

St Columba's Dove

2020



A message from Arthur McEwan

Christmas Covid

We have heard—everybody is saying Christmas will be very different this year due to the Covid restrictions, but that might be a good thing. We are unlikely to be running around shops doing the Christmas shopping and arranging to have gifts sent to family instead of the usual get together on Christmas Day. Perhaps it will make us think of Christmas and the real gift we are given by God—HIS SON!

He sent us his son to give us hope and love so in a way Christmas will be no different this year, but without the commercial aspect. which is another gift and will hopefully highlight the real meaning of Christmas.

From the editors

This year there has not been the the same amount of contributions to the DOVE so we thought it would be a good opportunity to revisit old Doves from 1988 onwards. These Doves do contain articles from people who are now sadly no longer with us. However it is right that they are remembered fondly in our Parish and we enjoy their thoughts now as we did 20 to 30 years ago.

The Dove started as part of the Renew programme in 1988 and became a style of life in the Parish for many years and its legacy is still around within many of the founder members of Renew in St Columba's.

In the pages that follow we have interesting articles about the History of the Catholic Church in Dundee and a Father Mark article from 1990.

On the opposite page is the first ever Dove from 1988 and it gives us a real feel for what Renew meant for St Columba's and in the pages that follow what a real Buzz there was in the Parish back then.

Thank you to the people that contributed this year.

Well, “that was the year that wasn’t” to misquote an old programme. This has been a strange year for all of us. In the Church we have had to look at new ways of staying in touch and new ways of being safe when we come into contact with one another – very much like every other family.

We know that community is a vital part of our life as Christians – it is how we remain alive in Christ. During Lockdown I was amazed at the ways in which family members helped the technologically less well versed or less inclined to ‘get online’ and ‘stay connected’, particularly in terms of the Church: Families recognising how much the Church means for people through the generations and that staying part of that family of the Church is important. For some, these ‘virtual’ connections with the Church remain important as they continue to isolate.

I am so grateful to all those who have helped us remain connected as a community and witnessing as a community: my fellow priests for their ingenuity and enthusiasm in facing and overcoming the various difficulties that have faced us; those who delivered food to people in need and thereby giving witness to a Church that cared. In our return to the communal worship we have relied on our stewards who, week by week, have selflessly devoted their time in sanitising the church buildings after each Liturgy and cleaning the churches thoroughly. And although we have limited participation in the Liturgy, we are still indebted to our liturgy organisers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers and musicians who help give us a sense of the dignity of our liturgies.

I also have to thank all those who have thought of new ways of ensuring that our favourite charities are supported: the appeals and sales of different goodies for SCIAF, Seafarers and Mary’s Meals have meant that these charities have still benefitted from your generosity. Those who are attending Sunday Masses, as well as many who are still not able to return, have also ensured that our parishes are well supported.

I know that I can speak for my two colleagues when I say that we have been touched and really buoyed up by your concern for us and how we are coping in these changed times.

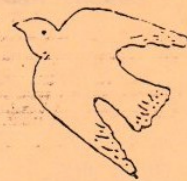
I would also like to pay tribute to many who have been able to have little or no contact with the Church and whose life of faith continues. One lady in a telephone call told me that she had no internet and therefore could not receive anything that the parish was doing in terms of Masses or reflections, “But”, she said, “I am saying my rosary every day and praying for you all”. So many silent witnesses praying before God for us!

And so we look to the future – a new and different future. We will continue to move ahead in our community of three churches. We will not return to ‘normal’ having ‘survived’ this time. We are looking to thrive as communities: finding ways of inviting people back when we are fully open again; merging some of what we used to do and the ways in which we did them, with what we have learned and the new ways we have learned to reach people.

We look to the future with confidence for we are the people called by God and God will not fail us!

Father Mark

The DOVE



ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to this first issue of St. Columba's Parish Newsletter. Why "The Dove"? Well, apart from a Dove being the traditional symbol of St. Columba, the Holy Spirit assumed the form of a dove to pass on the good news of Christ's message to the faithful - and that is what we aim to do in this publication, pass on the good news. News about RENEW, news about forthcoming events, news about people in our parish, - it's all going to be here. But WE can only function as long as YOU tell us what's going on. So if you hear any interesting tales or snippets of information - no matter how trivial they may seem - we want to know about them. Don't hesitate to phone Arthur McEwan (815395), or Brian Petrie (89959) so that we can pass on the good news. Remember, if you read it in "The Dove", you can truthfully say a little bird told you!

WHAT IS RENEW?

RENEW is a spiritual renewal process to help parishioners develop a closer relationship with Christ, to make an adult commitment to Jesus as central in their lives and to open them to the power of the Holy Spirit so that they become more authentic witnesses.

Well that is a definition of RENEW, but what does it mean to us in the parish of St. Columba in Magdalene Kirkton? In our RENEW process over the next two and a half years or so we should hope to reach a better understanding of what it means to be a member of a community sent by Jesus to continue HIS work in the world. It is hoped that we, the people in the pews of our fine church building, will begin to see ourselves as God's pilgrim people who share the responsibility for the ministries and mission of church. RENEW is not an adult education programme or an instant emotional turn-around. It is a three year, step-by-step process of renewal and conversion. RENEW is designed to call for change which affects our values, our view of life, our view of God, Jesus and the Catholic Church.



The WORD OF GOD is at the heart of RENEW. We must learn to experience the presence of the Lord in His Word. We, Catholics, are slowly re-discovering that presence and it is not easy. We often feel we are ignorant about the Bible. We feel the need for updating and training in how to put the Word of God back into our lives. RENEW was designed to help us do just that. RENEW helps people to speak publicly about their faith, about God, Jesus and the Church.

Denis M. Naulty
Co-ordinator

MEET THE TEAM

CO-ORDINATOR	Denis Naulty,
EVALUATION	Brian McQueen,
PRAYER NETWORK	Mrs. Jackie Wilson
SMALL GROUPS	Charlie Kean,
LARGE GROUP	Parish Council
TAKE HOME	Mrs. Bunty Kenny,
HOME VISITS	Eddie McCabe,
PUBLICITY	Arthur McEwan,
LITURGY	John Mansi.
SIGN-UP) SUNDAY)	Parish Council

RENEW Prayer

Almighty Father
in your loving goodness
you continuously renew your world
and care for the people you have created.
Teach us how to listen to your voice,
help us to answer your call each day,
and give us the assurance
of the power and gentle strength
of your Spirit,
that we may be gathered into true community
as the disciples of Jesus
and be of his mind and heart.
Form us into a people
committed to the mission of Jesus
that your Church may serve his world
and share his reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



GOSPEL OF THE POOR

During our Sunday Masses this year we will listen to the Gospel of St. Luke. We will hear a gospel which will speak to us of great joy among people. It will speak of those who are poor listening to Jesus and hearing what God has to say to them in their lives. They are the people whom others despise and reject as being worthless and not worthy of God's love. But these are the very people that St. Luke will tell us that God does love and that He calls to be his friends.



