

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

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**Sunday 12 July 2020 -**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
**Next Sunday: 17<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time Year A**

**Dear Friends and Parishioners,**

May I apologise before you even start reading, for this mighty “tome” of a newsletter, but I want you to have all the latest information!

As you know, the Scottish Government has decided that Scotland is now safe enough from Covid19 to enter Phase 3 of the Roadmap set out by the First Minister and we can commence public celebrations of Mass. The first Mass in the Cathedral will be this **Saturday 18 July at 10am**, celebrated by Bishop Stephen Robson and it will be preceded by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

As noted in last Sunday's newsletter, for now it is mandatory that you **book** a place for Sunday Mass – and for Weekday Mass too in the Cathedral. No need to book for weekdays in Broughty Ferry, but we need to know who attends each Mass for “track and trace” purposes.

These arrangements are very much new to all of us and we're certainly learning as we go along! We know we can rely on your patience and understanding as the new systems and way of doing things settle in. If you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

**There are two ways to book:**

**If you have internet access** please make use of the ‘Eventbrite’ website.

For Mass at **St Andrew's Cathedral** visit our ‘Eventbrite page at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sunday-mass-at-st-andrews-cathedral-dundee-tickets-112091962076>

Alternatively, use your search engine to search for ‘**Eventbrite, St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee**’. This search will take you a link to our Eventbrite page

For **Our Lady of Good Counsel** visit:

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

Alternatively, use your search engine to search for ‘**Eventbrite, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry**’. This search will take you a link to our Eventbrite page.

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. Click ‘**tickets**’ next to the date you require and after that select either downstairs or upstairs (Cathedral) 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.

It is worth checking back to our Eventbrite pages from time to time if a Mass is “sold out” as, dependent on the seat layout required to accommodate families or groups from the same household sitting together, seats may be freed up without compromising the guidance on social distancing. Information may also be shown on the Cathedral Facebook page.

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.

**If you don't have internet access**, ‘phone the 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**.

With phone booking, 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. Should a seat subsequently become available at your preferred choice of Mass, we will get in touch with you to let you know.

**A reminder:**

**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 the usual 10am and 1pm times. See below in this newsletter for all times. **The Churches will close immediately after each Mass, please note.**

**Masses can currently be booked up to and including Sunday 9 August 2020. Bookings for weekday Masses at the Cathedral are being monitored and a further announcement will be made about this in the near future.**

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 no 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 a visiting priest as Mass progresses.

At **Holy Communion**, worshippers should only come forward when invited to do so by a Steward. More on Holy Communion below.

**Other things to note**

1): Your **Sunday Obligation** to attend Mass is still suspended, probably until around Christmas time.

2): **Social distancing** measures (currently two metres, which may change), and sanitisation at the entrance of the Church, must be strictly adhered to.

3): You will notice a certain **brevity** at Mass for the short term future, so as to limit risks.

Because of this (alas):

**A:** Congregational singing will be omitted at present.

**B:** The Gloria and Creed will be omitted at Sunday Mass and on Feast days as will the Offertory Procession and Sign of Peace.

**C:** There will be a reader for the scripture texts but Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will not be used at the present time.

**D:** There will be no communal communion from the Chalice at this time.

**E:** While administering Holy Communion the priest will wear a mask and administer Holy Communion **in the hand** at arm's length distance.

Should you insist on Holy Communion on the tongue, you must wait until the very end of the communion procession. The priest will sanitise his hands between each such communicant.

**F:** Holy Communion for the time being will be distributed not at the usual time but **after** the final blessing of the Mass. After this blessing you will be directed to come forward to the priest by a steward, lining up for Holy Communion (and leaving 2 metres between each communicant, except for family groups who sit together) and once you have received Holy Communion you are asked to leave the church immediately

The Bishops reminds his priests that the ability to return to the celebration of Holy Mass depends on **our strict adherence to these rules**. We could be inspected at any time for compliance by HSE or by the police. Though we might think this unlikely, it could happen. Although these guidelines may be cumbersome and tiresome, we ask for your consideration understanding and to please adhere to them for the celebration of Mass for the foreseeable future.

### **A few other necessary notes:**

**A: Children's Liturgy:** The time is not yet right for Children's liturgy to begin again. We are grateful to the Children's Liturgy team members who have been assiduous in preparing liturgies for use at home.

**B: Altar Servers:** we value so much your unique contribution to the Liturgy, its good order, and its joyous and solemn celebration. We hope to have you back in Phase 4 of the "roadmap".

