

Where are you?

I hope you won't pass off the narrative of this Sunday's Genesis reading as mere folklore or fairy tale, because through the medium of story — such an important tool for learning and growth in life — the opening chapters of Genesis reveal much about our relationship with God, and also about the subtle power of sin. The verses of the temptation story form part of the larger narrative of the third chapter of Genesis, which is worth a read even just to see how this text fits into the other “beginning stories” of the scripture, including those of Cain and Abel, the flood and Noah, and the tower of Babel.

We might flirt a little with the details of the story—*Did the snake really talk? Just what kind of fruit tree was involved?*, and *why did God make a single tree off limits?* But this might make us miss the point of the story which is not really about snakes or trees. The real point I think the writers of Genesis are trying to make to their readers is that sin often looks enticing and good and seems a lot of fun. Perhaps it shouldn't, but it does, If we took a realistic, long view, we would perhaps look disdainfully at the very prospect of sin, but in our weakness we often think the fruit (sin) looks tasty indeed.

We sometimes say *I gave in to temptation* — usually we say this over something trivial like giving in to enjoying the chocolate we previously forbade ourselves to eat: but biblically, *giving in to temptation* really means being taken in by a lie or set of lies. The serpent lied, basically saying “*That forbidden tree thing? Don't be taken in by that, that's a stupid rule*”. The serpent is saying — *this God is obsessed with power, he wants to control you. Don't be fooled that there will be consequences for eating the fruit. Live a little!*

Far from passing off the Genesis text as something outdated, outmoded, or just primitive even, a little reflection might help us see that the scenario of lies and deception in that text is played out regularly in life, and most often it is the vulnerable who suffer because of it. If we dare to place the spirit of the Genesis text into our own lives, we may just find how we have at times been deceived. Think of it: something promises pleasure, power, happiness even — and despite our better judgement we go headlong into it: it may be a scenario at work, a toxic or gossipy relationship, or just putting one over on a neighbour.....you could add to the list, I'm sure....the story has many expressions, but when we reflect, and look back in hindsight, and seek to make amends and put things right, then we know it: we've been sold a lie.

Lent invites us to look into our inner mirror: it is a gift from God, an opportunity a key life moment. As St Paul said on Wednesday past: *now is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation*. Whatever you choose to do in Lent to keep it holy, when you are thinking of what to “give up”, if we take Genesis to heart, then the challenge is to give up being taken in by the lies....and what a challenge that is.

In this story which opens the Lenten scriptures for us this Sunday, Adam and Eve (Man and Woman) realise that they have been sold a lie: their eyes are opened, they discover they are naked. Read on and you find that God, being God, takes the initiative and comes looking for his beloved. It always strikes me how beautiful it is that the writers of Genesis understand God as one who walks among his Beloved creatures, comes into the garden in the cool of the evening and calls for them. With the cry of someone who has lost their children, God cries, *Where are you?* And doesn't Adam's answer say it all? *I heard....I was afraid....I was naked....I hid*. Cue the next question: *Who told you were naked?* Adam and Eve's former sensitivity to God's call is now replaced with the pre-occupation with themselves...what a Lenten agenda this story sets out!



The story of humanity's fall from grace stands at the outset of Lent not only to expose evil, lies and sham, but as a call, an invitation to us to sort out the voice of life, from the voices of the forces of limitation, deceit and death. The invitation is to listen afresh to that single voice which will always speak the truth to our lives, leading us towards the Gospel of this Sunday, where the word of God's truth is fully revealed. The word of God's truth is Jesus, he speaks and he is the Word that brings life. He will not be deceived, he will not be tricked, he will not be sold a lie by the “father of lies”. The devil's word, we find, is a lie which brings death. As this Sunday's gospel is proclaimed, we stand strong to hear it addressed to our lives. For in the story of the temptation God speaks strong, life-giving words. Even from the opening chapters of Genesis we are made strong by the God of strength, there we read that God formed; God breathed; God planted; God placed; God made; God commanded. We find that the devil, on the other hand, has no strong verbs like these and is incapable of transforming our lives. He can only talk with cunning and manipulation.