The Christmas story in Luke is like that too: for St. Luke there are no Kings to bring precious gifts for the child, there are only shepherds who worship and adore. The shepherds are 'unworthy' in the sight of other people, but they are seen by God as precious. God calls them to join in the celebration of this birth and they respond with great joy. Such a joy that they want to go and share it with everyone they meet.

The shepherds adore the child: they come into the presence of the Mother of God, the one who called herself the 'lowly handmaid', the servant of God. They see the girl who lived among the poor in Nazareth, but who in her poverty was also able to hear God speaking to her and was able to respond to God with all her heart, doing whatever it would be that He asked of her. They see Joseph: the one who will care and protect this Mother and child, while probably not understanding everything that is going on, but willing to trust in the power of God.

They see this King who has not been born in a palace, the son of a King and Queen, but born among animals, born as an outcast of society, unrecognised by people who consider themselves better than others.

The shepherds do not have very much education, but they tell the story in their own words, speaking of what they had seen and what they had felt, the story of how Jesus had come into their lives and what God had done for them.

Throughout the Gospel of Luke this year we will see the same thing repeated over and over again: it will be those who seem to be nothing in the world who will hear God speaking to them. The ones whom others find it difficult to love will be the ones who will be showered with the love of God, and in that love they will be transformed: their lives will be turned around and they will be the ones who will show God's love and salvation to others.

As we gather round to hear the Gospel, we will be challenged to do the same. We may not be as poor as the shepherds, we may not be considered as outcasts of our society, but still we are asked to listen to God's word, to be challenged by it and to let it turn our lives around. Then we will be seen as people who have been loved by God and will become people who can show God's love and salvation to others. We can go and speak of what we have seen and what we have felt, the story of how Jesus has come into our lives and what God has done for us.

Father Mark.



To Mr. Robert Sharma of Sharma Brothers Spar Food-store in Haldane Avenue, who generously donated the drink for the Senior Citizens' party. It went down a treat.

100 Club

I'm sure that you are already aware that St. Columba's have been given permission to plan for a church hall. To achieve this aim certain fund raising activities will have to be instigated.

As one such method of raising cash, it has been suggested that the 100 Club donation be raised to 20p per number. As the amount of money raised will be doubled so too will the prize money - to £10 per week. The remainder of the cash would be split between the parish council and the church hall fund. On two occasions in the year, Easter and the Sunday preceding Christmas day, the prize will be £20.

The parish council understands that several people have more than one number and the increase in costs would be rather expensive. It is hoped, however, that they will retain one or two numbers and the rest can be offered to other members of the parish.

The new format will begin on the first suitable Sunday in 1992.

Over the years the 100 Club has been the only real source of income for the parish council and your generous support has been greatly appreciated. We sincerely hope you will continue to support us in the future.

The DOVE



ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF "THE DOVE". WHO SAID IT WOULDN'T LAST? NOW THAT THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER AND WE'RE PHYSICALLY RENEWED, LET'S LOOK AHEAD WITH ANTICIPATION TO OCTOBER AND THE START OF OUR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL.

WE PLAN TO KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED OF EVERYTHING THAT IS GOING ON IN **RENEW**, AND IN RETURN WE ASK TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE PARISH, SO THAT WE CAN INCLUDE IT IN THE NEWSLETTER. PHONE ARTHUR McEWAN(815395)/BRIAN PETRIE(89959).

A PRAYER FOR RENEW



Lord God,
Renew within us
the personal call of Jesus
to follow him given to us
at our baptism.
Enable us to respond
to that call by committing
ourselves to a greater trust
in your love as we continue
our journey towards you.
Now Renew us by the power
of your Holy Spirit
to act justly, love tenderly
and walk humbly with you.
Encourage us to follow
in the footsteps of Jesus
your Son; so that we can
be true witnesses
to the Good News.
We, in the Diocese of Dunkeld,
ask you to open our hearts
that we may see what hope
your call holds for us.
May our Lady of Good Aid
be with us as we try
to play our part
in your work of renewing
the face of the earth.

THEMES AND AIMS OF RENEW

Last week we defined RENEW and looked at what it would mean to us. Here, we look at how the aims of RENEW will be carried out by the average worshipper in the pews of St. Columba's.

SUNDAY MASS is the centre-piece of RENEW. When Season One begins on Sunday 9th Oct., 1988, the Sermon or Homily will be delivered on the Theme "God calls us as individuals and says we are loved". The material given out at Mass that day should be TAKEN HOME, read and reflected on - it will also be tied up with the Theme of the Sermon. THE SMALL GROUPS of up to ten parishioners who volunteer to meet in a house or houses across the parish area will pray and reflect and share this same Theme. The 'take home' material will be dropped through the letter-boxes of those parishioners unable to get to Sunday Mass in our Church for various reasons and they will be invited to share their prayers, said at home, also on the Theme of the first Sunday of Season One of RENEW in St. Columba's parish. Thus a PRAYER NETWORK will be strung across the parish shared by those who can get to church to pray and those who cannot.

The Theme will change for the second Sunday of Season One of RENEW, on 16th October,



to "God calls us in our difficulties and says, 'I will heal you'." Exactly the same will happen as for the first Sunday - the remaining four Sundays (23rd Oct., 30th Oct., 6th Nov., 13th Nov.,) will also have different Themes but these will be spread and shared, reflected upon and prayed about in exactly the same way as described for the first Sunday.

Other things will happen in Season One of RENEW in our parish of St. Columba - but these are important parts of the spiritual growth and development of the parish.... a primary aim of RENEW.

Denis M. Naulty Co-ordinator

Bibles that are falling apart are usually read by people that aren't.

DIARY OF EVENTS

18 SEPT.	SIGN-UP SUNDAY.
25 SEPT.	DIOCESAN LAUNCH IN CAIRD HALL.
02 OCT.	PRAYER COMMITMENT SUNDAY.
09 OCT.	SEASON 1 WEEK 1
16 OCT.	SEASON 1 WEEK 2
23 OCT.	SEASON 1 WEEK 3
30 OCT.	SEASON 1 WEEK 4
06 NOV.	SEASON 1 WEEK 5
13 NOV.	SEASON 1 WEEK 6

What's going on in a parish? Bill Hutton lets us into the world of carpet bowls.



I was invited to join the carpet bowling at St Leonards hall. The bowling was organized by Alex Leonard and Benny Robertson who did a great job laying the carpets which was hard work so i volunteered to give them a hand. We met every Monday, bowling started at one p.m but Alex Benny and myself met at 12.30 to roll the carpets down.

There was two carpets, four to a team so most days there was about 16 people their mostly older and some not so steady on their feet! It was a good social and fitness afternoon and finished about three o clock.

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus we had to stop in march but hopefully we can start again some time in the future age and fitness permitting.

