

Welcome to St Andrew's Cathedral, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry, and St Mary, Our Lady of Victories, Forebank

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 July 2023

Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year of Matthew (A)

Our Sunday Masses

Vigil Mass: 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel

Day Masses: 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11am & 6pm in Cathedral
11.15am [Solemn Mass] in St Mary's, Forebank

This week's Daily Masses

Monday 24 July

Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel
No Mass in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm Mass in the Cathedral

Tuesday 25 July

Feast of Saint James Apostle

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral

Wednesday 26 July

Memorial of Saint Joachim and Saint Anne

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank
1pm in the Cathedral - Funeral Mass for Margaret Murray RIP

Thursday 27 July

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral

Friday 28 July

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral

Saturday 29 July

Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral. Confessions after Mass.

Our Prayers for the sick: Sister Attracta (*sister of Father Anthony McCarthy*), Susan McKay, Father John Mundackal, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Marie Manunga, Margaret McMenemy, Karen Dammer, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher;
for those who have died recently: Margaret Murray, Maria Pia Benedetti, Susan Smith, Pat Petrie;
and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Scott Haldane, Maureen Dennis, Pamela Scott, Sara Cherian, Elsie McGoldrick, Michael Johnston, Gerard Noonan, Ben McLaughlin, Ellen Ruddy, Mary McGlinn, George Connelly, Frank Kelly, Denis Tully, Joyce Bromberger, Sheila Boyle, Alexander Barber, Joseph Green, Baby Eve Clarke, Giuseppe Zanré.

A warm welcome this Sunday to Father Ian Wilson OSA who will celebrate the 11.15am Mass in St Mary's Forebank. Ian is well known to many of us, having been ordained in and served at St Peter and St Paul's, also in Ninewells Hospital as Chaplain and in St Thomas, Arbroath and the coastal parishes of that cluster. I am grateful for his help this Sunday. I shall celebrate the other Masses in the parishes.

This Monday 24 July I shall be with the National Council of the Union of Catholic Mothers in Falkirk, so there will be a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion in the Ferry, and no Mass in St Mary's Forebank. I am grateful once again to Father John Raphael who will celebrate the Cathedral 1pm Mass on Monday,

Hospitality after the Mass to mark the Bishop's retiral on Thursday 24 August at 7pm: there are lists at the back of the Cathedral if you are willing to donate some home baking for this event. Please put your name down if you can.

Finance

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £771 in the Cathedral, £460 in St Mary's, Forebank, and £581 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

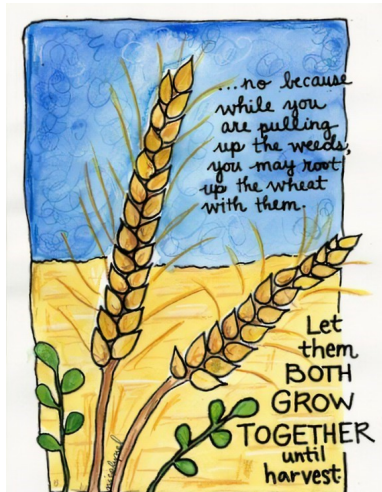


We shall mark
"Sea Sunday"

- a day of prayer for

seafarers and of financial help for the Apostleship of the Sea in our parishes this Sunday 23 July. The work of seafarers will be highlighted in the Bidding Prayers and a special retiral collection for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea will be taken at our Masses.

The value of weeds?



Weeds are - for the most part - a pest in gardens, but look at today's Gospel with the parable of the weeds and the wheat! Of all the evangelists, only Matthew recounts this parable, forming, as it does, part of a series of parables which develop the theme of the "Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven"; we are being treated to these vivid word pictures in the Liturgy these Sundays and they are fabulous! Jesus has already given the Sermon on the Mount, and now, as he sends out his disciples, he is teaching them about the obstacles they will face in their ministry and mission.

The Kingdom is mysterious! It is unlike the kingdoms of this world, and it comes about in ways different from human expectations. In all, Matthew uses an amazing **seven** parables to explain the Kingdom: the sower (last Sunday), the weeds and wheat (today), the mustard seed, the yeast, the treasure hidden in the field, the pearl of great price, and the dragnet cast into the sea **[Read them all from Matthew beginning at Chapter 13].**

The basic question of today's parable is: **Why does God allow evil and good to co-exist like weeds and wheat?** By human standards, the evil should be rooted out; but it is not like this in the mystery of the Kingdom of heaven. In this kingdom, the weeds and wheat have to co-exist until the harvest; the weeds and wheat are so entangled in the field of this world, that one could not be uprooted without endangering the other.

Perhaps Jesus is saying it is the same in our hearts: the weeds and wheat sprout in us too; the mystery is that we must allow the weeds to grow until the harvest. Why so? Is it because that in the heart of the disciple the weakness and frailties are there to keep us humble, to make us realise how dependent we are on God, how we are helpless without his power? The wheat of our virtues - trust, humility, gratitude, enthusiasm could not come to full maturity it seems, without the weeds of our failing, This is the lesson St Paul learned as he reflected on that *thorn in the flesh* which he wanted

to be removed from his life, but was told by the Lord, "No, my grace is enough for you". Paul had to live with his weaknesses, his agonies, and eventually we see - especially in his letter to the Philippians - how he realised that his weakness actually served a purpose. How many of us really understand that? It seems to me it is a pretty rare soul who can truly glory in their infirmity, weakness, or frailty. Even when we realise *in the head* that the weaknesses are there for our growth in humility and trust, we still hope *in the heart* that they will be gone when we waken tomorrow. That's my experience anyway!

This is why we need to return repeatedly to this parable, and to the mysterious intertwining of the weeds and wheat in the harvest-field of the Kingdom of God within us. It is not to say that we shouldn't work at the redemption of our failures, or learn from our mistakes and continue the battle with our bad habits. Quite the opposite. Spiritual growth first consists in knowing that these weeds can only be lived with and overcome by God's grace — hence the constant call to prayer, discernment, and to a listening to the Word of God which truly educates and forms us, shaping our principles, our ambitions and the very journey of our lives. Growth in the spiritual life tends to be frustratingly slow, precisely because the Lord knows we need those weeds to teach us true humility. Remember the Israelites in the desert— God could have got them to the Promised Land very much more quickly than the forty years it took. The journey was frustratingly slow, but the journey was the instrument of formation for the people of God. He was teaching them their identity, he was giving them a tradition, he was revealing to them in some way the Mystery of the Kingdom.

Jesus preached neither himself, nor even the Father more than he preached the **Kingdom** of God. He taught it as present reality, to be discerned in the midst of our ordinary tasks. He preached it as a huge challenge and adventure for human beings—*If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him take up his cross*—but he also revealed how the Kingdom is made present and built up in even the smallest of acts of love—*If anyone gives even a cup of cold water he will not lose his reward.*

Such is the joy and hope of the life we are given, that even our weakness and frailties have a place in the plan of God and the upbuilding of his kingdom. Take heart from the scripture you read this Sunday!