

Elijah — no “ordinary” Prophet!

We may be in *Ordinary Time*, as the Liturgy calls it, yet nevertheless we are presented with “no ordinary prophet” today. Remember Elijah appeared in the vision of the Transfiguration last Sunday and is generally held to be the “father of prophecy” among the Old Testament characters.

The story of Elijah is fascinating! [Read it in the Old Testament First Book of Kings from Chapter 17 onwards.] The little part we read this Sunday is of Elijah reaching the Mountain of Horeb, the dwelling place of God, and discovering the Divine One in the gentle breeze.



However, Elijah had appeared in the narrative earlier, like a mighty wind himself! He simply appears on the scene and invades the dramatic action of God with his people. He looks like a prophet, clothed in a garment of hair, wearing a leather girdle; he had lived a rough, semi-nomadic life on the edge of the Jordan, and from the beginning displayed a rugged strength.

Oh Elijah, no task was too hard for you!

Elijah’s first prophetic act is to foretell a drought in the name of God: after that prophecy, the scripture goes on to tell of the miracles Elijah works, portraying especially God’s authority over the fertility of the land and how the people’s lives are always in God’s hands.

Then Elijah encounters Ahab the King, whose opening gambit to Elijah is, “*It is you, troubler of Israel!*”, thinking, no doubt, of the great disturbance this prophet seems to have brought about in a drought which meant the king and his steward had to scour the countryside for fodder to keep his chariot horses alive! Elijah though would turn the “troublesome” word onto Ahab himself, because of Ahab’s support for worship of the Canaanite false gods, the baals. Elijah would announce that it is Yahweh God who is in control, the one God. Indeed, Elijah’s name means “Yahweh is my God”. This is a prophet who powerfully proclaims monotheism — worship of the God of Israel as the One True God— and lays down the challenge: *If Yahweh is really God, follow Yahweh, if Baal, follow Baal.* In Elijah, the faith of Moses becomes alive with a new power. At the end of a very dramatic scene the people exclaim that indeed Yahweh is God.....and the drought is ended.

However, after defeating the pagan prophets who worshipped the Baals, and thus incurring wrath of Queen Jezebel, Elijah is forced to flee: indeed at the point where we take up the story this Sunday Elijah is in the depths of depression, wishing himself dead. When he is at rock bottom, the angel of the Lord comes to him, encourages him to eat and to continue on life’s pilgrimage, leading him to the Mount Horeb. He is going back to his religious roots! In his darkest hour, God did not abandon Elijah, but in his mercy supplied him with strength for his long journey, and when he reached his goal he would have a new and keener sense of the sovereign nature of God.

The text tells us that Elijah travelled “forty days and forty nights” until he came to Horeb (Sinai) the sacred mountain, eliciting memories of Moses and the covenant. Elijah at first hides in a cave (just as Moses sheltered in the cleft of the rock) as the Divine One “passes by”. There follows earthquake, wind and fire, but unlike in the Moses narrative, the Lord is not present in these. This is a new revelation; the Divine One is present in the gentle breeze, sometimes translated as the “still small voice”, or as one writer puts it, “a kind of silence so intense that you can hear it”. On “hearing” or experiencing this “voice”, Elijah moves out to the entrance of the cave and in the presence of God he receives the next challenge in his prophetic vocation. “Go”, says God to him. He is not to give up the task appointed to him. He is now to anoint a king, and most importantly he is to anoint a successor to himself, Elisha his servant. Reading further in the book of Kings we see how Elisha faithfully takes up the reins after Elijah.

Elijah’s story can inspire us to pray:

- for the truth, faith and fire of God;
- for provision for life’s journey;
- for protection and restoration;
- for healing;
- for courage;
- for a extra strength to be able to pass on the fire of faith we have received.

