

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare Sunday*. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy's opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Extra Opportunities for Confession

Saturday 17th March

St. Bride's: after morning Mass; 4pm to 4.40pm; **St. Thomas':** after morning Mass

Sunday 18th March

St. Anne's: 9.15am to 9.45am; **St. Bride's:** after 11.30am Mass; **St. Thomas':** after 10.45am Mass

Monday 19th March:

St. Thomas': 6 pm to 6.40pm

Saturday 24th March

St. Bride's: after morning Mass; 4pm to 4.40pm; **St. Thomas':** after morning Mass

Sunday 25th March:

St. Anne's: 9.15am to 9.45am; **St. Bride's:** after 11.30am Mass; **St. Thomas':** after 10.45am Mass

Wednesday 28th March:

St. Thomas': after 10am Mass; **St. Bride's:** after 10.30am Mass

Friday 30th March:

St. Anne's: after the 3pm Passion Service

Saturday 31st March:

St. Thomas': after Morning Prayer until 11.30am; **St. Bride's:** after Morning Prayer until 11.30am

Fourth Sunday of Lent

11th March 2018

Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

Diocese of Dunkeld Charity Number SC001810

Parish Clergy

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Welcome to the Coastal Parishes of

St. Thomas', Arbroath;

St. Anne's, Carnoustie

and St. Bride's, Monifieth

Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5 p.m. in St. Bride's

Mass at 10 a.m. in St. Anne's

Mass at 10.45 a.m. in St. Thomas'

Mass at 11.30 a.m. in St. Bride's

Sacrament of Reconciliation—this week

St. Thomas': Monday 6 to 6.30 p.m.

St. Anne's: on request before Sunday Mass

St. Bride's: Saturday 4 to 4.30 p.m.

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 12th March

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; **St. Bride's:** 10.30 a.m.; **St. Thomas':** 7 p.m.

Tuesday 13th March

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; **St. Thomas':** 10 a.m.; **St. Bride's:** 10.30 a.m.

Wednesday 14th March

St. Anne's: NO MASS TODAY!; **St. Thomas':** 10 a.m.;
St. Bride's: 10.30am Funeral Mass for Susan Chalmers RIP; **St. Mary's Home:** 6.30 p.m.

Thursday 15th March

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; **St. Thomas':** 10 a.m.; **St. Bride's:** 10.30 a.m.

Friday 16th March

St. Anne's: 9.30 a.m.; **St. Thomas':** 10 a.m.; **St. Bride's:** 10.30 a.m.

Saturday 17th March *Feast of St. Patrick*

St. Bride's: 9.30 a.m.; **St. Thomas':** 10 a.m.

Stations of the Cross

St. Bride's: Friday at 5.30 p.m.; **St. Anne's on Sunday at 4 p.m.;**

St. Thomas': 30 mins before each weekday Mass.

Please pray for those who are sick: Bishop Vincent Logan, Jane Higgins, George Hill, Eddie Lebida, Jessie Low, Alison Oakes, Debbie McArthur, Baby Isobel McCaskey, George Kelbie, Cathie McLean, Ailsa McIntosh, James McDonald, John McKee, Laura Bennett, Robert Meikle, Cathie Walls, Duane Joseph, Father Luke Fong, Frank Osborne, Annie McCormack, Marie Fenton, William Docherty, Annie McKenzie, Helen Lukas, Joan and Mick Gartland, Janet Howie, Helen Blyth, Moira Fallone, Irene Burton, Rea Beattie, Norma McAra, Riley Johnston, Marion Jones, David Allardice, Adam Rennie, Margaret Spink, Tom Tait, Ina Stuart, Teresa Ritchie, Kim Scott, Gerard Lukas, Frances Toshney, Isabel Carroll, Peggy McGhee, Wendy Wilcox, Marjorie Robson (Bishop Stephen's mother), Vera Swifte, Craig and Kerry McFadyen, Father Jim McCrudden, Father Andrew Clark, Carine Hill, Bernard Colvin, Sister Marie Claver LSP and Brian Duncan, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Mgr. Kenneth McBride, Baby Emily Irvine.

those who have died recently: Susan Chalmers

and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Marie Marshall, David Forsyth, Margaret Donnelly, Frances McDonald, Annie Grew, Horton Canale, Cecilia Paterson, Maureen Butterfield, Leona Quinn, Margaret Torbet, Patrick Farnan, Antonia Olive, Jim McQuaid, John Fleming, Mary Trainer, William Marnie, Flora Eyres, John Ferrie, Michael McBride, Aimee Boyle, Marie Lee, Liam Cashman, John Murphy, Monica Filed, James Fagan, William McKenzie, Ann McNally, Agnes Beaton, Jack Field, Marie Gowans.



