all too human terms. In our way of relating to others we tend to give in proportion to what we receive, to love those who love us, to bestow our favour on those who have been good to us. However, today's parable declares that God is not a more powerful version of ourselves; God is fundamentally different; God graces us in unexpected and undeserved ways.

When we reflect on it, most of the best things in life are unearned; they are simply given. Nature in all its beauty and grandeur is given to us; we have not put it together; it is there to be received and, of course, respected. The human experience of being looked upon in love by another is not something we earn. We are graced by the unexpected gift of someone's friendship and love. In a similar way, God's favour, God's love is given, not earned. We are loved by God, before we do anything, because God is Love, and God does not take back that love, regardless of what we do or fail to do. As it has been said, 'God does not work from the arithmetic of the calculator, but from the fullness of God's own heart.' The gospels, and especially today's parable, even suggest that God has a slight prejudice in favour of life's latecomers, those who take a while to get going. There is an extravagance about God's generosity that could make us angry if we were prone to envy but is ultimately very consoling and reassuring. Indeed, true followers of Jesus are so appreciative of God's goodness in their own lives that they are never envious of God's goodness towards others.

We are each challenged to reflect something of God's indiscriminate goodness and generosity in our dealings with one another. The God of surprising generosity can become palpable for others in and through our own way of relating. God's ways are indeed not our ways, but our ways can become a little more like God's ways.