



Diocese of Dunkeld

**Cathedral Church
of St Andrew,**

**150, Nethergate
Dundee DD1 4EA**

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

As you will no doubt by now be aware, all Masses and Public Liturgies in the Diocese of Dunkeld are now cancelled until further notice. It is a decision which is extremely sad for us all, especially at this holy time of year which leads us to the great Easter Feast, but I hope you will be in agreement with this prudent decision made by the Bishops of Scotland.

Although there will be no public Masses, I shall celebrate the Eucharist privately each day for all of our parishioners, for the salvation of the world, the spread of the Gospel, and the needs of the People of God.

Mass will (*hopefully, technology allowing!*) be live streamed this Sunday 22 March at 10.30am from the Convent Chapel at Lawside through the diocesan website www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk

All other parish and diocesan activities are cancelled until further notice. However, as long as it is deemed safe to do so, the Cathedral will be open most days from around 11am until around 3.30pm for silent private prayer. (Not on Monday 23 March, please note.)

If you come in any day, please note and remember that the Church is open only for private and silent prayer so please keep the silence at all times and especially on entering and leaving the Church. Take a place in the Church where you are seated well away from others.

I hope that you and your family are keeping well and safe. If there is anything I can do for you, and it will not put you or anyone else at risk, I shall certainly do it. Don't hesitate to be in touch by telephone (01382 225228) or by email: kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com

Confessions will be heard in the confessional on Fridays 12noon until 12.30pm and Saturdays 10.30am until 11.30am as usual. I will bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound only in conjunction with their wishes and the wishes of their families, if it is judged prudent to do so, at this time.

I hope to be able to email you a weekly newsletter and liturgical reflection for each Sunday so that we can be together in our prayer and worship at home.

It really is a time of spiritual sacrifice for us all in our faith lives this Lent and Easter. Let's keep each other (and especially the sick and the vulnerable) in our prayers. The Bishops of England and Wales have produced a prayer resource for use at this time which you may find useful and I am attaching it along with this newsletter.

God bless you all and keep you safe.
With my love,

This Sunday 22 March is the 4th in Lent.

When gathering for Mass on this Sunday we would be nourished with the Gospel story from St John of the man who was born blind and whom Jesus heals. If you have a Sunday Missal do take time to keep Sunday holy by readings and reflecting on the scripture readings. The following page may be helpful.

We would also have taken the **Special collection for the Papal and Episcopal Charities including SCIAF**) this coming Sunday, one of our most important collections in the year. You may like to make a donation direct to SCIAF or send to me and I will pass it on. Do use your SCIAF *wee box* as well.

I am grateful to those who have asked about maintaining their financial support of the parish at this time, offering to pay by bank standing order or by sending a cheque. If you able to continue your financial support of the Church at this time, I thank you most sincerely. I am very aware though that this will be a time of financial stringency for many people.

Sunday Liturgy for the 4th Sunday of Lent 2020



A prayer to begin

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant we pray that with true devotion the Christian people may hasten towards the feast of Easter, and, though separated physically from one another in the present circumstances, may we nevertheless be spiritually united around your holy Word and in faith, hope and charity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

1 Samuel 16: 1.6-7. 10-13

David is anointed King of Israel

(On each of the five Sundays of Lent the first reading takes us progressively through key stages of Israel's history.)

Psalms 22/23: *The Lord is my Shepherd*

Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead

and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel of John 9:41:

The giving of sight to the man born blind.

Reflection

The healing of the man born blind begins in an unusual silence. The man does not ask to be healed and nor does Jesus ask him if he wants to be. The man, it seems, is not yet ready to speak or to be spoken to.

But when his eyes are opened by Jesus, he slowly acquires a voice. The Pharisees talk about him as if he were not really human;

he is an object of conversation but not a subject. But his parents refuse to consent to this annihilation of his humanity. He can speak for himself. He is of age. His first words are 'I am', implicitly calling to mind the divine name revealed to Moses when he must lead his people into freedom.

Once the blind man speaks with freedom it seems impossible to stop him! He even teaches the Pharisees, much to their chagrin! So, he is transformed from being a silent beggar into a bold speaker who engages in conversation and debate with the religious authorities and who refuses to be silenced. He sees clearly and he speaks eloquently. He sees who the Pharisees really are, in all their tricky evasiveness and so he challenges them. He sees Jesus, and speaks the words that are the climax of the story, 'I believe' and he worships. This renewed human being is one who is made free to worship.

As we worship this Sunday, each in our own way in our own home, let's spiritually help each other in prayer, looking forward to the day when we gather again for the Eucharist in our Churches, resolving to use the Holy Spirit's gift of courage, and to cherish the grace of our adoration of God, standing in awe before his holy word, even though we are not able to physically share the Mass together at this time.

A prayer to close

O God, whose face we long to see,
in Christ you come in search of us,
judging not by outward appearances
but by looking into our hearts.
Never permit the powers of darkness
or the blindness of our selfishness,
to hold us captive.

Open our eyes by the grace of your Spirit
that we may look upon your Son
and worship him as Jesus the Lord
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.