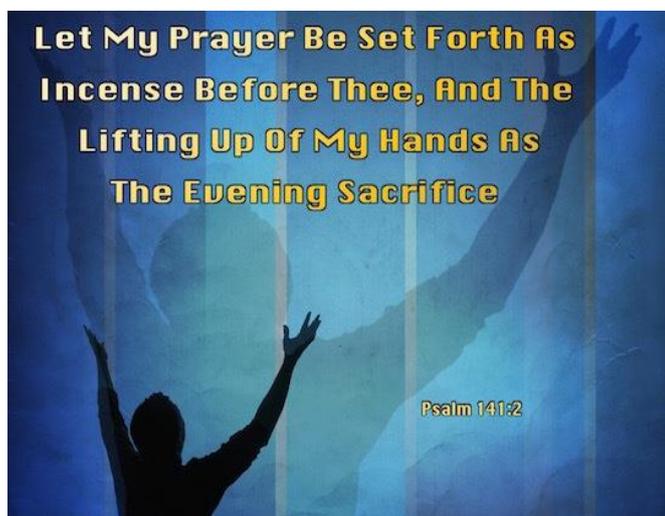
**C: Singing, Choirs and Music:** We will be bereft of singing for a while yet I am sad to say. I, for one, will value our ministers of music, our choirs and cantors even more once we can lift our voices together in songs of praise again. *[I already have a heady programme in mind for the Diocesan Choir!!!]*

**D: Visits:** I am beginning to visit the housebound, but only in conjunction with their approval and that of their families, taking the necessary precautions always. Unfortunately, Eucharistic Ministers are not yet to take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

*Knowing that some of our parishioners are still shielding and others feeling as yet unable to come to Mass, I shall continue to provide a Home Liturgy in the newsletter for the next few weeks.*

**Follow the reflections and music on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>  
A Liturgy for Children is on the Facebook page for this Sunday. Thanks to the Liturgy Team.

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for this 16th 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.



**There will be Mass each day in our Churches this week as follows:**

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

#### **Sunday 19 July:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm;**

**Morning Mass at 9.45am.**

Monday 20 July: Mass at 10am

Tuesday 21 July: Mass at 10am

Wednesday 22 July: **Mass at 6pm**

Thursday 23 July: Mass at 10am

Friday 24 July: Mass at 10am

Saturday 25 July: **No Morning Mass**

#### **Sunday 26 July:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm;**

**Morning Mass at 9.45am.**

### **St Andrew's Cathedral:**

#### **Sunday 19 July:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4pm;**

**Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.**

Monday 20 July: Mass at 1pm

Tuesday 21 July: Mass at 1pm

Wednesday 22 July: Mass at 1pm

Thursday 23 July: Mass at 1pm

Friday 24 July: Mass at 1pm

Saturday 25 July: Novena and Mass at 10am

#### **Sunday 26 July:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4pm;**

**Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.**

### **Our Prayers for those who have died recently:**

Gerry Connor;

### **those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Ritchie Harper, Cardinal Gordon Joseph Gray, Jim Kelly, Jack Farrell, Monsignor John Hanlon, E. U. Michael, Debbie Macarthur, Gerard Noonan, Ben McLaughlin, Ellen Ruddy, Mary McGlenn, George Connelly, Frank Kelly, Robert Wilkie;

### **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.

## Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy

*Blessed are you, O God our Father!  
You draw us towards yourself in hope  
this Sunday!*

*Place in our hearts your Holy Spirit  
that we may experience the boundlessness  
of your tenderness and mercy  
as we hear your word and commit ourselves  
to the Gospel-plan of your Son.*



### A prayer to begin

With a love that is both powerful and patient O God,  
you sustain the growth of the *good seed*  
your Son has planted.  
Let your word, like a mustard seed, bear rich fruit within us.  
May we dare to hope that a new humanity  
will blossom and grow,  
to shine like the sun in your kingdom  
when the Lord of the harvest returns  
to bring us home to himself.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.

### Penitential Litany

*God grants us the good hope that if we have  
sinned, he gives us the desire for conversion, so  
we implore his forgiveness.*

Lord, you ask us to judge with leniency.  
When we choose to judge without discretion  
and offer only hard and harsh words,  
**forgive us Lord.**

You are full of love for all who call upon you.  
When we are indifferent towards, or avoiding of  
our brothers and sisters who call upon us,  
**forgive us Lord.**

You look upon with kindness, you are slow to anger,  
abounding in compassion.

When we are tempted to *pull up our neighbours'*  
*weeds* without looking at what is in our own heart,  
**forgive us Lord.**

### Read the Scriptures of the day

**The Book of Wisdom 12:13. 16-19**

*Your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.*

**Psalm 85:**

*O Lord, you are good and forgiving.*

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

*The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness.*

**The Gospel of Matthew 13: 24-43**

*Let them both grow until the harvest!*

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

### Intercessions:

The that Church, like the master of the field in the  
parable, may defer judgement and await with patience  
the time of God's harvest.

That the seeds of destruction, so often sown in human  
hearts by the power of evil may not bear fruit, but that  
the forces of gospel peace and forbearance may  
triumph.

For those who are suffering in mind, spirit or body at  
this time and for those who spend themselves caring  
for them.

For our own parish communities, as we begin to  
resume our public liturgies together, that we may show  
a new reverence to one another; that our prayer, our  
listening, and our silences may be strengthened in  
depth and in meaning; that we may become a renewed  
Church as we quench our thirst at this fountain of  
living water.

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

### A Prayer to conclude

God our Father, you are *sovereign in strength*  
and yet forbearing in judgement;  
you give us time and you let us grow,  
“weeds and wheat” together, until the harvest.  
May your Church always emulate your kindness  
and truly be that “tree”  
in whose branches all can find room to rest,  
and a table whose bread  
satisfies the deepest hunger of the heart.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord Amen.



## 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 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 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-exists 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 totally 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 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 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!