Holy Hour and Healing Service at 7 p.m. (adoration ends after the Holy Hour)

Quarante'Ore 40 Hours Adoration at St. Thomas'

Sunday 18th March:

Solemn Exposition begins after 10.45a.m. Mass.
Holy Hour for Vocations at 4 p.m.
Night Prayer at 8 p.m. (adoration ends)

Monday 19th March:

Exposition begins with Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 8.30 a.m.
Stations of the Cross at 11.30 a.m.
Mass at 12 noon
Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m.

Tuesday 20th March:

Exposition begins with Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 8.30 a.m.
Stations of the Cross at 11.30 a.m.
Mass at 12 noon
Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m.
Closing Holy Hour at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments in the church hall.

The Church will be decorated in the traditional way for the Forty Hours' adoration. If you would like to have a candle burn for your family during the time of adoration, or contribute toward the cost of flowers, please place your donation in an envelope marked "40 Hours' Adoration" and leave in the sacristy or hand to one of the priests.

St. Bride's Fairtrade Pancake Breakfast will now take place next Sunday after 11.30am Mass in the hall. *COME ON IN* is the theme for this year's Fairtrade fortnight. This year we are supporting the farmers and workers who grow our food, and all proceeds will go to SCIAF. Fairtrade has the power to change the world every day. It opens doors and helps people grow too.

Lenten Soup and Rolls in St. Anne's on the Sundays of Lent after 10 a.m. Mass. Funds raised will be donated to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Many thanks for your continued generosity in the parishes. The offertory collections last Sunday were: £584 in Monifieth, £324 in Carnoustie and £410 in Arbroath.

This weekend there will be a special collection for the Papal and Episcopal Charities which includes SCIAF

St Patrick's Night—Saturday 17th March
Tickets are now on sale for this exciting social evening. Entertainment from the St. Bride's Folk Group. Tickets cost £7 (including buffet) and are available from Eddie Mahoney 01382 532007 or any member of the St. Bride's Social Group.

CHOIR FOR EASTER TRIDUUM: Misia Paul writes: "Rehearsals will take place on **Mondays 12th, 19th and 26th March at 7pm in St Anne's.** Please bring music folders and I will give you any changes and new music at the rehearsal. Musicians, if you could make the last rehearsal that would be great. If not, feel free to attend any of the others. Looking forward to working with you all."

Adoration: There will be adoration in St. Anne's on **Friday 16th March** from after Mass until 12noon.

St. Anne's Curry Night Following on from the success of the last one, it is proposed to hold another Curry Night in St. Anne's on 18 May. More details soon!

JOB VACANCIES AT ST. MARY'S HOME CARETAKER

The Diocese of Dunkeld's Care Home – St Mary's based at 39 Panmure Street, Monifieth is looking to employ a part time general handyperson. The person must be capable of working to a high standard with good general DIY skills and be physically fit.

Approximately 24 hours per week, over 4 days. Hourly rate £7.85 per hour.

CARE ASSISTANT

St Mary's also has a vacancy for a part time Care Assistant. Hours vary from 16 hours per week to 30 hours per week working early shifts and late shifts. Ideally you will have had previous Care experience and an appropriate SVQ qualification. If not, you must be prepared to work towards the qualification. Rate of pay is £8.45 per hour.

If interested in either job please visit www.stmaryscarehome.co.uk the link to download an application form is on the home page. Send or hand into our office at Panmure Street, Monifieth DD5 4EG.

Or call the manager—Sheena Renton on 01382 533375 for further information.

Easter Banquet: The lists for items required for the post Easter Vigil Banquet are on the noticeboards. Please sign up if you can help.

The Primary 4 children from St. Thomas' Primary will make their First Confession in St. Thomas' Church on **Tuesday 13th March at 6 p.m.**

The Easter Triduum

29 March—I April

The greatest mysteries of the redemption are celebrated yearly by the Church beginning with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ending with Easter Sunday. This time is called "the Triduum of the crucified, buried and risen". Please plan now to participate as best you can in the Triduum. This Sunday you will receive the schedule of services for Holy Week and the Triduum.