Lent starts with the loving cry of God who walks among his people: *Where are you?* Dare we answer?

Welcome
to St. Andrew's Cathedral,
St Mary, Our Lady of Victories, Forebank
and Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

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The newsletter is available on the parish website and on the Facebook page each week

First Sunday of Lent 26 February 2023

[Liturgy of the Hours Week 1]

Next Sunday: **Second Sunday of Lent in the Year of Matthew**



Our Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel;
Morning Masses at 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 11am in the Cathedral
and 11.15am in St Mary's, Forebank. Evening Mass in the Cathedral at 6pm.

Monday 27 February

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Tuesday 28 February

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Wednesday 1 March

Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel
No Mass in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Thursday 2 March

9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 10am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Friday 3 March

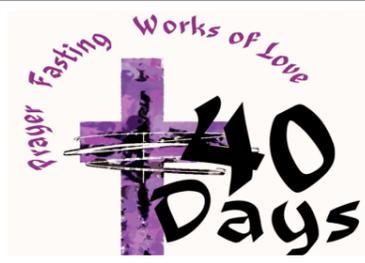
10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Saturday 4 March

Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

We gathered in great numbers across the parishes to celebrate the preparatory rites of Lent on Wednesday past. As the reading from the Prophet Joel said: "call the people together, proclaim an assembly.....assemble the elders, gather the children, even the infants": it was indeed a scene like that in our churches. Hopefully you went home on Ash Wednesday feeling strengthened in the Lord and ready to walk the paschal journey of Lent, embracing the scriptures and the liturgy as a rock of faith during this season.



In particular, I ask you to consider joining us for the **Lenten Day on Saturday 11 March** which I will lead at the Pastoral Centre. It is a Diocesan day, but it would be great to have the presence and support of the people of our own parishes. The details are below, under the heading "Thirsting for light and life?" The day will be held at St Mary's Forebank Church Hall, and will include prayer, song, a celebration of the Eucharist and especially it will be a *delving into* the Gospel of Saint John and the three amazing incidents which he records with great detail and symbolism — those of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Please do consider coming along on the 11th.

A **Cathedral Dinner** for young people aged 18-30 takes place this Sunday 26th, in the Cathedral Hall, after 6pm Mass. Even if you are reading this just before the 6pm Mass on Sunday do come downstairs afterwards.

Confessions in the Cathedral

A set time for Confessions from after Saturday morning Mass until 11.30am has resumed. Also, as far as reasonable, Confession is available on request.



Lenten Liturgies of Reconciliation with a General Absolution

These will take place as follows
Sunday 12 March

- in St Mary's, Forebank at 4pm;
- Thursday 16 March at 7pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel;
- Thursday 30 March at 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral.

Dunkeld Diocesan Choir rehearsals resume this Tuesday 28 February at 7pm in the Cathedral. We will be preparing for the Mass of Christm held on the Wednesday of Holy Week.

There will be

Sung Vespers and Benediction

this Sunday 26 February at 4pm in the Cathedral. Sung Vespers evening prayer is a beautiful and simple liturgy in which you can simply "rest in the Lord" for a while. Please try to keep the Sundays of Lent holy, and come and join us if you can. The singing will be lead by members of the diocesan choir.

Next Sunday, the afternoon service will be in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

There will be **Stations of the Cross** on **Tuesday** this week at 12.15pm in the Cathedral, and then on **Friday** this week at 11am in St Mary's and also on **Friday** at 6pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Cat-Soc—the Universities' Catholic Society — meets this Monday at 6pm for Mass at St Joseph's, Wilkies Lane, then a talk from Sister Roseann Reddy of the Sisters of the Gospel of Life. All students welcome.

The Sunday 11am Solemn Mass in the Cathedral is livestreamed for those unable to attend. It can be accessed through the Dioses of Dunkeld Website

Thirsting for Light and Life?