We also had a social evening about twice a year a meal normally in the Birkie Inn with a £1 a week paid to our treasurer Benny who was not slow to remind you if you forgot to pay!

Father Neil was invited to our meal and enjoyed it maybe it saved him cooking his own for a change.

Mike Wood tells us about Becoming a 'Musician' The Hard Way
or Make the most of Your Opportunities

Most of my cousins were musical either playing piano or violin and I was quite envious. When I was growing up there was no opportunity for me to attend music lessons as there were no instruments available for me to play when I was growing up.

When I was fifteen I joined the Sea Cadets and was taught how to play the bugle but only a couple of calls and some marches.

I joined the Navy as an apprentice and was sent to HMS Figard in Torpoint Cornwall for basic trade training.

When I joined HMS Figard one of my aims I had was to join the band. At the first opportunity I went to the band room and asked to join, I was told, very abruptly, "If you can't play you can't join". I was not happy!

When we finished our basic training and moved to HMS Condor Arbroath, I tried the same tactic at the band room with the identical result "If you can't play you can't join."

Shortly after this there was a request for buglers I decided, in my wisdom, that I was good enough and volunteered, how wrong I was. My first task was divisions and I hit the wrong note and could not work out what was wrong I made such a mess of it doing the same thing twice the Commander was not amused, I expected to lose the job. The Commander did not accept poor performance but had his own thoughts on rectification. Fortunately for me the Commander believed in making the offender work to improve their performance so I was not given the push. Instead I was sent for lessons, in my own time. Gibby Gibb was a civilian who was responsible for the musical training of the band gave the lessons. He was an excellent teacher with a wealth of experience and within a couple of weeks I was proficient, not only did he teach me all the important calls but more importantly also how to have the right tone. I became a reasonable bugler eventually becoming the silver bugler.



Buglers went on parade with the band, as we were forming up for one parade the Marine Band Sergeant came to me and said, " There are too many buglers today take the tenor horn". I told him I couldn't play it so he told me to pretend to blow and waggle the valves, I felt quite stupid. As we marched I saw this could be an opportunity and I decided to put it to the test.

At the next band practice I sat down in the horn section and waited to be told to leave, which didn't happen. I blew the horn and waggled the valves as if I knew what I was doing. There was a petty officer sitting next to me who 'nudged' me and said " What the ***** are you doing. I confessed and he took me under his wing and taught me the valves, by numbers and how the music worked. From that time I very gradually, became reasonably proficient. Over the years I progressed to solo horn, still playing by numbers, I also played baritone horn and trombone as required by the bands I played in at various ships, all land bases are ships.

Nearing the end of the time at Arbroath one of the petty officers, on course, tried to start a dance band so I tried to play trumpet with little success, though only second trumpet.

My first draft, as an AA5, was to HMS Gannet at Eglinton in Northern Ireland.

I approached Doug Wilkie who was the leader of the dance band to see if I could join but he said they had enough trumpet players. Probably just as well as I was not very good.

My first leave was spent in Dundee, where Sheila was living with her parents. My father in law and I often went out for a couple of drinks together. On one of our outings we met an English chap and my father in law invited him to come home for lunch. While we were chatting it turned out that he was playing double bass in a local ballroom. I knew that the bass player at Eglinton had just been drafted so I saw another opportunity. I was cheeky enough to ask him to give me some lessons, to my surprise he agreed I had a lesson a day and an hour of practice for the remainder of my leave.

On returning from leave I offered my new found services to Doug Wilkie and he said that when I had repaired the bass I could play it. The previous player had put his foot through it!

I repaired the bass and I joined the band. The first job was to be my unpaid audition, which was playing for the local RAF sergeant's mess. We were booked from 20h00 until 23h00. After repeated requests to play on we eventually stopped at 06h00. All my fingers on my right hand were bleeding but halfway through the night Doug told me that I would be paid and I was officially in the band.

Much later when I was at Lossiemouth I had double bass lessons with the local music teacher and joined her orchestra playing light classics. Every member was a pupil of hers ranging from thirty to twelve years of age.

In 1967 we moved to South Africa where I joined the local light orchestra which gave monthly concerts and put on operettas. Despite my lack of musical knowledge I was asked to be deputy conductor.

Later I played for jazz bands, the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra and more dance bands. My last band was The Golden City Jazz Band playing strictly New Orleans Jazz in and around the Johannesburg area and as far afield as Botswana.

I now play trombone, bass and harmonica for my own amusement I still feel a sense of achievement when I manage to make progress. I am still playing by numbers.

Mike Wood

TAE THE WIFIES From Eddie McCabe

Some time ago, the Parish Council was looking for ideas for entertainment in the hall. Christmas had gone, Burn's Nite was past and nothing was suitable for Valentines Day. What they wanted was something different and - they got it - a Magonagall Nite. It would be run along the lines of a Burn's Nite with some subtle differences, ie. Dumpling instead of Haggis and some 'excuses' for poetry. There was talks, toasts and addresses then finishing off with a sing-song. IT WAS A FUN NITE.

I was 'invited' to do the Toast to the Wifies -- so **here** is what I put them through:-

Oh ye wifies o' the toon, wie flaxen hair or black or red or broon,
Whit dae ye hae that maks men turn an' gape?
Well, first of a' - yer a different shape,
Ye wifies o' the toon.

Then ye hae that wee bit somethin', they say it's nature in perfection,
And if we had one whit o' sense would we head in your direction?,
We somehow get transfixed, - wie yer poise, yer charm, yer smile,
And we hing about fir mair - when we shud hae ran a mile - frae ye wifies o' the toon.

When you were jist wee lassies - ye were made o' sugar an' spice,
We were made o' slugs an' snails an' that wiz sumthin' no sae nice.
But then came natures cheenges an' ye thrilled us boys tae bits -
But eh remember through to skail years - ye were a bunch o' tell-tale tits.

We behaved like normal laddies, cheeky faced an' young,
But it didnae metter one wee bit - "Plees Miss, he's sticking oot ees tongue."
"Plees Miss, thirs paper in the inkwell." or "Thirs chewnie on meh chair."
"Arthur's reading a comic, Miss." an' " Dave McQueen's jist pulled meh hair."
(O ye lassies at the skail.)

Well, we studied hard at history, an' maths, an' ither 'joys'
But nature soon decreed - yer interest lay in boys.
The furtive glances started an' the meetin's that werenae meant,
Then saits the-gither on the bus - anither accident?
(O ye lassies frae the skail)

The next few years - they wir a' about yer work, yer play, yer dances,
an' comparin' wie yer girl freends - yer on an' aff romances.
Wiz it ever sayed "Eh've split wie Bill , becuz that man's a beast,
Or - "How ir things atween you an' John?" "Ach , He's awa tae be a Priest"

And then one nicht ye meet the man wha wiz tae cheenge yer life.
Ye somehow got this feelin' 'Em goin' tae be his wife'
So then ye started coortin' - ye wir seen a' place the-gither,
An' now that things wir serious -- He got tae meet yer Mither!

