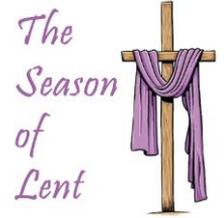




The Catholic Parish of St. Patrick's

Fifth Sunday in Lent 21st March 2021

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5th Sunday of Lent Reflection

As we enter into the second half of our Lenten period, our liturgy focuses on the death of Jesus. He makes reference again to his being "lifted up" as a means of drawing people to Himself. Jesus again strengthens the significance of his death when he gives the analogy of the seed. Just as a seed needs to die (break open its contents), only then can it give life by producing a crop. The analogy here is for the sake of his disciples, with regard to the decisions they need to make in following Jesus' ways. Those who love their life – that is those who make an absolute of what the world can offer, will lose their life. The one who is prepared to let go – to die like the seed – will gain eternal life. In serving Jesus, we find true meaning in life. The meaning and significance of this teaching can be seen in our everyday life. With the cycle of life we "die" to certain stages of life in order to grow and become more fulfilled. If we do not die to our infancy – the years when we are dependent on others for our existence, then we cannot progress into the next stage – our teenage years – years of experimentation and discovery. Our dying to our teenage years allows us to begin our adolescent years, which then give way to our adult years. If we remain in any of these initial stages of life, then our growth is stunted. We can apply this parable to our spiritual lives. Jesus challenges us to recognise that unless we die to self-centredness, jealousy, greed, lust – all that keeps us from God – then we will not grow and bear spiritual fruit. Letting go in order to allow for spiritual growth, based on trust and obedience to God's way. Jesus in this Gospel also makes reference to his "hour" approaching. It is the hour of his glorification but also the hour he dreads. What is it that sustains Jesus in this hour? It is his relationship with God. It is the faith he has in God – that although God has called him to travel along this path, God will sustain him, assist him and glorify him. The next two Sundays draw us even more closely to the mystery of Jesus' passion, death and Resurrection. These days challenge us to see what our response will be – what our level of trust, fidelity and obedience to God's will looks like in our lives. God's will God's will look like in our lives.

Re-opening of Churches takes place this Friday. We will have Mass at 9.30am on Friday and Saturday. Stations of the Cross on Friday 3.15pm. No tickets required.

Masses for next Weekend please call the designated number to book for Mass - **07570726268**.

Times to call are: Mon to Fri 12-2pm & Mon 6-7pm. Please do not leave a voicemail or text. If mobile switched off then all Masses are full.

Please note calls to book for the Triduum will be next Monday, 29th.

Times of Services & Saints Feasts

Tuesday - St. Turibius

Thurs - The Annunciation

Friday

8.30 -9.25am - Exposition
 9:30am - Holy Mass
 3.15pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday - St. Isidore

8.30 -9.25am - Exposition
 9:30am - Holy Mass
 10-10.30am - Confessions
 5.15-5.45pm - Confessions
 6pm - Vigil Mass & Confessions

Sunday 28th March

8:30 - Exposition
 9.30am - Holy Mass & Confessions
 10.45am - Holy Mass & Confessions
 12noon - Holy Mass & Confessions
 4.30pm - Holy Mass & Confessions

Rosary 20minutes before Mass

Thank you for your ongoing generosity. Last weekend's Offertory donations £244 and Pontifical Charities & SCIAF £172.

Please remember Emma McCole who will be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Archbishop Cushley celebrates Sunday Mass at 9.30am every week, please visit <https://archedinburgh.org/watch-sunday-mass-with-archbishop-cushley> to watch.

Lent 2021 Please note there are still resources available at the front door of the chapel house for adults and children including Stations of the Cross; Seven Last Words of Christ and the Meaning of Lent. These resources are also available on the website.

Pro-Life Stations of the Cross

organised by the Archdiocese will take place each Monday evening of Lent at 7:45pm. The Stations will be followed by a short reflection by one of our priests. Register on Eventbrite: standrewsandedinburgh.eventbrite.com

The Archdiocese's INSPIRE series for Lent.

Guest speakers will guide you prayerfully through the season. On Zoom, 7-8pm.

