

**Welcome to
Our Lady of Good Counsel
& St Mary,
Our Lady of Victories
& St Andrew's Cathedral**

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**16th Sunday
in Ordinary Time
18 July 2021**

Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends and Parishioners,



Today in our three parishes we keep **Sea Sunday** and we ask your generous support for the valuable work of the Mission to Seafarers *Stella Maris* (formerly known as The Apostleship of the Sea).

Pope Francis has addressed seafarers during the pandemic, thanking them for the continuous work they were doing during the lockdowns. The ships never stopped sailing. They were transporting goods, and they were also transporting medical equipment from one part

of the world to the other. Our Holy Father feels close to the maritime world is because it is one of the “peripheries” where he likes to have the Church present and active. Those who work on board ships are faced with a series of issues that are dear to the Holy Father including exploitation, forced labour, slavery and trafficking.

Our brothers and sisters working at sea have had to face a particular consequence of the covid-19 pandemic: no way to get home. With the sudden closure of borders and suspension of air travel, many of them due to return home were stranded on board ship.

We are keenly aware of how dependent we are on the sea and seafarers for so many of the things we enjoy and need - not least food, electric goods and clothing that find their way to us via the sea.

Stella Maris is a Catholic charity that helps seafarers worldwide. There will be a special bucket at the back of the Church for donations this Sunday which I shall send directly. Thanks.



Easing of Covid restrictions

The latest news from Scotland's First Minister has implications for our Churches, notably that we will be able to gather in larger numbers with the social distancing being reduced from two metres to one metre. Full details in the body of the newsletter.

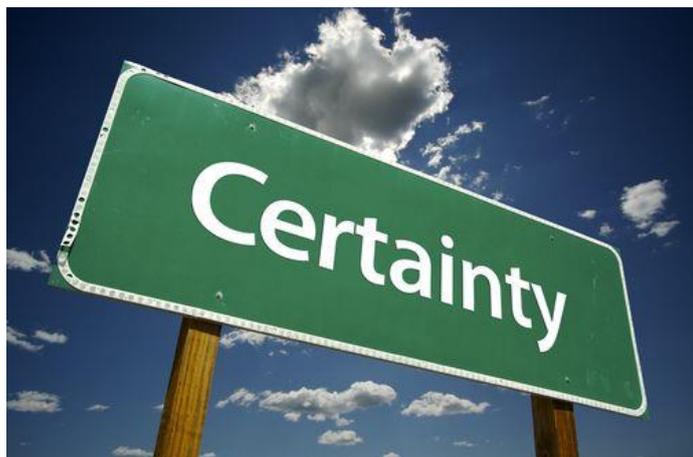
We will continue to wear face masks.

We will also be allowed to have congregational singing again albeit with the wearing of face masks. This is a great joy, but we shall return to our sung liturgies gently and gradually and I'll try not to choose music with too many high notes!

Please welcome to the Cathedral this weekend, Malcolm Hutchison, a student at the Scots College Rome, who was ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Dunkeld a couple of months ago and will be ordained priest in due course. Malcolm will assist at our Masses over the next

few weeks.

Certainty amidst the uncertainty



As you know, I'm not a huge football fan, but even I couldn't fail to be excited when I managed to catch the second half and extra time and penalties of the Euros final. I was chuffed that my amateur observation of Italy's percentage of possession of the ball was borne out officially later! But I couldn't help feeling sorry for those lads taking the penalties and the pressure they were under.

While most of us don't live our lives in anything like the limelight that these players do, nevertheless we all feel the pressures from time to time: work deadlines, expectations of bosses, financial worries, family concerns and myriad other problems that can bring us low; and for some people these are coupled with the pressure/desire to achieve, succeed to the top.... and even just getting through a grueling work schedule can at times leave us mentally and physically exhausted, and wondering about the point of it all.

