

Diocese of Dunkeld
Scottish Charity No SC001810

St Peter and St Paul

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Deacon: Rev Charles Hendry [818183]

Parish Sister: Sister Mary Rose [322304]

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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 24th February 2008

THIRD 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: No Mass [Council of Priests Meeting]

Wednesday: No Mass [Council of priests Meeting]

Thursday: Mass at 10.00 a.m.

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 as the final work is completed in the Church

Sacrament of Reconciliation - after Mass Saturday Morning & Saturday Evening and on request at any other time

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

The Holy Land contains two very different regions, Judea and Galilee. Judea is mountainous and dry and dusty, Galilee is lush and green, with plenty of water. The two regions are about fifty miles apart, and between them lies Samaria. Nowadays Samaria can be a dangerous place to pass through, because of the animosity between Jews and Palestinians. Some tour operators think it wiser to avoid Samaria altogether, by taking the long way round, through the Jordan valley. I wouldn't recommend that road to anyone; it's twice as long as the direct route, a weary, winding, monotonous mountain road.

The long way round wasn't available to Jesus. Without metalled roads and motor coaches, the only possible route was through Samaria. As St John remarks, he *had* to cross Samaria. He might have preferred not to do so, because then as now, the inhabitants of Samaria were hostile to the Jews.

Jesus was, we are told, leaving Judea because of the jealousy of the Pharisees. No doubt he set out on the journey with some disappointment in his heart, some sense of rejection and failure. Things had been going well, but then the blindness and envy of the religious leaders of his own people had made things difficult for him. The road through Samaria was long, the country was semi-desert: very hot, very dry. And he was passing through hostile territory. At last they reached Jacob's well, near the town of Sychar. The disciples went on into the town to buy bread, but Jesus was too tired, and perhaps too dejected, to go any further. So he sat down beside the well.

A woman came along to draw water from the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink. Scholars have pointed out how remarkable it was that Jesus should have spoken to a woman, and a Samaritan woman at that, breaking down barriers between sex, race and religion. Maybe so; but let's not overlook the obvious point that Jesus had no option. He was at the end of his tether; he was worn out, the day was hot, he was thirsty. He needed a drink. He had no bucket of his own, and perhaps not much strength left. His disciples had gone into town. There was no one around but the woman, and if he wanted a drink, he had to ask her for one.

His request led to a conversation with that woman, quite a remarkable conversation. As a result of it, she was converted to the gospel, and not only her, but all the people of her village. It had a very considerable effect on their lives. And yet it came about because Jesus was tired, and thirsty, and dejected. In other words he was doing his Father's will simply by accepting the limitations and frustrations of the human condition, being subject to tiredness and thirst and the human feelings of rejection and failure. And that I take it is a great part of the meaning of the Incarnation. The Son of God comes to live among us in the limitations of weakness, and it is that very weakness which furthers his Father's purposes.

I would hope that this reflection might give us courage when we come up against our own weakness: when we feel too tired to go on, or feel that we have failed, perhaps when we been made redundant or had some dreadful disappointment; when we are sick, find that we have some incurable illness; when our marriage breaks up, or our children seem to reject us and we feel that all our life's work has been in vain. It is at these very moments, if we can but see it, that God can use us and bring about his kingdom through us.

Thank you for last week's collection. of £ 899.71

The SECOND COLLECTION for the work of the CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION last week was £428.40.

Next Sunday - Lent 4 - is SCIAF SUNDAY. There will be a SECOND COLLECTION at Mass for SCIAF - the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund.

The priests of the Diocese will meet with Bishop Logan on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week in Pitlochry, for reflection and thought on the way ahead for our Diocese.

Tuesday is also the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Logan, 27 years ago on 28th February 1981.

The MASS OF CHRISM will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral on Wednesday 19th March at 7.00 p.m.

Due to Easter being very early this year the following feasts will be celebrated on different dates this year :

Monday 10th March - St John Ogilvie
Friday 14th March - St Patrick
Saturday 15th March - St Joseph
Holy Week begins on Sunday 16th March



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.

Please pray for: **Bernadette Chapman & Peter Andrews**, recently deceased; and for **Irene Kiddie, John Macgregor, Peter Duff & Evelyn Devlin** 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, Jean McKay & Kenny Macdonald**]

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

THE HOUSE OF GOD

We return to worship in the Church this weekend, after 19 weeks in the Hall. Some minor work has still to be completed—the Children's Liturgy Room at the back of the Altar, the Sacristy and Lady Chapel, the Gallery and other bits and pieces. The Altar, Organ and PA System have still to be completed also but by Easter all will be completed.

We will have Weekday Masses this week in the Blessed sacrament Chapel to allow the contractors to complete some work.

THANK YOU for donations received towards the refurbishment of the Church. The total to date is £4480. 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.

Thanks to John Mackie and the staff in the Hall for their patience and understanding over the past 19 weeks.