TALK 4: Praying the Passion according to St Mark, with Archbishop Leo Cushley. 7pm, Tue 23 March.

Register: bit.ly/LentCushley

Archdiocesan YouTube channel

If you miss any event from the Archdiocese find it at bit.ly/ArchYouTube. Latest upload is 'Fire & Water: The Power of the Sacraments, a talk by Sr. Anna Marie McGuan.

Easter Cards are available at the front door of the chapel house.

Lilies for the Sanctuary Once again, you are invited to donate white lilies for the chapel this Easter Sunday in memory of loved ones. Please hand them in next Sunday onwards at the chapel or front door of the chapel house.

SCIAF WEE BOX - UPDATE

SCIAF is working with our Partner SEM in South Sudan. Gulliver Ishmael, who works with SEM, spoke to SCIAF last Wednesday via Zoom.

He said: Working with SCIAF means that we can help many communities address the problems associated with disabilities.

There is a lot of exclusion in families and the wider community because of disabilities. SEM is working on policies for inclusion and trying to raise awareness but it takes time to change people's attitudes. This is a slow process but changes are beginning to happen.

Dealing with disabilities is a low priority on the government's budget. This is why SCIAF's support is vital as there are no schools for children with disabilities. They must access education in mainstream schools and often the children come across hostility towards them.

SCIAF will help us break down these barriers by adapting school, providing equipment, training teachers, parents and the wider community and helping us to set up policies for inclusion which will respect people with disabilities.

This year the UK government will double what is raised in the WEEBOX. This doubling will go directly to our project in South Sudan. Please give generously and thank you for all the support you have given in the past.

Gift Aid Envelopes the new financial year begins on April 11th and we have issued envelopes for those who managed to use them during the lockdown. If you did not receive new envelopes through the door would you please use your old envelopes from last year. The date on the envelope is not important but the number on it is what we require. If for whatever reason you cannot use your old envelopes then please contact the chapel house, thank you.

Baptisms. We are starting to take bookings for baptisms. If you would like to book please pick up a Baptismal Pack from the front door of the chapel house or contact one of the priests.

Parish Draw we hope to catch up with the draw on Saturday 24th April. This will give the promoters time to collect any outstanding money due, after the easing of lockdown. Could all monies be handed in by Friday 16th April? Thank you.

Parish Trip/Pilgrimage to West of Ireland this trip was originally booked for September 2020 and rebooked for next month. As anticipated we are unable to travel next month. The trip has been rebooked for September this year. The dates will be confirmed next week. For all those who originally booked, we will reserve your place. If anyone feels they are unsure if they wish to continue with the booking, can you please contact the chapel house, we will be able to return your deposit and travel insurance (if one was purchased).

Spring has almost arrived! Last year four people kindly agreed to volunteer their services to look after our Lord's grounds here at St Patrick's. The grounds are divided into zones which people look after. We could do with a few more volunteers to spread the holy load. It would be great to have the grounds looking good for Easter Sunday. If you could help with the Lord's garden, please contact the chapel house.

Parents Meetings by Zoom This week there will be two meetings for parents with children preparing for the Sacraments Confession; Holy Communion & Confirmation. The link will be sent out by the school, if you do not receive it, please email the chapel house.

Mon 22nd March
- First Confessions 6pm
- First Holy Communion 7pm
Thurs 25th March
- Confirmation 6pm

Human Fraternity for Peace and Unity The Bishops' Conference of Scotland and the Al Ahl Bait Society invite you to this event featuring speakers are Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald and Dr Mohammed Ali Shomali. This is a **follow up to the conference of 01 Feb which marked the signing of the document of Human Fraternity by Pope Francis and Sheikh Al-Azhar.** This Zoom event is on Tuesday 23 March at 6pm. To register visit eventbrite.co.uk and search the event title.

The Parish Minibus will be available on Good Friday for the 12noon Stations of the Cross and the 3pm Passion and Veneration Service. If you would like a lift please contact Anne McAteer on 822500.

Annunciation of Our Lord - Thursday
The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.
Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfils Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38). Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.