Heartbreak
As the First Reading describes it, the enemies of the Jews smash Jerusalem. The walls of the city are torn down. The Temple of God is burned up, and all its holy things are destroyed. And the people are taken captive to Babylon. Their country, their customs, their language, their cult, their Temple—it’s all lost.

In the Psalm, there is a poignant picture of the people’s heartbreak over this destruction of their home. The enemies who had wrecked Jerusalem want the Jews to sing Hebrew songs for them. “How can we sing the Lord’s songs in a strange land?” the captive people say to themselves in their grief.

The Second Reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why doesn’t God protect his people from the heartbreak that his people had when Jerusalem was destroyed?

The answer to the question lies in the Readings. God doesn’t want to destroy people and God doesn’t allow suffering for the sake of hurting people either. Instead God is looking for a remedy, as the First Reading implies. God is willing to use desperate measures, even the heartbreak of his people, to save them.

And not only that, but God is willing to use his own suffering too. As the Gospel Reading says, God gave his beloved Son to save the world. Christ was betrayed by his disciple, shamed in front of his family and friends, mocked by his community, condemned by the legal authorities, publicly flogged, and put to death by crucifixion. Any one of these things is enough for heartbreak, isn’t it? And so, in the incarnate Christ, God uses his own great suffering as the final remedy to bring people from death into life, when all other remedies have been tried and failed. Heartbreak by us, by Christ, is for life not for death.

And here is what else we need to see. Jerusalem was rebuilt and the Temple was restored, as the First Reading explains. Christ’s death was followed by his resurrection. In each of these cases, heartbreak was turned into joy.

And so heartbreak is not the last word. Elsewhere (Ps 37:3-4) the Psalmist says, “Put your trust in the Lord, … and he will give you the desires of your heart.” When the story is God’s, heartbreak is not the end of the story. Joy in finding your heart’s desire in God is.

Eleonore Stump
collections last week
morning mass 04/03/18
mass 10.00
£418.19 (gift aid £342.19)
mass 12.00 & vigil
£209.52 (gift aid £35.00)
total £627.71
thank you for your support
svdp £13.25
2nd collection today
papal & episcopal charities (inc.scaf)

prayer intentions
please pray for those who are sick at home or in hospital – cardinal keith o'brien, bishop vincent logan, peter angus, bruce blaney, andy butcher, fr andrew clark, may cosgrove, elinor crighton, james crighton, wendy davis, anne diamond, fletcher ditchburn, wilma drummond, bronwyn farquharson, jim flynn, catriona glen, lisa gillespie, willie griev, lawrence henry, angela keith, janet leslie, brian low, jean low, bob low, margaret mair, mkr ken mcbride, fr jim mcclaren, phil mcmenemy, seamus mawhinney, margaret mitchell, betty page, marion robson, urszula skorupa, jack stephen, mildred strachan, vera swift, charlie welsh, marie welsh and natasha young. in the midst of illness and pain, may they be united with christ, who heals both body and soul.
please pray for those who have died and gone before us in faith – for the souls of bill slidders, jim archibald, marion myles, ewa ludwicka, john brownie, michael g mcbride, bette donnelly and bill donnelly whose anniversaries occur around this time. may god grant them, and all the souls of the faithful departed, eternal rest.

feast of st joseph
the feast of st joseph’s is on 19th march and this falls on a monday this year. bishop stephen has agreed that we can celebrate our feast day on sunday 18th march at the 10.00am and 12.00 noon masses. he has also agreed to join us at both masses on this sunday. we thank the bishop for his dispensation and we look forward with joy to his visit to our parish.

feast days 4th week in lent
Tuesday 13th March
Anniversary of the election of Pope Francis 13
Saturday 17th March
St Patrick – Feast
St Patrick, Bishop. It is said Patrick was born in Great Britain about the year 385. As a youth he was taken captive to Ireland as a slave and worked as a herdsman. After making his escape he wished to become a priest and, after being made a Bishop for Ireland, he was uniting in preaching the Gospel and converted many to the Faith. In addition he organised the Church throughout Ireland. He died in 461 and was buried at Downpatrick.

