

Welcome to St Andrew's Cathedral

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry and St Mary, Our Lady of Victories, Forebank

Vigil Mass: 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel
Day Masses: 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11am & 6pm in St Andrew's Cathedral
11.15am in St Mary's, Forebank

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
4 September 2022 - Year of Luke - C
Next Sunday: 24th Sunday of ordinary Time

This week's Masses

Monday 5 September:	10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel	11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank	1pm in the Cathedral
Tuesday 6 September:	10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel	11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank	1pm in the Cathedral
Wednesday 7 September:	10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel	11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank	1pm in the Cathedral
Thursday 8 September:	<i>Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady</i>		
	10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel	11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank	1pm in the Cathedral
Friday 9 September	10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel	11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank	1pm in the Cathedral
Saturday 10 September:	Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral		

Welcome!

We welcome to the parishes **Father Malcolm Hutchison**, who will be here for a month before he resumes his studies in Rome. Malcolm has already celebrated some weekday Masses at the Cathedral and will offer the Masses this Sunday at St Peter and St Paul's and also a Sunday morning Mass at St Pius X. Later this week **Father Jean Gové** will arrive and will also be helping out in our parishes and in other places where a supply priest is needed.

Our Prayers for the sick: Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Jean Drummond, Norman Hadden, Tony Beck, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Janet Isherwood, Theresa Kay, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Thinley Chodron, Benedict Stephens, Steven Kennedy, Sonya Rostan, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;
for those who have died recently: Allison Matthew, Peter O'Sullivan, George (Jack) Murphy;
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: JB Sihotang, Michael Danaher, Sylvia Robertson, Robert John Singleton, Jim Bleakley, John Brown, Lena Mousley, Roma Pacione, Peter Moore, Helen Sharkey, Rose Duffy, Mrs Gierelo.

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £445 in St Mary's, Forebank, £695 in the Cathedral and £508 in Broughty Ferry; and the previous Sunday of £345 in St Mary's, Forebank, £812 in the Cathedral and £595 in Our Lady of Good Counsel. If you pay tax and don't already *gift aid* your offering, please consider doing so, at no extra cost yourself.

There will be refreshments in the Cathedral Hall after the 11am Mass this Sunday—please come and join us.

It was wonderful to have the boys and girls from Our Lady's Primary School with us for Mass on Friday past in St Mary's, Forebank. Grateful thanks to all the teachers and staff for bringing them and to those family members who were able to attend as well.

Cathedral 200 Club: Thanks to those who have paid their "dues" recently. There are some dues still outstanding for this year and it would be appreciated if you could ensure these are settled as soon as possible.

It has been suggested that we should restore the taking of the collection in the traditional manner at Our Lady of Good Counsel, with the baskets being passed round at the offertory, instead being at the back of the Church. I hope this can be started soon. Of course, many people give their church contribution now by standing order, so if you do, when the offertory plate comes to you, just pass it on!

The Kiltwalk: Grateful thanks to everyone across the three parishes who sponsored John Quinn in his Kiltwalk for SCIAF. You raised £740, and with the top-up from The Hunter Foundation a total of £1,110 will be going to SCIAF funds for John's endeavours. If you have pledged to sponsor John and have not yet paid please can you do so as soon as you can, thanks.

Our **Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Reunion** takes place at St Mary's, Lochee this Sunday 4 September at 3pm.

Margaret Sinclair Pilgrimage: The 2022 Pilgrimage to pray for the Beatification of the Venerable Margaret Sinclair will take place on Sunday 18 September at St Patrick's Church, Cowgate, Edinburgh EH1 1NA, beginning with the Rosary at 2pm, Benediction at 3.15pm, a Talk at 3.30pm and Mass at 4.30pm.

Take up your cross, the Saviour said. We know that unlike himself, he did not mean we literally have to carry two planks of wood tied together, but he uses the image as a metaphor for what we must bear in life in order to live it to the full. At first thought, this is surely a contraction, living life to the full by carrying a cross? St Paul talked of the *thorn in his side* which help him realise his dependance on God. He also noted that the language is of the cross is *illogical* for those not seeking to be on the path to salvation.