As things begin to ease with regard to covid, there is still a lot of uncertainty about how best to proceed, and I think those in public life and leadership roles have a great burden of responsibility to bear for the sake of the common good. Some careers have come tumbling down in this period as we know. All the above surely reminds people of faith that as well as raising our voices and supporting the causes closest to our hearts we also need to **pray** for those who serve in public life, and ask God for wise leadership in the field of politics and across the public service sector, that all in leadership roles will embrace truth and justice, and that those attracted to these positions will be people who are above self interest and truly interested in the common good.

All those who seek to serve – in the church as well as state - start out, I'm sure, with great spirits. Yet,

as someone said, great spirits have always been hampered by mediocre minds; or as the Lord said, the spirit is willing yet the flesh is weak. The mediocre mind is not stupid, but it is weighed down by thoughts of weakness, of compromise, and temptations to self-interest, self seeking and power.

Thanks be to God that in our faith life we find that the greatest *Spirit* of all also has the mind of true wisdom. [Read this Sunday's Gospel to encounter Him!] Thank God that the Gospel is more about the shepherd than the sheep; that the politics of the Kingdom of heaven are given to us by the one who never compromises but is always fulsome in his love, his guidance and his faithfulness to his people. His dominance is a rule of love, his mace is the shepherd's staff, his crown is a crown of the thorns of self-giving and martyrdom; his table is open to the poor, his door is narrow for the humble, his deathbed - the cross - is of seeming failure, but we know, it is the altar of ultimate meaning and hope.

From this world's uncertainties Christ bids us look to the certainty of his leadership and guidance. The valley of death of which the 23rd Psalm sings is not just at the end of our days - it is there already in the brokenness of a humanity that seeks refuge in so many false notions of happiness, to say nothing of the evils that are present in those who would take the lives of others, mistreat the elderly, lure away the young, or stop at nothing to pursue their own gains. The love of money for its own sake, the quest to never be found wrong or lacking and many other temporary gains which can entice us, would ultimately, if we let them, suck every bit of the Gospel away from us and convince us the life of faith isn't worth it. These realities touch all our lives, and their fruits are so often not what they promise - their fruits are so often eventually loneliness, lack of purpose, depression, despair. So many, maybe ourselves included at times, go through life like sheep without a shepherd.

And so as the antidote to all that, the Shepherd comes to seek us out, to find and save what would otherwise be lost. He sends his present day apostles into our lives - his present day apostles are those who love you, affirm you, forgive you, help you and challenge you - your family, your friends, hopefully your priest. The shepherd makes his presence real in those he gives us as guides and companions on this Christian adventure of discipleship into which we've been initiated. And he calls us to be shepherds to one another.

He will call us afresh to that vocation in this Sunday's Liturgy. Don't miss the call!

CHANGES TO CHURCH CAPACITIES & MASS BOOKING UPDATE

The First Minister's announcement earlier this week that Scotland will move to 'Level Zero' from Monday 19 July, will bring some long awaited positive changes in our church buildings, not least the fact that we will now be able to all sing again!

The current two metre social distancing rule for places of worship will reduce to one metre. This of course means that the capacities for our churches will increase significantly. For example, in St Andrew's Cathedral, the current individual seating available downstairs will increase from 36 to 80.

The new layouts will be in place for the Masses on Monday **19 July** at the Cathedral and in Our Lady of Good Counsel and St Mary's they will be amended during that week and will be as at present, with green ticks (Cathedral) and other pointers in St Mary's and our |lady of Good Counsel indicating where you are able to sit, and red signs/coloured ribbon where you cannot sit.

Other points to note on the revised arrangements are as follows:

- Worshippers are still required to register their name and contact phone number with a Steward upon arrival;
- The requirement to sanitise your hands on entering and leaving our churches also remains in place;
- For the time being, Stewards will continue to direct you to seats and to join the procession to receive Holy Communion;
- The 'one way' system to move around the church should be followed;

- There has been **no** relaxation from the Scottish Government on face coverings and, unless you are exempt from wearing one, these must continue to be worn. Face coverings are intended to protect others, not the wearer; your continued co-operation in contributing to everyone's safety therefore remains both valued and appreciated.