Of course, before these two there were other prophets in Israel, people on whom the Spirit of the Lord descended. But it seems that prophecy takes a turning point in the vocations of Elijah and Elisha. They begin to show how God will speak to his future prophets, often in that *still small voice* that needs to be carefully listened for and courageously responded to.

The scriptures reveal to us that God still speaks to us in our depths, and even if with a small voice, nevertheless consistently and faithfully. It seems too that for us, as for Elijah and Elisha, the best joy is in following that Voice wholeheartedly.

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



St Andrew’s Cathedral (1836)



St Mary Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

13 August 2023

Next Sunday: 20th 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



**“To plant dreams,
draw forth prophecies and visions,
allow hope to flourish, inspire trust,
bind up wounds, weave together relationships,
awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another,
and create a bright resourcefulness
that will enlighten minds, warm hearts,
give strength to our hands.”**

Pope Francis

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Dear Friends and Parishioners,



*The Liturgy today
presents us with three holy experiences:
Elijah meeting the Lord on Mount Sinai;
the choosing of Israel by God,
the race from which Jesus is born
in the flesh;
and the mystery of Peter the Apostle
who took to the water
and whom Jesus took by the hand
and saved.*

So, let us *enjoy* our celebration of the Eucharist together, and seek to find the holy experience of God in our own life experiences, not least in the ordinary and the mundane, the routine and everyday, for here God is at work in our human experience.

We welcome Bishop Stephen Robson who will celebrate the 11.15am Mass in St Mary's, Forebank, and I shall celebrate the other Masses in the parishes. Grateful thanks to Fr Paul Capaldi who celebrated last Sunday morning in Broughty Ferry, while I was in St Joseph's to cover for Father Greg while he was on holiday.



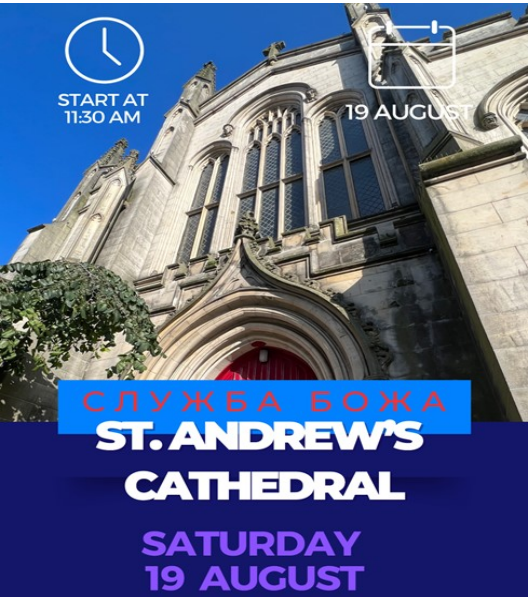
Mass to mark Bishop Stephen's Retiral
Please accept his newsletter note as **YOUR INVITATION** to come to the Bishop's retiral Mass in **St Andrew's Cathedral** on **Thursday 24 August at 7pm.**

Everyone is welcome and there will be refreshments afterwards in the hall.
If you can help with providing home baking for the refreshments please put your name on the list at the back of the Cathedral.

Cathedral 200 Club winners for July 2023
Alex Adams - £50; John Quinn - £30.
Ian Barnett - £20.

Winnings can be collected from the sacristy. Congratulations to the winners. Thanks to all who support the 200 Club. If you have not paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible.

Hospital Chaplaincy and Visitation
If you or a loved one is in hospital — Ninewells, RVH, Roxburghe House and wish a visit, the chaplain can be contacted by the mobile phone **[07821 624124]** or through the hospital switchboard on **01382 660111.**



The Divine Liturgy in the Ukrainian Rite will take place in St Andrews cathedral this Saturday 19 August at 11.30am. All members of the Ukrainian Community are warmly invited. Father Andriy will be coming from Glasgow to celebrate.


