



Diocese of Dunkeld
St Peter and St Paul's
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Scottish Charity No SC001810



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Fr Andrew Marshall [studying in Rome]

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24th Sunday of the Year
13th September 2020 - Liturgical Year A
Next Sunday is the 25th Sunday of the Year



This week:

Monday: Mass at 9.30 a.m. [Exaltation of the Holy Cross]

Tuesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m. [Our Lady of Sorrows]

Wednesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m. [St Ninian]

Thursday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Funeral Mass of Margaret Cushnie at 10.30 a.m. [by invitation only]

Friday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Saturday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

Vigil Mass at 6.00 p.m.

Next Sunday: Masses at 9.30 and 11.00

Hopefully we will continue to stream our Masses on You Tube.

Our Masses are open each day for approximately 30 people on a first come first served basis. Please follow the directions and keep social distance. Holy Communion [in the hand] will be distributed at the end of Mass.

A big issue for the community: how often should you forgive a wrongdoer? Peter offers a generous suggestion - seven times? Peter must have thought he was doing well, but he's still wrong! How wrong is shown when Jesus talks about God's limitless forgiveness. Jesus tells someone who was released from a debt of 10,000 talents; about 150,000 years' wages! How much more was this person morally obliged to release his brother from a smaller debt!

Of your charity, please pray for:

Our recently deceased: Susan Mayfield, Aileen Gavine & Margaret Cushnie [funeral by invitation on Thursday at 10.30 a.m.]

and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Lydia & Joe Shearer, Elizabeth Chaplain, Cris Rackham, Agnes & Jospheh Lynch & Ownie Greene

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Thank you for the considerable donations [£581.50 (Gift Aid - £309) received this week by cheque and into the parish bank account'

If you are able to make a donation to the parish or a direct debit, our bank details are:

Royal Bank of Scotland - Kingsway Circus Branch

277 Strathmartine Road, Dundee DD3 8NS

Trustees for the RC Diocese of Dunkeld—St Peter and Paul Mission

Sort Code: 83-18-12

Account Number: 00106267

SCIAF Collections was £36

FINANCE UPDATE

Grateful thanks to all who, in these difficult times, have contributed to our parish collections, by envelope, donations or Direct Debits.

The average weekly collection is around £600, some £400 down on normal times

At the moment we are still in a good position financially though the next two months, if lockdown continues, we will face some extra expenses as we will have to put the heating back on [this costs approximately £900 per month]. In addition, our insurances are due early October [last year they were £4,500].

There are still a considerable number of Collection Envelopes at the back of the Church to be collected; we did not want to post these out as some may be in a difficult position financially.

We rarely have to ask for donations but in these difficult times for us all, we ask that, if you watch Mass online each Sunday or weekday, you might send a donation to the parish to help cover next month's extra costs.

We will continue to stream our Masses each day if possible.

A word of thanks to Fr Andrew who returns to Rome on Monday morning to finish his studies. It has been a pleasure to have him here since lockdown and we look forward to him hopefully getting back for Christmas

We are open for Mass on each morning at 9.30 a.m., and at the usual times for Saturday Vigil and Sunday morning, and please follow directions to seats

Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass and should be received in the hand, and you are asked to leave immediately after receiving Holy Communion.

Using social distancing we can probably allow 27/30 people to Mass. There is no Holy Water and the Fonts and there will be no sign of peace. You must wear a mask at all times and sanitise your hands.

Please do not congregate outside the church after Mass.



FIRST COMMUNIONS and CONFIRMATION

All being well we hope to have our delayed First Communion on the Feast of Christ the King - Sunday 22nd November - at 11 o'clock Mass. More details later. First Confessions will be arranged also.

Confirmation, all being well, will be in St Andrew's Cathedral on 30th November at 7.00 p.m., Feast of St Andrew, with St Mary's, Lochee and Our Lady of Victories.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

There are no scheduled time for Confession as yet and we cannot use the Confessional Box. We are available for face to face, socially distanced confession on request any day of the week except Sunday.

Hospital chaplaincy and visitation

If you or a loved one is in hospital and wish to receive the Sacraments, please make contact with the Duty Hospital Chaplain on 07821 624124. Other priests have been refused entry to wards at this time. The chaplain can be contacted by pager through the hospital switchboard on 01382 660111.

SCIAF BOXES

Some of you may still have SCIAF Lenten Boxes at home. If you have, perhaps you can change any money into notes or a cheque and let me have it as soon as possible. The Government have agreed to double any donations received by the end of September.

Today's Mass readings for 24th Sunday of the Year

Ecclesiasticus 27:30 to 28:7 — Both the first reading and Gospel invite us to be merciful and forgiving to each other, as God is towards us. If we nurse anger, how can we expect compassion?

Psalm Response

Responsorial: Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R./: The Lord is near to all who call him

Romans 14:7-9 — Paul tells us the good news that whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Matthew 18:21-35 — The Gospel has a sting in the tail: if we fail in forgiveness, we risk being judged according to our own standards.

Different attitudes to forgiveness

A woman, pushing on in years, boasted to her priest that she did not have an enemy in the world. He was very impressed. What a wonderful thing to be able to say after all those years! And then she added:- 'I have outlived them all'. I suppose if we live long enough we will also be able to make the same statement.



We have all been hurt in some way or other in the journey of life-made fun of in school by a teacher, not invited to the wedding, didn't get the job I thought I should have got, or at a more serious level, betrayed by someone you trusted, abused physically or sexually and so on.

Sheila Cassidy, who was herself tortured in South America, had this to say:- 'I would never say to someone 'you must forgive'. I would not dare. Who am I to tell a woman whose father abused her or a mother whose daughter has been raped that she must forgive? I can only say: 'However much we have been wronged, however justified our hatred, if we cherish it, it will poison us..We must pray for the power to forgive, for it is in forgiving that we are healed'. Nelson Mandela continually reminded his fellow prisoners in South Africa that unless they let go of their hurts they would remain in the grip of their abusers.

By failing to forgive, we hurt ourselves more than anyone else. Surely this is what Jesus had in mind when he told how the merciless servant was cast into prison when he refused to forgive his fellow servant. I don't think he was suggesting that God would cancel his mercy. He is simply saying that an unforgiving spirit creates a prison of its own. It builds up walls of bitterness and resentment and there is no escape until we come to forgive.

Forgiving and letting go is not easy, especially when the wound is very deep. This is why I call forgiveness the 'F' word, because it's not to be used lightly. Forgiveness is a choice and often involves a three stage process: (1) I will never forgive that person (2) I can't forgive (forgiveness seen as a good thing, but the hurt is too great) (3) I want to forgive and let go with God's help.

Also we must learn to forgive ourselves. Imagine you are responsible for something very serious. You are driving a car with drink. There is an accident and a young person is killed. That life cannot be brought back. For more and more people there is a something in the background, some skeleton in the closet-a broken marriage, an abortion, a pregnancy outside marriage, a broken relationship, a serious mistake. And for many of us we do not believe that there is another chance much less a seven times seventy chances. This is not the teaching of Jesus. God does not just give us another chance, but every time we close a door he opens another one for us.

The Lord challenges us not to make serious damaging mistakes, but he also tells us that our mistakes are not forever-they are not even for a life time-and that time and grace wash clean, that nothing is irrevocable.