

## QUARANT'ORE: THE FORTY HOURS' EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

I mentioned in last Sunday's newsletter the practice of the Forty Hours' Adoration and how it will be remembered fondly by many of you, and how for decades it was a staple part of our Lenten observance in the Diocese of Dunkeld: a solemn extended time of stillness and Eucharistic Adoration in our churches, punctuated by gatherings for Holy Hours etc., and allowing longer periods of silence for people to come and go and *watch with the Lord*.

I invite you to make a little pilgrimage next Sunday to St Mary's Forebank, for the time of silent adoration from 1.15pm, concluding with a devotional Holy Hour at 4pm.

We shall then have an adoration afternoon in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Sunday 15 March and St Patrick's on Sunday 22 March.

**In this parish we celebrate the presence of the living God. All are welcome, because all are, equally, brothers and sisters. None are judged, because everyone needs God's healing, mercy and peace.**

The above statement appears in our newsletter some weeks. In our parishes, we are very blessed in having committed people who welcome everyone at the church door to our Sunday liturgies, ensure they have the liturgy aid and a newsletter, and if necessary guide them to a place to sit etc.

The ministry of welcome though, surely belongs to us all – especially to all who worship in our churches on a regular basis. In our churches we often have visitors, guests, people who worship with us only now and again, and people with particular needs.

Our regular parishioners can make their experience a more happy and fulfilling one by giving them a smile, greeting them, ensuring they are okay.

We must all be careful though not to "invade" another person's space, avoid unwanted touch, and generally have a care to ensure people are at their ease.

Thanks to all our welcomers, passkeepers and ministers of hospitality for their care and dedication.

**Dunkeld Diocesan Choir** rehearsals continue this Tuesday in the Cathedral at 7pm. If you can sing in tune and would like to join the choir, please come along. We could especially do with more male singers for the Tenor and Bass sections of the Choir.

*At short notice this Sunday I have to go to celebrate the morning Masses in Brechin and Montrose. Father Johnpaul will celebrate in St Patrick's, Bishop Stephen in Broughty Ferry and Monsignor Ken McCaffrey in Forebank. I am grateful to them all for their help.*

### Stations of the Cross in Lent

There will be Stations of the Cross on the Tuesdays and Fridays of Lent in the Cathedral at 12.30pm, beginning this coming Tuesday 24 February, before the 1pm Mass; in St Mary's Forebank on the Fridays of Lent at 11am before the 11.30am Mass (*but not this Friday as I have a funeral*), and in Our Lady of Good Counsel on the Fridays of Lent at 6pm, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament beginning this Friday 27 February.

**There will be Stations of the Cross in St Patrick's this Monday 23 February after the 9.45am Mass.**

### John's Big Lent Walk



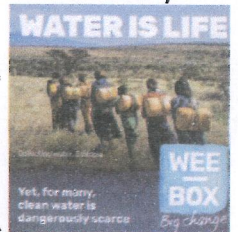
During Lent, Cathedral Parishioner John Quinn will undertake to walk 240 kilometers over 40 days to raise funds for SCIAF (6 kilometers is the average distance from clean safe water in the communities in which SCIAF works).

John is not setting up a Just Giving page this time, but he will leave sponsorship forms at the back of each of the 4 parishes in our Cluster. Please consider sponsoring John.

The SCIAF "wee boxes" for Lent 2026 have arrived and are available at the back of each Church this Sunday.

Please take one away with you for your house or workplace, and please spread the news of the great work SCIAF does.

By our giving this Lent, we support the work of SCIAF and help to continue to build a just world, free of poverty for all.



**Thanks for your generosity last Sunday:**

£789 in the Cathedral, £709 in St Mary's Forebank and £614 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The Ecclesiastical Students Fund collection came to £113 in St Patrick's.

**The Ecclesiastical Students' Special Collection will be taken next Sunday in the other parishes.**

### Hospitality events

On Sunday 1 March there will be tea and toast after Mass in St Mary's Forebank, and hopefully we shall establish this as a regular offering of hospitality. Please come and join us.

Refreshments every Wednesday after Morning Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The Mad Hatters continue their Wednesday Afternoon Teas in the Cathedral Hall. Everyone welcome to come along after 1pm Mass.

Cathedral Easter Raffle, to be drawn on March 29th, with prizes including a large Easter Egg, Easter Bunny and bottles of wine.