And then one nicht ye caught him, - fir in a sudden rush o' passion,
He threw caution tae the wind an' He sayed "Eh think yer smashin"
He didnae say " let's try the anatomical juxta-position of two orbicular oris muscles
in a state of contraction" just to impress his miss.
But a' that means in Dundee twang is - c'mon Hen gies a kiss.

Then soon, the big day -it arrees when ye hiv tae cheenge yer name,
(on a day United wisna playin' at hame)
You wir a' dressed up jist like a royal queen,
an' proud o' him cuz he looked clean.
(fir his wifie o' the toon)

Well ye get yer ane wee hoosie an' ye keep it spic an' span,
An' ye dae that wee bit extra jist tae please yer man.
An' life the now is bliss - jist like days of sun an' clover,
An' on it goes like this - 'til the **honeymoon is over.**

Then one day ye gie him some news an' ye hope that he'll be glad,
Eh wiz it the doc's the day an' yer gayin 'tae be a dad.
Jings, crivvens, help ma boab, he wonders whit he's done,
But then he struts about the living room wie his belly pulled right in.

A few months pass, your time is due - He still struts aboot,
But while he hauds his belly in - Yours is sticking oot.
An' yer a bit depressed an' close tae tears until he taks yer hand,
An' he whispers that he luvs ye yet - an' you thought he didnae understand. (AAAHH)

Well it a' goes well an' soon yer hame wie yer daughter or yer son,
Though some are gluttons fir punishment - an' come hame wie mair than one.
An' soon a' the females gither roond and like female relatives do
They git richt doon tae basics wie - Goo Goo or Coochy Coo. (I'll get murdered fir this)

As time goes by yer role will cheenge - yer no jist ca'ad the 'wife',
Yer ca'ad Mum or Gran or Auntie, thats jist the wie o' life,
You'll probably be a Mither-in-law, the butt o' mony jokes,
But e'll tell ye this much, eh'd rither dance wie you - than blokes.

Remember a' they pet names ye ca'ad yer man on dates?
Well perhaps ye've got a new thing - nicknames fir his mates.
Like Charlie, me an' Neil - three real nice blokes surely,
But tae Mrs. Fyffe - wer'e Larry, Mo an' Curly.

Actually - Eh wiz on the phone tae Mrs. Fyffe jist yaisterday,
Eh wiznae sayin' very much - 'That's 'cause Eh wiz listenin' beh the wae.
So Eh thought eh'd cheenge the subject an' here's the point of note,
"is yer dumplin' nearly ready yet?" She says "He's pittin on ees coat!"

Eh wonder if a' you lads think you've got a quiet Missus ?
Well - Eh'll enlighten one o' ye - an' this is true this is.
Eh wiz workin' at Roseangle and Eh pulled a fuse right out
Eh cut aff Sylvia's computer Brian an' ye should hiv heard her shout! (Oh - ye hiv?)

Em sure ye hae fond memories, an' us blokes dae as well,
So, jist fir you thirs ane o' mine that I am goin' tae tell.
Eh wiz niver late fir skail - o' that I hiv tae boast,
Fir Eh wiz aye up early - cuz Eh heard mum scrape the toast!

Of course some o' ye ir no merried yet, yer mibby livin' wie yer mum,
an' if ye really want a man - Em sure yer time will come.
But until' then , when yer friends ask when? - ye adopt a strong defensive voice,
"Wie blokes like Eddie, Neil an' John, - Em really spilt fir choice!"

Thirs some men tae wha irna merried, an' they dinna seem tae worry
Tae git themselves a wife an' kids - they're no in any hurry.
They jist drift alang frae day to day - like me - a single manny
Eh dinnae hae a girl the noo - but cude yais a sugar granny!

Some o' ye answered the call - and went tae become the Sisters,
Jist anither wie o' sayin' -- "We'll no be wantin' misters".
They mind the church an' see that iverythin' goes fine,
But iv ye want tae see thir ither side -- jist try steppin' oot o line!

Em sure ye ken this is no a' true - an' thit Eh am only joking,
An' it's jist becuz we're real good friends that at youse the fun Em pokin'
Though mibye Eh kin see -- a "e'll-get-you-later look"
So Em hopin' that the nixt wee bit will get me aff the hook.

Us guys would like to say to youse - as oor partin' shot,
We're sorry aboot the anniversaries, an' a'thin else that we forgot,
an' it wisna done on purpose, they wir errors way back then,
An' deep doon we ken we are forgiven - cuz efter a' we're only men!

So stand up lads - an' charge yer glasses,
an' we'll drink a toast tae these lovely lasses.
Tae a' ye wifies in the hall,

We wish ye well - we love yiz all -----

Here's tae - 'OOR WIFIES O' THE TOON'

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW

Usually, when in Aviemore, after wandering up the hill and entering the local Parish Church of St.Aidan's, my attention was always drawn to the big tapestry which is dedicated to Our Lady of the Snow. To my mind this was assumed to be just another title of Our Blessed Mother along the lines of The Litany of Our Lady, that was until I recently read a little article about the dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

The Basilica was erected in 431AD just after the Council of Ephesus in which the Doctrine of Mary the Mother of God was proclaimed. Santa Maria Maggiore (St. Mary Major), stands atop one of the seven hills of Rome - the Esquiline and is also known as 'Santa Maria ad Nives', or St. Mary of the Snow, and is the oldest church in the west to be dedicated to Mary. The dedication of the Basilica is marked on the 5th August.

It is said that Mary herself chose this location for the Church to be erected in her honour by causing snow to fall on the spot in the height of the Italian summer. The legend goes that a rich, pious couple were contemplating donating some money and property to the church. One night in August, 358AD, Our Lady appeared in the dreams of both the Senator and the Pope, Sixtus III, asking them to build her a Basilica on the spot where snow would fall that night. The next day, miraculously, amid the searing heat of high summer, they found a patch of snow on the Esquiline Hill. Since then Our Lady has been venerated in Italy as 'St. Mary of the Snow'.



Inside the Basilica can be found a silver reliquary said to contain a few remnants of the actual manger in which Christ was laid at his birth. These were spirited away from the Holy Land by Christians fleeing the Muslim conquest sometime in the 7th century. The silver reliquary itself resembles an ordinary crib and carries an image of the infant Jesus which, as you would expect is highly venerated during the Christmas Liturgies. On Christmas morning, after a procession, the Sacred Relic is exposed on the high altar.



Another treasure of the Church must surely be the Icon, 'Salus Populi Romani' - (health/or/salvation of the Roman people). It depicts Jesus, as a young boy being embraced by his Mother and is traditionally believed to be the work of Luke the evangelist who, it is said, painted it on a tabletop made by Jesus himself.

The Icon has been carried in procession through the streets of Rome on many occasions in times of crisis, such as praying for an end to the Black Death and an end to a cholera outbreak. In March this year the painting was placed in St.Peter's Square by Pope Francis to try and hasten a swift end of the corona pandemic.