So what is my cross? In the “Everyman's of the Cross” the author puts it this way: it is “largely products of my daily life: the monotony that often marks the day, discomforts of all kinds, the summer’s heat, the winter's cold, my disappointments, tensions, setbacks, cares”. It is tempting to wonder that if our life in Christ is ultimately about life, love and joy, then perhaps God might have chosen a more palatable way of symbolising our belief in Jesus. Yet what we get as our *badge* is this sign of suffering, the cross.

But, when you stop for a minute and reflect you find: life, like flowers, actually grows in the earth, in the dirt. Like the dirt of *temptation*. If virtue was easy, and goodness always triumphant, then we would never know the stuff we are made of.

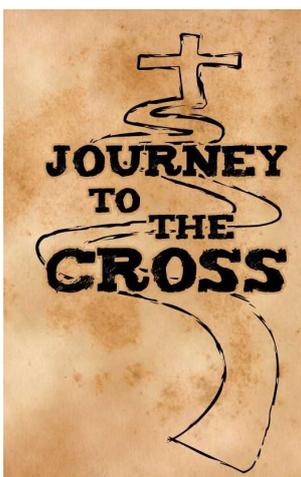
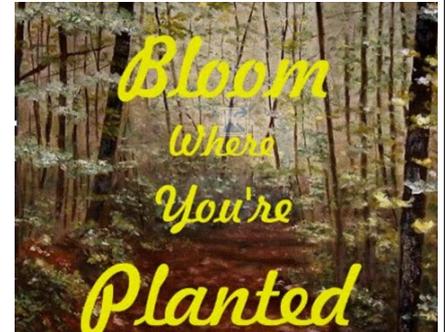
Facing the reality of temptation is surely about testing our inner self, to root out the weeds, to purify our intentions—to see once for all what we really live for. If you have never been seriously tempted, you may be simply singularly graced, or perhaps you have not been reflective on your life experience. If you experience temptation, you know the taste of the cross.

Life also grows in the dirt of *loneliness*. Without a portion of loneliness we would never come to know who we really are. Loneliness is that situation of feeling that we do not belong and feeling that we absolutely must belong. If you have never been desperately lonely, then perhaps you are singularly blessed, but I might say you probably have not fully known yourself.

Life also blooms in the dirt of *failure*. Failure shows us our limitations, unsettles us, shoves us back down to the earth from which we came. Failure humiliates our pride. It reminds us that all power is not ours, that we do not control the world. If you have never met failure, then perhaps you are singularly blessed, or perhaps you have never tried anything of consequence. And again, you will not know the taste of the cross.

Life blooms out of the dirt, desolation and failure of the cross. If you have experienced the contradictions I've mentioned here, what whatever else you are, you are **real!** And in this, Jesus is our model. He lived all this—and more. Then his resurrection freed him from such limits. We are his brothers and sisters. If we follow him in one, we can hope to follow him in the other.

I remember reading some years ago Alex Haley’s tale, “*A different kind of Christmas*”, where Fletcher Randal is a young southern American gentleman attending a northern college in 1855. During his visits to Philadelphia, through a series of encounters with Quakers, Randal undergoes a radical conversion. This leads to his decision to help twelve slaves escape from his father’s plantation; the result is total alienation from his parents and his home. Never again would life be the same. How could they understand what he had done?



While our faith journey may not be as extreme as that, all discipleship is costly: the dirt of failure, loneliness and temptation are there on the journey, they are human experiences out of which we have to strive to find meaning and pursue growth. None of us may have to face the choice between family and gospel, but there are those who have paid that price. This Sunday's Gospel re-iterates a theme which Saint Luke has been making over the past few weeks, that the cost of being a follower of Christ is not a light one. As Jock Dalrymple, the great Scottish spiritual writer and Edinburgh priest wrote of discipleship that it “costs not less than everything”.

Saint Luke is relentless in demonstrating the folly of trusting only in our own possessions, but he goes beyond even that—even our most compelling attachments may be challenged in this spiritual journey. As the Psalm says to us this Sunday—*Make us know the shortness of our life, that we may gain wisdom of heart*. It begs the question: do we feel the challenge of the Gospel today, that personal call to holiness of life and maturity of spirit?

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