If so, don't miss our **Diocesan Lenten Day of Renewal and Prayer for parish people** at the Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's Forebank Church Hall on Saturday 11 March.



The graphic above shows images from the Gospel of John: the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and Lazarus emerging from the tomb. These stories are key texts in the fourth gospel and our day together on the 11th will be a fresh opportunity to get to the heart of St John the Evangelist and the transforming power of Jesus which he shows and most importantly *makes available to us* through his Gospel text. Please consider join us at St Mary's from 10am on Saturday 11 March. There is a list at the back of the Church for names.



Parishioners & Friends' Lunch at St Mary's, Forebank after the 11.15am Mass.

Sunday 26 March

I wish to extend a personal invitation to **every one of you** to attend our Parish Lunch in the hall below the church on **Sunday 26th March, 2023 after the 11.15 a.m. Mass.** We worship together and this is a chance for us to come together to enjoy food and conversation and to get to know one another better. In this way we can build up our parish community.

All food and drinks will be provided but if anyone would like to bring a special dish to share with others then please do so. **EVERYONE WILL BE MOST WELCOME** and especially all the children and young people. We have so many people of varied backgrounds and stories: please feel welcome to come and get to know other parishioners and feel part of the parish family.

Congratulations and prayers to Chikamnele Precious and Augustus Ugwoke on their wedding anniversary.

The Broughty Ferry Churches' Lent Bible Study sessions on the Wednesdays of Lent @ 7.30pm - on Zoom. This is an 8-week study on the "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John, using the LifeBuilder study book. Contact Graham Wightman grahamwbarnhill@gmail.com for more details and a Zoom link.

Santa Messa in italiano

per la 1ª domenica di Quaresima
Domenica 26 Febbraio 2023 alle ore 17
St Bride's, Brook Street, Monifieth.
Dundee DD5 4BD

Please pray for those who are sick:

Katie Carpenter, Baby Joshua Hopkins, Joe Dolan, Ann Nicoll, Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Theresa Kay, Heather Moffit, Sonya Rostan, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Steven Kennedy, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

those who have died recently:

Elizabeth Thomson, Douglas Carstairs, Brian Cumiskey, Jenny Beverley, Dorothy McGinley, Teresa Smith, Bill Thomson;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Bernice Griffin, Jack Wilson, Jean and Albert Rodgers, Gretta Quinn, Frank Chaplain, Joseph McGarry, Teresa Coyle, Charlotte McGinness, Sandy Berry, David Stewart, Katherine Whyte; Henry Duffy, Andy Ferrie, John Strachan, David Tosney, Margaret Hutcheon, Monica Singh, John Loftus, Margherita Baillie, Louise Hood; Felim Dougherty, George Reid, Nan Fordyce, Alexander Fordyce.

Day for Life event

A reminder that The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child will hold their annual Day for Life event at the Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, DD1 2PB

SCIAF



will take place at the Cathedral Hall on **Saturday 18 March.**

Please support us by buying a ticket and coming along on the day. Can you help us with raffle prizes and/or home baking?

The **SCIAF materials and boxes for Lent** are now available to collect from the back of the Church.

SCIAF has also prepared a set of **Holy Week reflections** which you may be interested in. If so, please leave your name on the list at the back of the Church.

Finance Matters

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £540 in St Mary's, £525 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £939 in the Cathedral.

I have sent off £1400 to SCIAF through your generous donations to the Turkey/Syria emergency disaster fund.



The women of Taiwan have prepared this year's **World Day of Prayer** service on Friday 3 March.

The Dundee Service will take place in Logie St John Cross Church at 2.30pm; and the Broughty Ferry service will take place in St James' Church of Scotland at 2pm. I shall attend this service.

Everyone will be welcome on Friday.

Dunkeld Serra invite you St Mary's, Lochee, on Tuesday 28 February for a Holy Hour at 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm to pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood.

A date for your diary!

The **Cecilian Choir** will give a **Concert** on Wednesday 22nd March, 7-8pm in St Mary's, Lochee, Church in aid of Renovation Funds. Entry by donation, followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome.