

Crucis



The Magazine of St Salvador's Scottish Episcopal Church St Salvador Street, Dundee DD3 7EW E-mail: saintsalvadors@gmail.com Web: www.stsalvadors.com

Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. Galatians 6:14

# Editorial

Lent, which is a word that simply means 'Spring', is a time of preparation for the renewal of life – for Resurrection. For Christians this means penitence and reflection mirroring the 40 days that Jesus spent in the desert. It was a time of temptation for him, as it is for us whenever we are deprived of things that we think we need.

Much of our time is spent seeking things that make us feel better, whether food, drink, sleep, entertainment, company, warmth, social approval, or any number of other distractions. Even distraction itself is sought out when facing tasks that make us uncomfortable, such as boring but necessary paperwork, cleaning the house, apologising, forgiving, helping others at our own inconvenience ...

All of this is what the season of Lent addresses. It is not just a matter of violet colours, penitential processions and giving up chocolate or alcohol. It is about looking in the mirror – dealing with the parts of ourselves that we would rather do anything other than face. And, because God is a forgiving God, it is also about honouring Him by forgiving, and perhaps even learning to like, ourselves. In doing so, we can move on - no longer seeking distractions but accepting our true identity. Jesus had to acknowledge who he truly was and, consequently, had to accept his fate. Anything less would have been a denial of his nature as the Son of God. Giving in to the temptations of the devil would have provided short-term relief, but made him subordinate to Satan, with devastating results to us all.

What is the hard lesson that Lent, and Jesus' example, teaches? That life isn't meant to be easy, but that if we trust in God we *will* be given all the strength we need to overcome its challenges.

## March 2025 – Lent Edition



Our weapon against the World

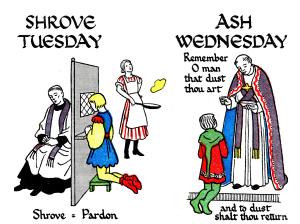
#### Services in March

Sun 2	Epiphany VIII	Lay-led	11.00 a.m.
Wed 5	Ash Wednesday	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 9	Lent I	Sung Mass	s 11.00 a.m.
Wed 12	St Kessog (tr)	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 16	Lent II	Lay-led	11.00 a.m.
Wed 19	St Joseph of Nazareth	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 23	Lent III	Sung Mass	s 11.00 a.m.
Wed 26	The Annunciation (tr)	Lay-led	10.00 a.m.
Sun 30	Lent IV	Sung Mass 11.00 a.m.	
	(Mothering Sunday)		

#### Prayer for Ash Wednesday

O God, who by thy care and counsel for mankind hast moved thy Church to appoint this holy season wherein the hearts of those who seek thee may receive thy help and healing: We beseech thee so to purify us by thy discipline, that, abiding in thee and thou in us, we may grow in grace and in the faith and knowledge of thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Saints' and Special Days for March

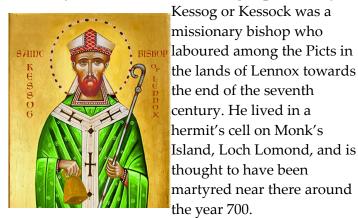


Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March – Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed with fasting and abstinence from meat. As it is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a Lenten daily devotional, and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Eastertide.

Many Christians attend special Ash Wednesday church services at which churchgoers receive ash on their foreheads or the top of their heads, as the wearing of ashes was a sign of repentance in biblical times. The placement of ashes is accompanied by the words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations.

#### Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March – St Kessog, Bp & Martyr



Wed., 19<sup>th</sup> Mar. – St Joseph of Nazareth A simple village carpenter, Joseph, of the lineage of King David, was the husband of the blessed Virgin Mary and guardian of the child Jesus. According to



tradition, he was older than Mary, and is often

depicted as such in art. It is therefore possible that Joseph may have already had children in a previous marriage, which may account for the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament.



**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March – Annunciation of the Lord** Since at least the fourth century, the Church has celebrated on this festival the great day of decision, when the blessed Virgin Mary accepted the role that God had chosen for her in His plan of redemption. From that moment the Holy Child was conceived within her, and the Virgin became the bearer of God the Son, known as 'Theotokos' in the East and translated as 'Mother of God' in the West.



Sun., 30<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering (Laetare) Sunday Mothering Sunday honours mother churches, the church where one is baptised and becomes 'a child of the church', celebrated since the Middle Ages in the United Kingdom, Ireland and some Commonwealth countries. On this day, Christians have historically visited their mother church.

Mothering Sunday coincides with Laetare Sunday, also called Mid-Lent Sunday or Refreshment Sunday, a day of respite from fasting halfway through the penitential season of Lent. Its association with mothering originates in the texts read during the Mass in the Middle Ages, appearing in the lectionary in sources as old as the Murbach lectionary from the 8<sup>th</sup> century. These include several references to mothers and metaphors for mothers.

> Wikipedia Drawings © Enid M. Chadwick

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