

## Parishes of St Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of Good Counsel

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Sunday 12 July 2020 -  
15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
Next Sunday: 16<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time Year A

### Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Hoping to see you all back in our Churches as soon as you feel it is safe to be with us. Arrangements for this week are as follows:

#### Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry

Sunday 12 July: 10am until 11am  
Monday 13 July: 10am until 11am  
Tuesday 14 July: **10am until 10.30am only**  
(meeting of Trustees at 11am which I need to attend)  
Wednesday 15 July: **Church closed today**  
Thursday 16 July: 10am until 11am  
**No evening adoration.**  
Friday 17 July: 10am until 11am  
Saturday 18 July: **Church closed today**  
**Sunday 19 July:**  
**Vigil Mass Saturday at 5.30pm;**  
**Sunday Mass at 9.45am.**

#### St Andrew's Cathedral:

Sunday 12 July: 12.30pm until 1.30pm  
and 5pm until 6pm  
Monday 13 July: 12.30pm until 1.30pm  
Tuesday 14 July: 12.30pm until 1.30pm  
Wednesday 15 July: **5pm until 6pm only**  
Thursday 16 July: 12.30pm until 1.30pm  
Friday 17 July: 12.30pm until 1.30pm  
Saturday 18 July: **10am Mass and Novena**  
**Sunday 19 July:**  
**Vigil Mass Saturday at 4pm;**  
**Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.**

For **coming to Mass**, please read carefully the column of this newsletter entitled

#### **Reopening our Churches for Mass**

and follow the guidelines there. If you are in any doubt about these directions, don't hesitate to email or phone me. Kevin

**The next newsletter will be in your inbox by the evening of Tuesday 14th which will outline the protocols for future celebrations of Mass.**

Any changes to these times will be communicated as swiftly as possible via the website:

([www.standrewscathedraldundee.com](http://www.standrewscathedraldundee.com)),

and the facebook page:

(<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>); the times will also be advertised on the church notice boards.

During the times the Churches are open there will be silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament but no formal devotions.

#### **Cathedral 200 Club June winners are**

1st Chris Boyle £50      2nd Barbara Lynch £30  
3rd Ian Barnett £20. Thanks to all who support.

#### **A word of thanks**

Jim Morgan would like to thank Canon Kevin for his support and guidance following his bereavement and for the lovely Requiem Mass for Margaret. Also concelebrant Father Andrew Marshall for his ongoing friendship and spiritual support of Margaret since they met in Lourdes two years ago. The Masses, prayers and personal tributes by parishioners and friends were of great comfort to the family. Margaret benefited greatly from her pilgrimages to Lourdes and it was her wish that any charitable donations in her memory go to support the wonderful helpers of Dunkeld Lourdes. Anyone wishing to donate (suggested maximum £20) can do so online at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/james-morgan-2>

#### **Visits to the sick and Housebound**

I am aware that the Care and Nursing homes are still (rightly) operating strictly with regard to visiting. When those who are housebound and their families and carers deem it appropriate for me to visit with Holy Communion I will happily do so, taking the sensible precautions of wearing a mask and sanitising. **Please be in touch.** I look forward to seeing those I regularly visit as soon as possible.

Follow the reflections and music on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

A Liturgy for Children is on the Facebook page for this Sunday. Grateful thanks to the Liturgy Team.

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for this 15th Sunday of the year at 4pm in the Cathedral today. I'm attaching/enclosing a Word document with the text of the Evening Prayer if you'd like to share in it at home.

**Our Prayers for those who have died recently:** Helen Clark Arthur Lynch, Elma Golden;

**those whose anniversaries fall at this time:** William Hunter, Robert Wilkie, Hugh Connolly, Theresa Connolly, Richard Devlin, William Reid, Bridget Hutchison, Cathie Breingan, Jackie Lynch, Mary Creegan, Angelo Forte;

**all those who are sick and in need of our intercession:**

Thinley Chodron, Margaret McHattie, Monsignor Basil O'Sullivan, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Sharon Davison, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Estelle Fox, Allison Matthew.

## Reopening our Churches for Mass

With the First Minister's announcement that communal worship can re-commence arrangements have been put in place at both St Andrew's Cathedral and Our Lady of Good Counsel for parishioners and visitors to attend Mass from **Saturday 18 July**. Given the continued need for safe social distancing, the capacity has had to be significantly reduced in each church, and in order that worshippers can guarantee themselves a seat, a **booking system** has needed to be introduced where you can reserve a seat (or seats) for Mass.

The booking system is hosted by the website 'Eventbrite' and details of how to reserve "tickets" follow at the end of this piece. If you do not have internet access, a **phonenumber** has been set up where you can book seats and this too is explained below. Where possible, the easiest and best way will be to use our booking website. Mass dates and times will be online **two weeks** in advance although weekday Masses may be subject to short notice change.

