



Diocese of Dunkeld

Cathedral Church of St Andrew

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

When I wrote to you last week I thought drastic measures were in place even then, but of course everything has moved on so quickly.

As a result of the announcements of the Prime Minister and First Minister instructing us not to gather in groups of more than two people and urging us to stay at home except for essentials, the Bishops of Scotland issued a statement mandating the closure of all our Churches across the country during this period of national emergency, for the common good. As the Bishops say, "We will continue to offer prayers for those who have died and for their families who mourn their passing. The Church is not only a building but the people of God at prayer wherever they may find themselves. We encourage all Catholics and all people of faith to pray unceasingly in their homes for our nation at this time, in particular for our political leaders, our health care professionals and all those suffering from the virus. May this lived Lenten experience lead us to new life and healing at Easter".

Hopefully this newsletter will reach everyone in the parish whose email address I have, and if you can please forward it on to others whom you know, I would be grateful. It is now I regret I am not so technologically *savvy* as others, but with the help of Andrew Mitchell we shall be streaming the Sunday Mass again from Lawside Convent Chapel this Sunday at 10.30am, and there are daily Masses streamed from St Peter and St Paul's and St Mary's, Lochee, as well as reflections through the diocesan website - www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk from Bishop Stephen. I know some of you are making good use of EWTN and of the website of St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow.

In addition to our Churches being closed for public and private worship, Baptisms and Weddings are suspended, as are celebrations of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Funerals may take place, but not in the Church, only in the Crematorium or at the graveside, with only immediate family in attendance. A private Mass can be offered for the person who has died, on the day of the funeral, and a Memorial Mass

can be arranged at a time when we are all back together worshipping in our Churches.

End of life and emergency calls will be answered by hospital chaplains for the giving of the Sacrament of the Sick and Viaticum but in conjunction with the necessary permissions and restrictions put in place by healthcare authorities and families.

If you are a FaceBook user, you may be interested in following the new St Andrew's RC Cathedral, Dundee page. It is still a "work in progress" for the moment, so please be patient while this new page finds its feet and becomes an additional means for us to communicate with each other and support each other. Facebook pages are public, can be found through searches and can be joined by anyone by simply 'liking' the page. If FaceBook isn't your thing you can still visit the Diocese of Dunkeld website

<https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/> for up to date news.

Above all, let's keep one another in prayer and solidarity as we face another Sunday without being able to gather for the Eucharist together. The reflections and prayers on the next page may help you.

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 phone (225228) or by email: kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com

With my love,

Please remember in your prayers those who have

died recently: Emily Peterson, Moira Hunt;

and those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

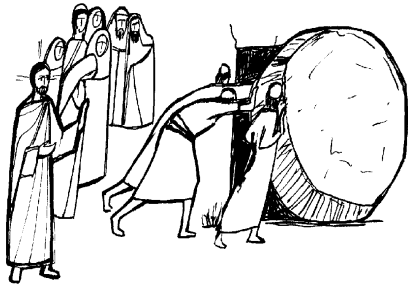
Monsignor Hugh McNally, Raymond McCluskey, James Cairns, Henry McAuley, Tom McBride, James Crighton, Maureen Quinn, Ann Crawford, Peter Crawford, Mary Crawford, Arthur Walker, Catherine Barnett, Anthony Duffy, Ernest Duffy, Tommy Reilly, Jean McReady, Elizabeth Stirling, Jack Stirling.

Dundee City Council is asking for volunteers who could assist with delivery of food/essentials to the needy. Those at increased risk should **not** volunteer, I have a form for anyone who would like to volunteer; please be in touch with me directly: kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com.

Please note that this not a public request for support, it is about utilising volunteers already active in communities.

The **Scottish Catholic Observer** is offering a £10 subscription for the next six weeks – delivered to your door. See the SCO website for more details.

Sunday Liturgy for the 5th Sunday of Lent 2020



A prayer to begin

Father of mercy, while at this time your faithful people are separated from the divine presence of your Son in the Eucharist, nevertheless we know we meet you powerfully in your holy Word as it is read. Help us in this time of exile from Sunday Mass to be ever more hungry for your divine voice which always sustains and guides us. Inspire us by the love and self giving of Christ your Son, and guide us by his example of self sacrifice, he who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 37:12-14: *I will put my spirit in you.*

Psalms 129: *Out of the depths...*

Romans 8:8-11 *The Spirit of Jesus lives in you*

Gospel of John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

Reflection

Jesus is faced with the painful reality of death in the Gospel story this Sunday. Lazarus, a dear friend, is dead. Jesus weeps because of the great loss and emptiness he experiences in the death of his friend, and he raises Lazarus to life.

We remember that the focus of Jesus in John's Gospel is always "the Father", and that it is the "work" of the Father that he is doing, because he has been "sent" by the Father. This has been a thread running through the Gospel texts of the past two Sundays as well. All the signs and wonders that Jesus worked are meant to focus on the great abundance and generous compassion of God the Father. Jesus restores to life that which appeared dead; he gave hope where hope seemed hopeless;

He provides in this Sunday's Gospel a *vision for tomorrow* where previously grief seemed to be the only possibility.

How pertinent these Gospel passages are in the light of what we are experiencing as individuals, families, as a society and as a world these days. In the midst of all the uncertainty, we see much compassion and care shown through voluntary work for those most vulnerable and isolated, as well as the courageous and unstinting work of our health care professionals and other public service workers - Bishop Stephen mentioned in a letter to his priests the other day how grateful we must be for those who are keeping our public and utility services going at this time - like the gas and electrical engineers and power companies; those who keep our pure water supplies flowing; also police, teachers and their ancillary staff, ambulance drivers and paramedics, firefighters, supermarket and pharmacy staff etc.

This is the context in which we are keeping Lent this year. It isn't without its tensions! Perhaps we are really do feel "bound up", like Lazarus, and are all too aware of where grief could overtake us, where we could lose hope...but the scriptures call us to live in a persistent faith, reminding us this Sunday that "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in **you**" and to continually call on the Lord "from the depths", confident that he will hear us.

Lazarus being raised from the dead is a sign of God's presence. We have an even greater sign in the resurrection of Jesus: in his resurrection the possibility of new and transformed life is held out to us. May we continue to live as people of hope.

Intercessions

Take some time to remember all those you most want to pray for at this time, and then pray the Lord's Prayer.

A prayer to close

O God of eternal life,
whose glory is the human person fully alive,
in the tears that Jesus shed for Lazarus his friend,
we see the living incarnation of your tenderness
and compassion.

Graciously behold us this Lenten Sunday,
and by the power of your Spirit
may these testing days call all your children
back to life in your Church.

Unbind us from sin and despair and let us go free!
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.