quiet moment
christ be with me, christ within me, christ behind me, christ before me, christ beside me, christ to win me, christ to comfort me and restore me, christ beneath me, christ above me, christ in quiet, christ in danger,christ in hearts of all that love me, christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

joint parish coffee morning
next Saturday 17 march, from 10.30am until 12.30pm at the cathedral hall, we will be holding a joint coffee morning with the cathedral parish to raise funds for the sciaf real gift of a waterline. entrance ticket £1.00 with stalls of home baking, bric-a-brac, plants, books/dvds/cds and a raffle and wheel of fortune. we need your help please to provide donations for the stalls, or prizes for the raffle and wheel of fortune. a box for these has been placed at the back of the church. home baking donations can be brought on the day or we can arrange to collect on the evening before. tickets now on-sale. many thanks.

minute meditation
our life is full of brokenness - broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. how can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to god’s faithful presence in our lives.

Dundeepassion play
there will be a performance of the passion play this year on sunday 25th march at 3.00pm in this church. the play will involve a presentation of the story of the passion through music, word and drama. all are most welcome and there will be refreshments after the performance. admission is free with a retiring collection in aid of marie curie nursing.

school mass
the next school mass is this coming Wednesday 14 march at 10.00. this will be led by the ‘mini vinnies’ school group and will celebrate the feast day of st joseph. this replaces the 9.00am mass and there will be no adoration or stations of the cross on this wednesday. please join us if you can.

st joseph’s justice and peace group
SCIAF Stations of the Cross and Prayer Service today in the church at 3.00pm. Please take the time to join us.

schedule of services - holy week 2018
palm Sunday 25th March
10:00am mass in English (start in car park, weather permitting)
12:00noon mass in Polish
Holy Thursday 29th March
9:00am morning prayer
7:00pm mass (bi-lingual)
adoration
9:45pm night prayer
Good Friday 30th March
9:00am morning prayer
2:30pm stations of the cross (English)
3:00pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
5:00pm Stations of the Cross (Polish)
Holy Saturday 31st March
9:00am morning prayer
blessing of food baskets 11:00, 12:00, 13:00 & 15:00.
8:00pm vigil mass (bi-lingual)
Easter Sunday 1st April
7:00am dawn mass (Polish)
10:00am day mass (English)
12:00 noon day mass (Polish).
Easter Monday 2nd April
10.00am mass (English)
6:00pm mass (Polish)

theatre trip
the social group is organising another trip to pitlochry festival theatre on the afternoon of wednesday 5 december to see “the wizard of oz”. the cost this year is £25.00 for both the ticket and the bus. please add your name to the list at the desk in the porch.

deanery penitential service
this will be held on Tuesday 13 March at 6.00pm in St Pius X, Balerno Street, Dundee. Please join us for this liturgical service and take the opportunity to prepare yourself for Easter.

home baking
please note that the next home baking event will take place on the second Sunday in April on the 8th April. this is a week later than usual.

legion of mary – acies
benediction of The blessed sacrament in the presence of his Lordship Bishop Stephen Robson on Sunday 18th March at 3.00pm in St Andrew’s Cathedral. this service is open to all who wish to attend.

mothering sunday
mothering Sunday is a Catholic and protestant holiday and is celebrated on laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, usually three weeks before Easter Sunday. in the 16th century, people would visit their ‘mother’ church, the church where they were baptised or their local church, on Laetare Sunday and they were said to have gone ‘a-mothering’. later, mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants would be given a day off to visit their mother church and their families. today, it is the day for families to show love and appreciation for all mothers.

welcome to our parish
we welcome visitors and anyone who is visiting our parish for the first time. we pray for God’s special blessings on you and we wish you a Happy and Holy worship with us.