When you make a reservation for a particular Mass, this will guarantee you a seat at the time/s requested. Unfortunately, it does **not** give you a particular seat and on your arrival at the Church porch, you will be **taken** to your seat by a Steward. We know that many of us have sat in or around the same pew for many years. However, given that the seating layout may have to change for each Mass to cater for those sitting together who live in the same household, fixed seating allocations will need to be in place. Please follow the direction of the Steward.

In **St Andrew's Cathedral** a choice can be made to sit **downstairs** or **upstairs** in the gallery. Please bear in mind when you book that there is no disabled access or lift upstairs.

### Sunday Mass times at the Cathedral will be:

Saturday Vigil at 4pm; Sunday at 11am and 6pm.

### Sunday Mass times in Our Lady of Good Counsel will be:

Saturday Vigil at 5.30pm; Sunday 9.45am.

**Weekday Mass** will generally be at usual 10am and 1pm times. Next week's newsletter will have full and clear details.

When you come to Church, we ask that you arrive **at least 10 minutes before Mass** is due to start. This will allow our Stewards to greet you in the porch, and check you off on the list of parishioners with booked seats. There's need to print off the ticket you'll receive when booking online as we will have all your

details to hand on the day. We'll offer you a face covering if you do not have one and the use of hand sanitiser gel. Masks or face coverings should be worn with the exemptions for children under the age of five years; those who have a health condition where a face covering would be inappropriate because it would cause difficulty, pain or severe distress or anxiety; or because you cannot apply a covering and wear it in the proper manner safely and consistently.

You will be escorted to your seat by a Steward who will tell you about any specific arrangements that will be in place. You may have to wait a moment or two to be taken to your seat at busy times. Once seated, please listen to any further guidance from Canon Kevin or visiting priest as Mass progresses.

At **Holy Communion**, worshippers should only come forward when invited to do so by a Steward. Details about receiving the Sacraments will be shared in the near future, as will the arrangements for the dispersal of the faithful at the end of Mass.

### How to book a seat at Mass online

Those wishing to attend Mass at **St Andrew's Cathedral** should visit our 'Eventbrite page at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-mass-at-st-andrews-cathedral-dundee-tickets-112091962076>

The booking page for **Our Lady of Good Counsel** can be found at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-mass-at-our-lady-of-good-counsel-rc-church-broughty-ferry-tickets-112956403644>

Once at the webpage, there's some information to read. You should then click '**select a date**'. This will take you to a list of dates and Mass times. Weekday Mass is included on the Cathedral page – booking is not required for Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Click '**tickets**' next to the date you require and after that select either downstairs or upstairs and the number of seats you require. You then click 'Register'. Enter your name and email address and click 'Register' again. Your booking is confirmed and you'll receive an email confirming your reservation. Go through this process **each time** to book for different Masses.

### How to book a seat at Mass by phone

Worshippers should phone our dedicated Mass booking number on **07561 699557**. **Leave a message** (the phone won't be answered) with your **name, number, the Masses** you require seats for and whether you would prefer **upstairs** or **downstairs**. Please also give your **second preference** for a Sunday Mass time as seating is limited and it may not be possible to meet your first choice.

## Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy

Blessed be you, God our Father!  
You visit the earth  
through the coming of Jesus your Son  
You water it with the word of your Gospel;  
You fill it to the brim  
with the riches of your love.  
Prepare in hearts this Sunday  
the harvest for eternal life!



### A prayer to begin

God our Creator and Father,  
you are unceasingly at work in the *field* of humanity,  
sowing the seed and awaiting its yield,  
may your Spirit move in power over us  
to transform our hearts into the *good soil* you seek.  
Then may your word bear fruit a hundredfold  
in our actions of justice and peace  
and in our witness of love and service  
to those most fragile and vulnerable.  
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Penitential Litany

*So often Christ sows in us his word of truth, yet  
sometimes we fail to bear the fruit of the Gospel,  
so we implore his forgiveness and his strength for  
the future.*

The seed falls along the path of our lives, yet  
sometimes we allow the seed to blow away:  
**forgive us Lord.**

The seed sometimes falls on stony ground in our lives  
and we allow the cares of this work and the seductions  
of wealth and possessions to overtake us:  
**forgive us Lord.**

The seed sometimes falls in what seems like brambles  
and thorns in our lives and we allow our hearts to  
grow weary, and our ears and eyes to be closed:  
**forgive us Lord.**

## Read the Scriptures of the day

### The Prophet Isaiah 55:10-11

*The word of God does not return to him empty.*

### Psalms 64:

*Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.*

### St Paul to the Romans 8: 18-23

*What we suffer in this life is as nothing compared to  
the glory which awaits us.*

### The Gospel of Matthew 13: 1- 23

*A sower went out to sow....*

**A reflection** – see the reflection for today on the  
back page of the newsletter.

### Intercessions:

For those in the Church who are in the service of the  
Word: may they sow it with faithfulness and courage.