Changes to Mass Booking Arrangements

Please note well:

As a result of the increase in capacity at our churches, the requirement to book in advance for the **4pm Saturday Vigil and 6pm Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral**, along with **both Sunday Masses at Our Lady of Good Counsel is removed with immediate effect.**

However, in order to manage numbers attending, church capacity, and the requirement for sufficient Stewards, places should still be booked for the busy 11am Sunday Mass. This should be done in the usual way as follows:

On Eventbrite: Click this link or copy it into your browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebration-of-mass-at-st-andrews-cathedral-dundee-tickets-112091962076>

For those without internet access, please call **07561 699557**. You should leave a message stating your name, contact number, the date of the Mass wish to attend and number of households. If you don't hear back from my booking team, your booking has been successful.

We shall monitor those Masses for which booking is suspended and see how things go. The 4pm Vigil Mass in the Cathedral, which was put on to accommodate us during the time of restricted numbers will most likely cease within the next few weeks if things work out with the new arrangements.

Sunday Masses in our Churches

Vigil Masses: 4pm in the Cathedral
5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel

Day Masses: 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel
11am & 6pm in Cathedral 11.15am in St Mary's

Weekday Mass this week

(there is no need to book for weekday Mass)

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Monday – Friday at 10am
Morning Prayer at 9.45am

St Mary's, Forebank

Monday - Friday at 11.30am

St Andrew's Cathedral

Monday – Thursday at 1pm
Saturday at 10am (with Novena to Our Lady)

CONFESSIONS on request before any Mass

Iona to Lindisfarne



As I write, Father Jim Walls will be coming towards the end of his walking pilgrimage from Iona to Lindisfarne. He has undertaken this mighty journey to raise awareness and funds for the care of the refugees and migrants in Calais. Sincere thanks to all who have contributed.



Elijah Smith writes:

To everyone who has made a donation for the Project Truth roadshow, **Thank You!** We have surpassed the target, which is amazing. You were all very generous with your donations and I can assure they are much appreciated. Thanks again from me (Elijah), and from everyone in Project Truth. God Bless!

A book of remembrance for St Mary's, Forebank?

Each day as I offer Mass in St Mary's, the names and faces of so many different faithful people of the parish who have died and gone home to the Lord come into my mind. I had a thought that would be good to have a record of their names and from time to time offer Mass in thanksgiving for the service they gave and the faith they shared in the parish.

Perhaps we could look to assembling these names in a book as we draw close to the 170th anniversary of the opening of the Church in November this year.

For those with a **gluten intolerance** we have altar breads with a very low gluten content in all the churches; never hesitate to ask for a low gluten host.

Thank you for your generosity on Sunday 4 July of £500 in the Cathedral, £410 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £325 in St Mary's.

There is a **Children's Liturgy of the Word** for this Sunday on the Cathedral Facebook page.

Our Prayers

for the sick: Ian Davidson, Jane Budge, Alan McKenzie, Joyce Scott, John McCarry, Margaret McMenemy, Tony Beck, Isobel Blackmore, Karen Dammer, Bridie Mossey, Mel Caullay, Allison Matthew, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Baby Ben Welsh, Thinley Chodron, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;
those who have died recently: David Nichol, Isobel Cruickshank, Edward Cleary, Frances Kelly;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sheila Lynch, William Hunter, Jeannie Henderson, Angelo Forte, Ritchie Harper, Cardinal Gordon Joseph Gray, Jim Kelly, Jack Farrell, Monsignor John Hanlon, E. U. Michael, Debbie Macarthur, Gerard Noonan, James Barton, Elsie McGoldrick.

BIBLE ALIVE and DAY BY DAY are at the back of the church for those who subscribe to these publications.

