

Our Lady, Star of the Sea and St. Drostan

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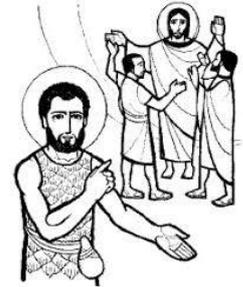
Web Site: www.peterfraserparish.rcda.scot

St. Mary's

64 St Peter Street
Peterhead
AB42 1QB

Our Lady Star of the Sea & St. Drostan Church, Fraserburgh, and St. Mary's Church, Peterhead, are currently closed until further notice, due to Government regulations in connection with action taken to combat the spread of the Covid 19 coronavirus.

Sun 17 th Jan	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mon 18 th Jan	Monday in the 2 nd Week of Ordinary Time
Tue 19 th Jan	Tuesday in the 2 nd Week of Ordinary Time
Wed 20 th Jan	Wednesday in the 2 nd Week of Ordinary Time
Thur 21 st Jan	Saint Agnes, virgin & martyr - Memorial
Fri 22 nd Jan	Friday in the 2 nd Week of Ordinary Time
Sat 23 rd Jan	The Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday – Optional memorial
Sun 24 th Jan	3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



“You are Simon, son of John: you are to be called Cephas” – meaning Rock.

The Power of God

Somewhere in the now sprawling city of Athens stands a tiny, ancient church: the **Agia Dynami**.

It's tiny. You could hardly get 10 people in it.

And it's ancient. It's been there since the 16th C.

So what do you do, when you need to build a big hotel on the site? You build over it. That's right. Literally. *Over* it.



But to really understand this tiny gem and its message, you need to know what its name means. Αγία δύναμι. **“The Holy Power.”** The holy power of God. And, in this particular case (because our little church is dedicated to the Mother of God), that power as it subsists in the Virgin Mary, the ‘place’ of miracles *par excellence*.

I can't help but be moved by this, especially now, as we journey through that time of the year when we remember the mysteries of Christ's infancy (from Advent, in which we recall Jesus' own conception, up to 2nd of February, the feast of Jesus' presentation in the Temple – the last of the traditional five feasts of the Child Jesus).

There's something about this little church that speaks more eloquently of God's “holy power” than a huge basilica or cathedral ever could.

You see, that power has never been so much about bright lights and big noises, as **making things right**.

The “Big Bang” with which the universe is said to have begun is hidden in the dim, distant depths of time and space. The full revelation of the Father's glory, the mystery once hidden in God but now made manifest (cf. Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:26): Christ among us and Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27), is something God has done and continues to do before our very eyes.

It is often in the little things – as, indeed, in **the little Babe of Bethlehem** Himself – that this almighty power is most easily discerned.

A gentle smile. A kind word. A little sacrifice offered with love. An interior “No” to some inappropriate passion in one's own soul...

We need to **look with faith**.

That's part of the reason why Jesus didn't appear to a vast number of persons after His Resurrection. Many of those He did appear to already knew Him. He was no more interested in demonstrating His Resurrection by signs and wonders perceived by the world at large than He was in proving His mandate or His message by coming down from the Cross (cf. Matthew 27:40,42). The very stone closing the tomb was found “rolled away”, not blown apart (cf. Luke 24:2). The wonders He worked then were gentle, pointing mildly to the future fruitfulness of Christian faith (remember the 153 big fish? – John 21:11) rather than promising the establishment of a new order by force – which is not what God is interested in.

Or, if there is a force and a violence counselled to Christians, it is that interior one, the strength of virtue animated by charity, which enables us to resist temptation, do good, and bring the weapons of love and holy fear to bear upon God Himself until He concedes to us His Kingdom.

“All these things My hand has made, and so all these things are Mine, says the Lord. But this is the man to whom I will look, he that is **humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at My word**” (Isaiah 66:2). Agia Dynami.

A message to new home-schoolers

Our schools are for the most part still closed, and home-schooling has become a necessity for many families.

I just want to say, “**Thank you for all you are doing!**”

It’s not a small thing to teach little ones. It’s not a small thing to show them constant love and... the *patience* so necessary for the work of teaching (cf. 2Timothy 3:10; 4:2).

If things seem to be progressing slowly, don’t give up.

Do accompany your children on their journey of faith. This is a most necessary part of “the curriculum”. A little prayer offered before lessons, before or after meals, before bed-time... these things help a lot because they make God and our Lady a part of ordinary family life – which is where some of the biggest miracles happen.

Thank you, again.

Catholic resources (that are really Catholic and not boring...)

Many of you are by now experts in finding Masses live-streamed online. It’s true that it’s not the same as being physically present as part of the worshipping community (there are solid metaphysical and theological reasons for that), but for some, at least, it’s a helpful aid to prayer and spiritual worship.

A number of online resources, including daily Mass and Morning/Evening Prayer, are available from **our own Diocese**: <https://www.rcda.scot/>

And there’s a lot of great stuff on the wider web.

Here are just a couple of useful sites:

<https://aleteia.org/> - an excellent magazine-style site of family-friendly Catholic spirituality

<https://www.discerninghearts.com/catholic-podcasts/> - podcasts to deepen your knowledge of Catholic faith and life

For young people:

<https://www.youth2000.org/>

“Let us be intent on this blessing of God, and see which roads can lead us to it. Turn the early pages of history; what was it that caused our father Abraham to be blessed? Was it not his faith, which prompted him to acts of righteousness and truth (Genesis 12ff)? And it was Isaac’s confident faith in what would follow that stretched him on the altar with a light heart (Genesis 22). As for Jacob, who so submissively quitted his own country on account of his brother and came and served Laban (Genesis 27), he was rewarded with the headship of the twelve tribes of Israelites. Now, anyone who honestly examines each of these instances will perceive the magnitude of the gifts which God bestows... On all these great honour and renown were bestowed...”

St. Clement I, Letter to the Corinthians, nn. 31ff

and the excellent

<https://watch.formed.org/browse> - “evangelizing millennials”

To help with personal prayer and meditation, check out this great app:

<https://hallow.com/>

Don’t forget our own Ogilvie Centre – a resource hub, especially for work at home in the family:

<https://ogilvie.rcda.scot/>

There are many other good Catholic sites out there.

One small word of warning: avoid people and places critical of the Pope, as this is neither necessary nor helpful.

NOTICES

A little extra help

Many people are experiencing additional financial difficulty at this time of unemployment, furloughing, school-closures, and the like.

A number of charities and support services exist in our local area to provide a bit of extra help: food, clothing, “white goods” (kitchen appliances, apparently – I had to look that one up on Google).

If anyone would like more information, please phone or email Fr. Bruno, who is in contact with some of these services and can give you details.

ST MARY’S CHURCH, PETERHEAD

Offertory Collection Cash Plate, Saturday & Sunday 2nd/3rd January: £275.35

Justice & Peace Collection: £57.51

Approx. Monthly Standing Orders I/C: £265.00

Thank you for your support.

Items for the newsletter, website and Facebook page, should be sent to Bob Watson, email: rlambwatson@gmail.com