Thinking back to the tapestry in the Church in Aviemore, I have no idea of the connection

between that and Our Lady of the Snow in Rome, maybe made by some Italian prisoners of war, who knows. Perhaps someday I will find out.

EGYPTIAN TRAVELS

Arrival in Cairo in the wee small hours to be confronted by cigarette smoking and painfully lethargic immigration officials labouring in an oven-like atmosphere seemed a very bad start to the holiday. But the long bus journey through a maelstrom of traffic and the sheer bedlam of noise from car horns and electronic calls to prayer from the minarets was even worse and made sleep impossible on what remained of the first night. Too late for an early morning visit to the pyramids meant they were viewed in the searing noon-day heat from the comfort of an air-conditioned coach, safe from the hordes of souvenir sellers, beggars and camel hirers which surround every tomb, temple and tourist attraction in Egypt.



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string of beads or a bottle of lemonade, children and disabled with their hands extended for backshish, and every person extending any service expects a tip, we were impressed with the unfailing courtesy and friendliness shown to us and the grateful thanks for even the smallest, to us, worthless coin. Prices are very low as all work is done by hand and labour is inexpensive.



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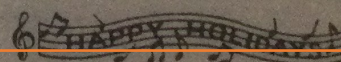
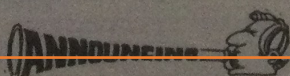
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Ian Duncan.

During the school holidays
(until 7th January) weekdays



The DOVE



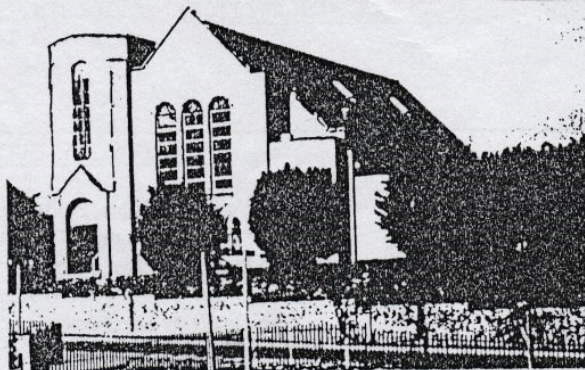
ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



Today is the start of Week 3 of the Renew season and the theme for this week is 'God Calls Us As Family' and indeed part of the aim of Renew is to draw us closer as a family here in the parish of St. Columba's. Like a family we should be ready to show our love and caring for each and every member of our community, whether it be by visiting the sick or housebound, or the patients at Strathmartine Hospital; or helping the young of the parish by understanding their problems and needs. Or perhaps just by being friendly to our neighbour. After all God has shown his love for us in so many ways, isn't it our duty to respond by showing our love for each other? We are also part of a much larger family of Christians, and we have an opportunity today of showing our love for them by praying for the foreign missions and giving generously of what we have to help those who care for our poorer brothers and sisters all over the world. Today is Mission Sunday. Let our mission be to remember those who are much worse off than ourselves and to ask God's blessing on those who devote their lives to bringing God's love to them - our family.



ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (1836) to ST. COLUMBA'S (1988)



Although the Roman Catholic religion and its practice was not officially recognised in Scotland until 1878 when the Scottish Hierarchy was restored, the authorities in Dundee did not interfere or prevent the practice of the Catholic faith in the town. It was, however, a bold decision on the part of Father Macpherson to build the first church in Dundee since the Reformation.

This he did practically single-handed and it was built in just over one year to seat 1,200 worshippers. He acquired a site on which had been a medieval hospital and later the town's academy. Saint Andrew's Church was opened for worship on 7th August, 1836, with Bishops Carruthers and Murdoch present, where it stands today at the south end of Tay St. in the Nethergate. Father Macpherson canvassed for money from hereditary Catholics of wealth at home and abroad but it was 'the pennies of the poor' which paid off the outstanding debt of several thousands of pounds. The money was raised by 'penny-a-week' collections from the parishioners themselves.

The numbers of Catholics in Dundee continued to increase. Father Stephen Keenan joined Father Macpherson in Saint Andrew's, the only RC Church in Dundee, in 1839 and he took over as priest-in-charge when Fr. Macpherson went to Blairs Seminary as Rector in 1847.



PART 2 of a series of articles by Denis M. Naulty on the history of the Catholic Church in Dundee.

Both these dedicated priests personally met groups of Irish immigrants upon their arrival in Dundee and arranged for them to be housed with Catholic families until they obtained accommodation of their own. The great flood of Irish emigration poured out of Ireland from 1846 especially and Dundee got its share of Irish and Catholic incomers. The Irish Catholics living in Lochee and working in Cox's jute mill of Camperdown Works, walked through open countryside the three miles or so to St. Andrew's church to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. All Catholic births, deaths and marriages were also registered at St. Andrew's church before the legal requirement for Registration in Scotland came into effect from 1855.

NEXT WEEK - New parishes.

The DOVE



ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



The theme of Week 4 of this Renew season is 'God Calls Us To Be His Church' and we are reminded that the Lord has always called people not merely as individuals but as communities to encourage and strengthen one another in their shared faith in Christ. In the fascinating series of articles by Denis Naulty we have learned of the struggle our ancestors had to establish the Church in Dundee and how their faith and commitment has resulted in the seventeen parishes at present in the city, including our own St. Columba's. But in these days of dwindling congregations and falling numbers, how many parishes will there be in fifty years time? On our shoulders lies the responsibility of ensuring that the seeds of God's love will continue to flourish and blossom in Kirkton for generations to come. In some ways the challenge facing us is as great as those of our forefathers. Are we up to it?

God is a good worker, but he loves to be helped.

Spanish proverb

ON PARADE

A big welcome to St. Columba's Scouts and Cubs who are having their church parade at the 11.30am mass today.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (1836) to ST. COLUMBA'S (1988)



In addition to the concentration of Catholics in the Lochee district, then not part of Dundee, large numbers of Catholic families lived to the north of the town in the Hilltown area. To meet these demands, Saint Mary's (Our Lady of Victories) was built up on the hill at Forebank, being opened on 23rd November 1851 by Bishop Carruthers.

This splendid church could seat 2,000, its first priest-in-charge was Father David McCartney who took over in 1854. For its first three years (1851-54) Saint Mary's was served by the priests from Saint Andrew's church. It is interesting to learn that both Fathers Macpherson and Keenan are buried in the crypt below the altar in St. Mary's (Forebank) Church - two great priests who did so much for the Catholic life of Dundee and who worked closely together in the earliest years of Saint Andrew's Church/Cathedral.

Meanwhile a chapel was established in a stable and then in the present laundry at Wellburn Convent Lochee, for the Catholics in the north-west of Dundee. St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's (Lochee) were built and active parishes of strong Catholicism developed, to meet the demands of Catholic families settled in these different parts of Dundee.