Our Prayers for the sick:
Heather Moffit, Sister Attracta, 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: Gerda Baruffati, Jean Strathie, John Barker, Kathleen Scott, Mary Cassidy, Harry McAllister, Czeslaw Stefanowski;
and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time:
Philip Nykomesha, Giuseppina Ianetta, Elspeth McIvor, Rev Deacon David Forsyth, Ian Young, Mary Toshney Joseph Dolan, Philomena Smith, Ronald Rossi, Margaret Welsh, Mary and Patrick Sharkey, Kathleen Brown, Sister Esther Cavanagh, James Quinn, Peggy McGhee, David Stott; Patricia Cockburn, Margaret Ann Graham, Frank Sheppard, George Harris, Vonnice McCabe, John McHugh, William Ziaga, Mary Farnan; Ken Murphy, Richard McGlynn.

The 2023 National Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the **Venerable Margaret Sinclair** will take place on **Sunday 17 September** in **St Patrick's Church, in the Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1NA**, with the celebration of Mass at 4.30pm.
The Mass will be preceded by a Holy Hour, Reflection and Benediction at 2pm.
The remarkable and inspiring story of Margaret Sinclair can be found at margaretsinclair.scot

This week's Daily Masses

Monday 14 August *Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Martyr of Auschwitz*
10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral
Vigil Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 6pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel
Tuesday 15 August *Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11am in St Mary's, Forebank
1pm in the Cathedral 7pm in the Cathedral
Wednesday 16 August 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral
Thursday 17 August 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral
Friday 18 August 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel - Funeral Mass
11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral
Saturday 19 August Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral. Confessions after Mass.
Divine Liturgy for Ukrainian Catholics at 11.30am in the Cathedral



We keep a glorious feast in the Liturgy this coming **Tuesday 15 August** – the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven. Our Blessed Mother sings in her *Magnificat* of the plan of God who confounds the proud, lifts up the humble and fulfils the promises made to Abraham.
Mary is assumed into heaven into the glory of the saints. Where she has gone, we hope to follow. Mary treasured the word of God and pondered it in her heart. We do the same in our Mass on her feastday. Please come and share it with us in one of our Masses.

**Diary Date!**
"Oh I do like to be beside the seaside"
Join us for an afternoon of music with Gary White at St Mary's Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, on Sunday 1 October - another chance to enjoy the sound of the mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ, with Blackpool Tower style music.
Tickets are £7 from gerardfulton@yahoo.co.uk
All proceeds to the Mary's Meals Charity

The annual **Scottish National Carfin Pilgrimage** takes place on Sunday 3 September. Given the intention of praying for peace in Ukraine that day, we will run a bus from our parishes, leaving the Cathedral — from the bus stop just up from the Queen's Hotel—at 12.15pm sharp and leave Carfin at 5.30pm.
There is a list at the back of the Church for names. You are invited to contribute £5 for your place on the bus if you are able.
Father Andriy, the Ukrainian priest is based in Glasgow and also priest for the Dundee Ukrainian Community is doing great work and will be bringing a Choir to Carfin.

Finance
Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £747 in the Cathedral, £508 in St Mary's, Forebank, and £691 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and the previous Sunday of £828 in the Cathedral, £576 in St Mary's, Forebank, and £613 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Next Sunday we take the **Annual Collection for the Bishop's Mensal Fund** (for the upkeep of the Bishop/ Bishop Emeritus). There will be buckets with the stewards at the back of the Church for contributions after Mass.

Maria Pia Benedetti RIP: The Funeral service for Maria will take place at Dundee Crematorium this Monday 14 August at 2.30pm. We shall offer the 11.30am Mass at St Mary's for her eternal rest on Monday.

The Schools are back this week: let us ask the Lord's abundant blessings on the children, young people, teachers and ancillary staff as they take up their tasks in the new school session.

Dunkeld Diocesan Choir meets at St Andrew's Cathedral for rehearsal to prepare for the Bishops retiral Mass this coming **Tuesday 15 August** after the evening Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Mother.