DIOCESE OF DUNKELD **18 JULY 2021**
Scottish Charity No: - SC001810 **16TH SUNDAY – Year B**

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF
ST FERGUS, FORFAR & ST ANTHONY'S, KIRRIEMUIR
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SUNDAY MASSES
Vigil Mass on Saturday – 6.00pm
Sunday - 11.15am

WEEKDAY MASSES
Wednesday 9.30am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Immediately after Mass
Thursday 9.30am

Saturday 4.30 – 5.30pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation, or on request

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DEAR VISITORS, if you would like to help our small parish, you can do this by "Gift-Aiding" your collection to us today. If you are a tax payer, simply put your offering in the envelopes provided in the church porch and complete your name, address and date. We will then receive an additional **25p** per **£1.00** of your offering which would make a big difference to us. Many thanks.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2021 – 25TH July: THEME - *I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS*

On January 31st, 2021, Pope Francis announced a new celebration in honour of all grandparents and the elderly, who are so important to our communities. This new World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July. The Vatican has already released Pope Francis' message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Copies of this message will be provided for pick up at the back of our churches next Sunday. Pope Francis has also granted a plenary indulgence to grandparents, the elderly and all those who participate in a solemn celebration of this day as well as to those who spend time (actually or virtually) with an elderly brother or sister in need on this day. Hope all would take advantage of this Papal Spiritual blessing next Sunday.

DUNKELD DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

As the diocese is unable to go to Lourdes this year due to Covid, a video has been made by the Yellow T Shirts which may be of interest to some of you who have previously been on the Lourdes pilgrimage. Here is the link to the video: ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1cAlEsHwko***

LIFTING THE COVID LOCKDOWN

As you may already know, the First Minister has announced that all parts of the country will move to level zero on Monday 19th July. From this date the 2m physical distancing rule for places of worship, and other indoor spaces will be reduced to 1m. Congregational singing is permitted in levels 0 and 1 so parishes that aren't already in either of these levels can 'enjoy' congregational singing once more. As a result, the tapes limiting people to 2m sittings in the churches will be removed and the hymn books brought back so that people can pick them up for singing during the liturgy. Booking for Sunday Masses will no longer be necessary but names will still be taken on arrival for track and trace purposes. But please, note that face coverings must still be worn in churches.

A GOD WHO CARES

One of the most striking aspects of the gods of ancient peoples is that they inspired fear. It's a common feature in these ancient deities that they had to be avenged. They were a moody lot. So it was quite common for some enormous sacrifice to be made in order to appease them and prevent them from venting their spleen on those who were unfortunate enough to be their subjects and followers.

When Moses came back down the mountain it must have come as a relief to the Hebrews to find out what sort of God they had made a deal with. One who would keep them under his thumb or one who would let them grow?

People who don't believe in God often find it necessary to lampoon the God they don't believe in. So they invent a ludicrous image and then proceed to knock it down with either sarcasm or humour.

Christians would probably be content with a God who as creator was responsible for the wonderful world we live in and for the gift of life that we all enjoy. If we could have a God who was also just and not given to flights of angry vengeance then that would be a bonus. To have a God who took time off from holding the universe together and occasionally showed that he knew of our world's existence would be like winning the lottery.

Of course, having a God who was personally interested in each of us would presumably be out of the question? Surely God has got more important things to do than be concerned about me as an individual with all my likes and dislikes, my wants and needs?

So when God speaks in today's scripture about shepherding his flock and taking care of them, and when Jesus feels sorry for his listeners and takes pity on them for they're like sheep without a shepherd, what's going on? Is it a lie? A joke? Or do I need to look again at the type of God we've got?

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