



Diocese of Dunkeld
St Peter and St Paul's
29 Byron Street
Dundee DD3 6QN
Tel: 01382 825067
Scottish Charity No SC001810



Parish Priest: Mgr Ken McCaffrey [Dean]

ken.mccaffrey@stpeterandstpaul.co.uk

Deacon: Rev Charles Hendry [818183]

Hall: Fay Martin [07932 432577]

Ninewells Hospital Chaplain: 07821 624124 [Hospital Mobile] [Pager:660111]

Schools:

St Peter and St Paul's School [436448]

St John's High School [307060]

Webmaster: Martin D Kelly

webmaster@stpeterandstpaul.co.uk

Web Site: www.stpeterandstpaul.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterandstpauluk



*Season of
Lent*

1st Sunday in Lent

21st February 2021 - Liturgical Year B
Next Sunday is the Second Sunday in Lent



This week:

Today: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Monday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Tuesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Funeral Service for Isaac Brough at 10.45 a.m.
Thursday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Friday: Funeral Mass for Christine Rice at 9.30 a.m.
Saturday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Next Sunday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.

THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION IS SUSPENDED

Please tune into Mass on St Peter and Paul's YOU TUBE Link



Of your charity, please pray for:

Our recently deceased: Sheila Black, Isaac Brough, Christine Rice & Mgr Joe Boyd [Galloway Diocese]

and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time:

or those sick in hospital: Mgr Gerry Fitzpatrick, Fr Tobias Okoro [Forfar], Teresa Macgregor, Eddie Cleary & Sylvia Delnavo.

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.

FINANCE UPDATE

This year, as you know, has been most challenging in these times of lockdown.

The Virus has had an impact on our parish finances. Our weekly income has been devastated by Church closures and earlier with restrictions in number attending services and many regular contributors have been unable to support the parish during the past year for a variety of reasons. Our income has decreased by around 40%. We have in these cold times kept our church heated and the Gas bill and Electric Bill have been quite high; just over £700 in the last quarter.

We are grateful for those who have supported us by Gift Aid and those who have put their collection envelopes and donations through the door or made donations through our Bank.

If you can make an offering our details are;

Royal Bank of Scotland - Dundee Kingsway Circus Branch, 277 Strathmartine Road, DD3 8NS
Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dunkeld No 3 Charity—St Peter and Paul Mission
SORT CODE - 83 -18-12
ACCOOUNT - 00106267

Thank you all for your continued support

LENTEN SCIAF APPEAL

Our SCIAF Boxes have been delivered. They may be collected from the Church if you are out for a walk or essential reasons. The Little Chapel will be open during daylight hours from after Mass on Sunday. Please enter by the side door, sanitise your hand take a SCIAF Package. Also available will be a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Stephen for Lent and the parish newsletter.

Please follow the Government Guidelines and stay safe. Please feel free to take SCIAF booklets and newsletters for your neighbours. CCTV will be in operation at all times.

Opposing forces

Last Wednesday we began the season of Lent. We have five weeks of Lent now until Easter. Lent does not have quite the impact it used to have. It doesn't seem to have as much of an impact on the lives of Christians as Ramadan has on the lives of Muslims. Yet, it is worth reminding ourselves that Lent is beginning. As a church we have set out on a journey which will end at the Easter Triduum, those three great days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent is always the gospel reading of the temptation of Jesus. Mark's account of the temptation of Jesus is the shortest by far. We are given no dialogue between Jesus and Satan; the temptations are not spelled out in any way. Instead we have that enigmatic statement that Jesus 'was with the wild beasts and the angels ministered to him'.

We could think of wild beasts and angels as two opposing forces. The wild beasts could be understood as servants of Satan, putting Jesus' relationship with God to the test, enticing him to put himself rather than God at the centre of his life. The angels, in contrast, are servants of God, supporting Jesus in his time of struggle, giving him the strength to stand firm in the test, to withstand the onslaught. There is some parallel between where Jesus found himself in that wilderness at the very beginning of his ministry and our own lives. We too can find ourselves caught between wild beast and angels. We too can find our best convictions, our deepest values, being put to the test. The values of the gospel are not always at home in the world in which we live. The pressure to compromise with those values can be very strong. We can find ourselves in something of a moral and spiritual wilderness where there is very little appreciation for or understanding of the gospel message. Indeed, we can feel very alone as Jesus must have felt very alone in the wilderness.

At such times we have to remind ourselves that we are not alone, no more than Jesus was really alone in the wilderness. The angels are ministering to us. The Lord's ministering, empowering and comforting presence is always at hand. That was the opening message of Jesus as soon as he stepped out of the wilderness, 'the time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand'. Jesus had come up against the kingdom of Satan during his forty days in the wilderness. However he emerged from that testing time knowing that the kingdom of God was stronger than the kingdom of Satan, proclaiming that the reign of God was present for all. In his letter to the Romans Saint Paul would put that conviction in a very succinct fashion, 'where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more'. That is why Paul could say to the members of the church in Corinth, 'God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it'. There may indeed be wild beast out there, forces that seek to undermine our faith in the Lord and the way of life that flows from that. However, today's gospel reading assures us that there is an even more fundamental reality, and that is the reality of the Lord's empowering presence. The angels will minister to us; the Lord will stand by us. He has given us and will continue to give us an abundance of resources. God is constantly at work among us and within us. Like Saint Paul we can say, 'I can do all things in him who strengthens me'.

One way of understanding Lent is to see it as the time when we try to give in to the many ways that God may be trying to touch our lives. We often think of Lent as a time when we try to give up things. There can be a real value in that. However, more fundamentally and more positively we might think of Lent as a time when we give in to the Lord who is always present to us and calling out to us. The church sets aside this season of Lent in the springtime of the year as a reminder that we may need to awaken spiritually. Although the Lord is present to us, we are not always present to him. Although the reign of God is at hand, we don't always entrust ourselves to that good news. As we awaken spiritually, as we give in to the Lord, as we become more aware of the Lord who is around me, above me, below me, at my right hand and at my light hand, then we may experience a new desire to give up whatever is not serving our relationship with the Lord. We enter this season of Lent not just as individuals but as a community of faith. It is as a community that we are called to turn more fully towards the Lord and to walk together in his company towards Holy Week. 'We will get to our destination if we join hands'.



DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



Repent
& Believe