Saint Andrew's church became the setting for all the 'big occasions' in the Catholic life of Dundee. So as a result,



PART 3 of a series of articles by Denis M. Naulty on the history of the Catholic Church in Dundee.

it became a Pro-Cathedral. Then after extensive alterations, especially in the sanctuary where the high altar was elevated, it was given the status of Cathedral in 1923. Today it is the 'Mother Church' of the city and diocese, suitably celebrating its 150 years as a church in 1986.

After the First World War, Saint Mary's (Forebank) church came into the charge of Canon Michael Lavelle. He realised that a growing number of his parishioners were living to the north-west of the church on Forebank Road and so the foundation stone of what was to become the church of Saints Peter and Paul was laid by Bishop John Toner on the 9th April 1928. The church, for those dwelling around the base of the Law, opened to seat 500-600 people, with Canon John Roche in charge, in 1929.

NEXT WEEK - St. Columba's.

The DOVE

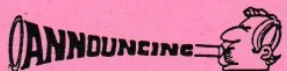
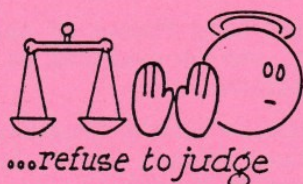


ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH NEWSLETTER



This week's theme is 'God Calls Us To Community In Our Neighbourhood' and it is interesting to note that as the weeks of Renew have progressed, so the Lord has called us to progress and expand our love for one another, from individuals to family, to parish and now to neighbourhood. Of course it is easy 'to love thy neighbour as thyself' when your neighbour is friendly, but what about those who upset you, or are difficult to love? Surely this is the test of the true Christian, for if God makes no distinction, then neither should we. We all know the story of the Good Samaritan, but if we listen to the word of God and act with faith and love in our hearts to all men, then each and every one of us should be striving to be called a good Christian.

Saints...



There will be mass for deceased priests and clergy in St. Andrew's Cathedral on Tuesday 8th November at 12 noon.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (1836) to ST. COLUMBA'S (1988)



Still, Dundee expanded northwards. In the earliest days of the existence of Dundee, the extinct volcano of the Law was to the north of the dwelling-places; then it became the centre; today it is well south of centre of the city.

With the opening of the Magdalene Kirkton houses especially, there was need for a Mass centre in the Downfield area. From about 1949, Mass was celebrated on Sundays in the Masonic Hall in Duncan Street, near the old Downfield tram terminus. The Augustinian Fathers who took over the charge of Saints Peter and Paul parish about this time, supplied the priests who offered up Holy Mass in the Duncan Street hall among the symbols of Freemasonry. The first Augustinian priest in charge of the parish was Father Power, OSA.

The Masonic Hall was inadequate for the numbers worshipping there on Sundays and in June 1957, the foundation stone was laid, by Bishop William Hart, of St. Columba's church on its fine site on the hill in Derwent Avenue. The early years, from 1960, saw it as a chapel-of-ease ministered by the Augustinian Fathers until, in 1963, it became a parish in its own right under Canon Peter Kaye. Canon Kaye was succeeded by Father Basil O'Sullivan in



PART 4 of a series of articles by Denis M. Naulty on the history of the Catholic Church in Dundee.

1974, who loyally and unselfishly gave pastoral care to the parish for fourteen years.

On 4th March 1988, Father O'Sullivan was succeeded by Father Aldo Angelosanto as parish priest of St. Columba's, with an estimated Catholic population of 1,500 - a long way from the dozen or so Catholics in the Dundee of 1782.

RENEW Prayer

Almighty Father
in your loving goodness
you continuously renew your world
and care for the people you have created.
Teach us how to listen to your voice,
help us to answer your call each day,
and give us the assurance
of the power and gentle strength
of your Spirit,
that we may be gathered into true community
as the disciples of Jesus
and be of his mind and heart.
Form us into a people
committed to the mission of Jesus
that your Church may serve his world
and share his reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



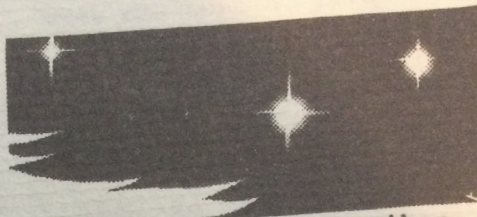
THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

As an astronomer, I am often asked, "What was the Star of Bethlehem?" There is no definite answer, but there are some interesting theories.

It might, for example, have been a supernova - an exploding star, that flares up brightly for just a few weeks. However, this would have stayed in the same place in the sky each night. Nor is there any record of astronomers elsewhere having seen a supernova at this period.

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One intriguing suggestion is that the Wise Men were astrologers, studying the movements of the planets across the sky. They would have paid particular attention when two planets appeared close together - not because they would have looked like a single bright star - but because of the astrological significance of the event.



In fact, no fewer than three planets appeared close together at about the time of Christ's birth - Mars, Jupiter and Saturn - although they also appeared very close to the Sun, and couldn't have been seen by a casual observer. But the astrologers could have calculated that this event would occur, and also that the planets would all be in the sign of Pisces, which was supposed to control the destiny of the Jewish people.

None of these astronomical explanations is entirely convincing, and perhaps the Star of Bethlehem was entirely a supernatural thing. But one of those three planets, Jupiter, is shining very brightly in our skies this winter, to remind us of that long-ago Star.

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EGYPTIAN TRAVELS

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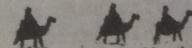
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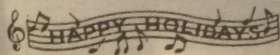
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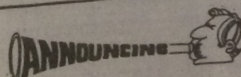
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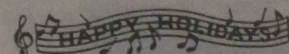
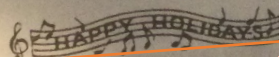
During the school holidays (until 7th January) weekday mass will be at 10am.



Thursday 28th December is the Feast of the Holy Innocents and is a day of prayer for Pro-Life.



The Parish Council are planning a 'Sixties Night' in the Mains of Claverhouse Hotel on 26th January. Make a note in your new diary.



Season 4 of RENEW begins on Sunday 25th February, 1990.



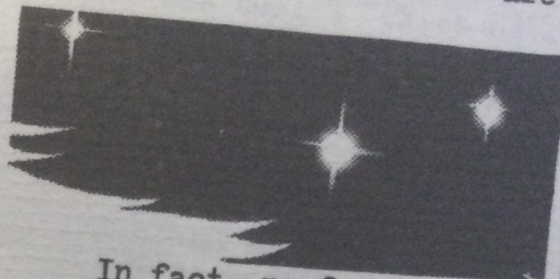
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TURKISH DELIGHT

At the last moment we booked a holiday in Turkey, as we had not had much summer this year and we wanted to go someplace warm.

We flew out of Glasgow one cold night in October and arrived in Izmir in bright sunlight. We stayed at a place called Altinkum. It was a seaside village with a lovely beach which attracted a lot of visitors. The hotels are going up like lego blocks. Our apartment was clean but very basic.