For all those who work the land and the sea,  
for all who are toiling hard at this time for the sake  
of our society and for our life's welfare.

For those who are suffering in mind or body.

For ourselves, worshipping together in spirit today,  
that we may not allow ourselves to be invaded by cares  
which are only of things which pass, or by the  
seductions of wealth and possessions which can so  
subtly choke the seeds of the Gospel, sown in our  
hearts.

Take a few moments to bring before the Lord your  
intentions and conclude with the *Our Father*.

### A Prayer to conclude

O God, Sower of the seed,  
we marvel at how your word fulfils the purpose  
for which you sent it forth to us in Christ.  
Make our lives like good soil,  
always ready to receive what you sow,  
that we may not only **hear** your Holy Word,  
but **understand** it,  
and let it **bear fruit** through our lives.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.



## A Reflection for this Sunday

The ministry of Jesus was not (for the most part) a city ministry. His teaching happened in small country communities, mostly in the little villages which surrounded the Sea of Galilee. Here the people weren't city workers or city dwellers; they worked the land and they worked the sea; mostly, their education was about the things of God and the things of the seasons and the fishing and the lambing and the planting and the harvesting. So, when Jesus wanted to teach them about the new life of the Kingdom of heaven, he started off with what they knew about: he spoke about sheep and shepherds, about fish and boats; about the farming life, the life they knew best.

Today, in a Gospel Parable he talks about the farmer going out to sow; but he is trying to teach his listeners about how God sows his Word, the word of love, the word of the Kingdom, in the human heart; the field is the human heart, and he wants to teach them about how people respond to the gift of the seed which is God's word. We read the parable so we can begin to see ourselves in the words of Jesus; to see where we fit in, to see the reality of the quality of the *soil* in our own lives: The gospel parable of the sower also shows us the folly of having the seed of the Word but then ignoring it, or rejecting it, or undervaluing it.

In general, I'm told, in our culture when the farmer sows seed, the process has three stages - first the field is ploughed, then the seed is sown, then the tractors turn over the ground to bury the seed. In the Palestinian culture of Jesus, things were different: the land lay fallow during the baking hot summer, sowing began in autumn when the rains were expected and the harvest was ready in spring. The planting took place like this: first the sower scattered the seed of the hard earth and then the ploughman followed him, turning over the soil and burying the seed.

Seed was valuable and scarce; the sower would try to avoid scattering the seed where it could not be ploughed in - like on the edge of the path for example, or among thorns, or on rocky ground. When Jesus tells the story of this sower his listeners would be shocked at such a waste of seed, but the difference in God's seed is that when the farmer - God - is wasteful and prodigal with the seed of the Word, it yields a richer harvest.

So, the Sower is God; the same God who is prodigal or wasteful with his mercy. The Sower of the Word is the One who speaks it to us daily, constantly pleading with us for our return to his grace with a heart of flesh - the Sower is the same God who is the Father of the prodigal son - while the son was prodigal, wasteful with the Father's money, and had to come crawling back awaiting the crumbs that would go to the servants, he receives instead the *prodigal welcome* which is *outstretched arms, calf and robe and ring*, and words of comfort and love and the identity of Son, not servant.

The same God continues to plead with the coldness of our hearts and the shallowness of our soil and calls us home to him. The Call of the Kingdom is the call to new life, to home and to security: all these things we cannot find in this world in a lasting way. God's Word is proved true generation after generation, as prodigals return, as the lapsed come home, and as those who once lived life without God come to search for meaning and truth and find it only in his love.

**And then there are you and I:** we have been given so much, entrusted so generously by God with a gift that never tarnishes, the gift of faith: the Word of God, the equivalent of the seed which was sown in good soil, the equivalent of the prodigal's feast on his return: God keeps his word; he never goes back on his promises, he never shuts the door in our face. **The Word never returns to him unfulfilled:** so, what is God saying to me today? Where is his Word falling? Is it falling on the open ears of the disciple, whose heart is full of rich soil, or it is it falling on deaf ears, on stony ground?

The answers are only deep in our own hearts; but a life rich in prayer, nourished by the sacraments, lived out in service, forms our hearts in the good soil where God's word can continue to flourish and grow. May the Mass we look forward to sharing again soon, and which is such a treasure, still be lived out this week in every word we speak and action we perform, so that the harvest reaped is rich and plentiful.