At five o'clock every morning the people are called by the Muezzin to pray, and this happens six times a day. The Turkish people are very friendly and helpful - nothing is too much trouble for them.

There was plenty to see and we went to Ephesus on a day trip. This cost £3 and we were away for a whole day. We saw the house where St. John

brought Our Lady after Jesus gave his mother to John to look after. The house was discovered in 1891 and was restored in 1950. Outside the house is a lovely statue of The Virgin Mary and there is a small altar inside. The well that is used is the same one that Our Lady used so I filled a bottle with the water to bring back home. Not far from Our Lady's house is the city of Ephesus which they say is only one third excavated at the moment, but they are finding new things everyday. As we walked through this marble maze of streets, houses, baths, statues and theatres we came across Hadrians Temple. It seemed strange to know that

Hadrian came from this lovely place - the shock of our cold, bleak winters must have been terrible for him!

We also went on a boat trip and another bus trip. We tried to see as much as we could of this place where there are very few cars - just buses and horse and carts.

The women do all the work in the fields and the men sit in tea rooms - what's new? It's the same the whole world over!

Turkey is a great country, well worth a visit, and one of the best holidays we've ever had.

Joan Carlin.





THE GAS LAMP.

The following letter was sent by a St. Columba's parishioner to British Gas..

I bought an old house two years ago,
But something was missing,
What? I did not know.
I searched Dundee, this space to fill,
But I could not find it,
Try as I will.

It came to me one day,
While cutting the grass,
A lovely old lamp, operated by gas.
For months and months I could not rest,
As I roamed the town to fulfil my quest.

I tried very hard, with no success,
Without this lamp my life was a mess.
I wrote to the council who dismissed me, offhand,
And told me they sold them to a man in Holland.

My family said I was becoming a pest,
So I went down to the river to put my soul to rest.
Before jumping in a last walk I did go,
And in front of my eyes, well, what did you know?
A gas lamp was there, and not on its own.
Three standing so stately like a queen on a throne.

I'm writing this poem as a last resort,
To see if you could be a saviour of a sort,
My life would be complete if what I could do,
Was look out at my gas lamp which would remind me of you.

The pipes I have ready,
sitting at the door,
My husband went crazy when I pulled up the floor.
So if my life you want to save,
Give me a gas lamp instead of a grave.

And here is the reply she received...

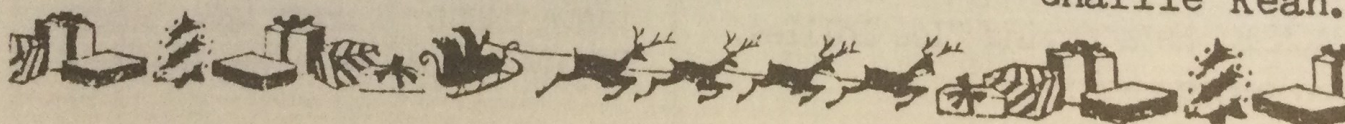
I have to tell you with regret,
Our old gas lamps you cannot get,
Errol Railway Station Trust Decided that they were a must,
To have upon their platform bare,
So all could come and stand and stare,
At these relics of the past,
Which now must be the very last.

I do not think you are a pest,
And wish you well in your long quest,
But would suggest,
It might be best,
If you would buy a modern house.

ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA (SANTA CLAUS)

The real Father Christmas, St. Nicholas, lived nowhere near the North Pole, he lived in the Mediterranean region. Santa Claus is a corruption of the Dutch name, Sinter Klass, who seems to have been a fourth century bishop of Myra in Turkey. St. Nicholas was the patron saint of children and unmarried girls. Tradition says that he gave bags of gold to three unmarried daughters of a poor, but noble family to provide them with dowries. As the legend developed in the Netherlands, the three bags of gold were replaced by a bulging sack of presents which Santa Claus distributed to children on December 6th, St. Nicholas's feast day. Dutch settlers took this custom to North America where it fused with Northern European legends about a winter spirit who gave presents to good children and punished the bad.

Charlie Kean.



The Young Ones

In July of this year, I travelled with the Dunkeld Youth Service on a week long pilgrimage to the town of Lourdes, which contains one of the holiest places on this earth.

There are really two sides to the town of Lourdes. There is the ugly, commercially exploited zone with its multitude of souvenir shops and hotels, which surround the Domain of the Grotto. I suppose this sort of commercialisation is unavoidable, given the world in which we live, but it makes a depressing sight to the first-time visitor.

However, the other, far more powerful aspect of Lourdes is the Domain. Stepping inside is like stepping into a completely different world, remote from the hustle and bustle of the surrounding streets.

The profound feelings of peace and holiness are overwhelming. The Holy Spirit almost seems to hang in the air around the Grotto. The size and magnificence of the Basilica holds many in awe, the first time they see it.

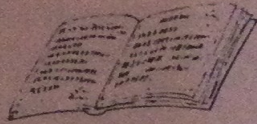
Entering the Grotto is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. It is a daunting experience to actually touch the very spot where Our Lady stood a little over a hundred years ago. Above the Grotto stretches a wire from which hang the discarded crutches of the sick who have been cured. It is a beautiful sight that will reduce even the most wordly-wise individual to tears.

My experience of Lourdes is unforgettable. It has given me a fresh outlook on life and the church. It is impossible to describe in words alone the atmosphere in the Domain. I would encourage everyone to try and visit Lourdes at least once in their life. If they do, they will never be the same.

Ian Petrie.

GOSPEL OF THE POOR

During our Sunday Masses this year we will listen to the Gospel of St. Luke. We will hear a gospel which will speak to us of great joy among people. It will speak of those who are poor listening to Jesus and hearing what God has to say to them in their lives. They are the people whom others despise and reject as being worthless and not worthy of God's love. But these are the very people that St. Luke will tell us that God does love and that He calls to be his friends.



The Christmas story in Luke is like that too: for St. Luke there are no Kings to bring precious gifts for the child, there are only shepherds who worship and adore. The shepherds are 'unworthy' in the sight of other people, but they are seen by God as precious. God calls them to join in the celebration of this birth and they respond with great joy. Such a joy that they want to go and share it with everyone they meet.

The shepherds adore the child: they come into the presence of the Mother of God, the one who called herself the 'lowly handmaid', the servant of God. They see the girl who lived among the poor in Nazareth, but who in her poverty was also able to hear God speaking to her and was able to respond to God with all her heart, doing whatever it would be that He asked of her. They see Joseph: the one who will care and protect this Mother and child, while probably not understanding everything that is going on, but willing to trust in the power of God.

They see this King who has not been born in a palace, the son of a King and Queen, but born among animals, born as an outcast of society, unrecognised by people who consider themselves better than others.

The shepherds do not have very much education, but they tell the story in their own words, speaking of what they had seen and what they had felt, the story of how Jesus had come into their lives and what God had done for them.

Throughout the Gospel of Luke this year we will see the same thing repeated over and over again: it will be those who seem to be nothing in the world who will hear God speaking to them. The ones whom others find it difficult to love will be the ones who will be showered with the love of God, and in that love they will be transformed: their lives will be turned around and they will be the ones who will show God's love and salvation to others.

As we gather round to hear the Gospel, we will be challenged to do the same. We may not be as poor as the shepherds, we may not be considered as outcasts of our society, but still we are asked to listen to God's word, to be challenged by it and to let it turn our lives around. Then we will be seen as people who have been loved by God and will become people who can show God's love and salvation to others. We can go and speak of what we have seen and what we have felt, the story of how Jesus has come into our lives and what God has done for us.

Father Mark.





THE DOVE

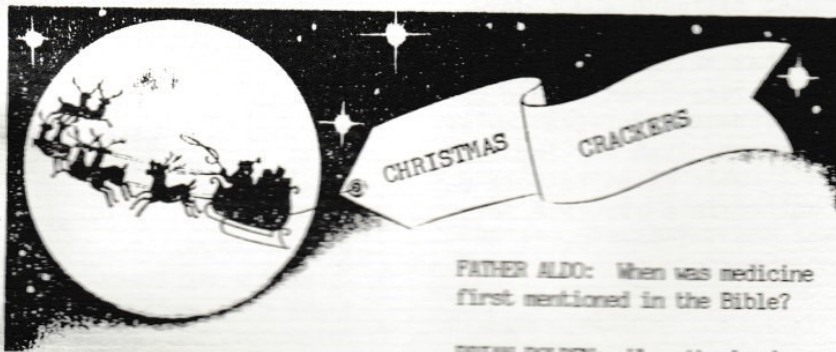
October brings falling leaves, colder days and darker nights, but the good news is it also brings 'The Dove'.

Our Parish Newsletter, The Dove, is so full of all kinds of everything, so many helpful thoughts to assist us through each day, no matter whether we are young or old, fit or unfit, firm in our belief or wavering and unsure, there is always some little phrase or article which makes one pause and think.

The best thing about The Dove is the sharing of other peoples' thoughts and experiences in an honest and genuine way, and the value for the reader is the realisation that we all have our strengths and weaknesses, our joys and our sorrows, but this is what our world and our lives consist of. We all therefore benefit from sharing the Word of God with each other so that we may know and love him better. Welcome back little Dove.



Dinah Boyle.



Harry Brady was walking down Balgwen Avenue one day last week when he found a little penguin wandering about. Harry took the creature to Kirkton police station and asked the beat bobby what to do.

"You'd better take him to Camperdown Zoo," the policeman said. Next day the policeman saw Harry still with the penguin. "I thought I told you to take him to the zoo," he said. "I did that yesterday" replied Harry. "Today I'm taking him to the pictures!"

Walter Johnson was making a knotty pine bookcase. His wife Helen pointed to it and asked, "What are those holes for?" "They're knot holes," replied Walter. "Well if they're not holes," asked Helen, "what are they?"

FATHER ALDO: When was medicine first mentioned in the Bible?

BRIAN BOLDEN: When the Lord gave Moses two tablets!

Sadie Feechan walked into Arnotts and asked an assistant, "Would you take that red dress with the purple spots out of the window for me?"

"Certainly madam," the assistant replied. "Thanks," said Sadie. "It annoys me every time I pass!"

JACKIE HUTTON: Mum can I have ten pence for the old man who's crying outside?

KATHY: Okay, Jackie but what's he crying about?

JACKIE: He's crying "Ice lollies, ten pence each!"

MICHAEL McEWAN: Mum, does God use our bathroom?

MADGE: Of course not. Why?

MICHAEL: Well every morning, Dad bangs on the door and shouts, "Oh, God, are you still in there?"

FATHER ALDO: Now, Kevin, you shouldn't fight. You should learn to give and take.

KEVIN: I did. I gave him a black eye and took his apple.

MARY FYFEE: Do you have a good memory for faces, Neil?

NEIL: Yes - why?

MARY: I've just broken your shaving mirror.

Keven Mansi was at a disco last week. He asked a young girl if he could see her home - so she showed him a photograph of it!

MRS CREEGAN: What family does the rhinoceros belong to?

LINDA SMITH: I don't know, miss. Nobody in our street has one!

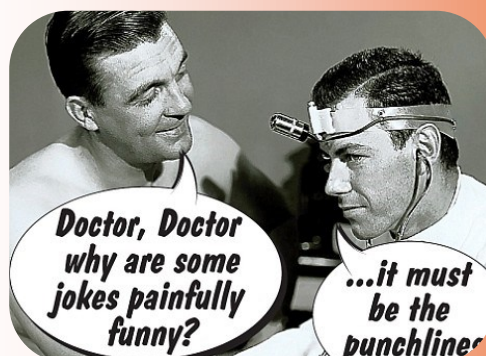
Cake for a 'high tea' anyone?

Parish Antics

Marie's granddaughter decided to make a cake for her little girl's first birthday.

Marie was giving her all the gen. " You have to make it a couple of days early to give it time to rest before you add the marzipan."

Astonished, Courtney asked "What do you want to put tablets in it for Gran?" !!!



Did you hear about the man who swapped his bed for a trampoline?
His wife hit the roof!

I was telling my mate that I used to go out with a twin when he asked if it was easy to tell them apart. "Oh yes," I said "her brother had a beard!!

1st pupil - "Our teacher talks to himself, does yours?"

2nd pupil - "Yes, but he doesn't know it.

He thinks we're listening."

This may or not be true:

When Brian was asked if he and Sylvia had anything in common he said "We were both married on the same day!"



Along time ago, when Martyn had just bought a new car, he told Arthur he was only getting 3 miles to the gallon - Angela was getting the other 17!

One time, when Sr. Rita visited the primary school she asked a class if they knew what Holy Orders were. One child answered "the Ten Commandments!"

(True) - When a little girl visited her neighbours to see their tortoise, it gave no response no matter what they tried. The wee girl piped up saying that maybe it needed a new battery!

(True) - A motorist was once stopped by the police for speeding.

The constable approached the vehicle and said "Well young man I've been waiting for you all morning." The driver responded "Sorry officer, I got here as quick as I could."

The policeman burst out laughing and sent the driver off with a warning.

While on holiday on the continent Angela and Martyn decided to get some presents to take home. First, they visited an art gallery and bought a Picasso, a Rembrandt and a Van Gogh.

"Well", said Angela, "that's the postcards taken care of, let's see about the presents!"

One day an elderly lady came into church and Bill Hutton thought she looked a bit frail so he followed her down the aisle. Suddenly her leg seemed to give way under her so Bill caught her and steadied her. A few more steps and it happened again. After Bill had steadied her once more he asked her if she was ok. "Yes" she said "and now will you please let me genuflect!"