

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

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**Sunday 4 October 2020 -
27th Sunday of Ordinary time
Year of Matthew [A]
Next Sunday: 28th in Ordinary Time**

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

It is difficult to believe that it will be one year this week since the death of Father Anthony McCarthy, parish priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel for more than thirty years. May he rest in peace. I shall offer the 10am Mass this Friday 9 October for Father Anthony, as well as the Vigil Mass at 5.30pm and the Sunday 9.45am Mass.

It has seemed a very quick year. After Father's death the Bishop asked me to be Administrator of the parish for three months and then in January this year appointed me as parish priest, in addition to being the Cathedral Administrator.

Our parish life and activities this year have been very far from the norm and extremely limited because of the virus, with minimal personal contact and the suspension of the usual activities which give life blood to parish communities. Hopefully in 2021 we will be able to resume, in both parishes, many opportunities to meet, to grow in faith and socialise together.

I am very happy that at present I am still able to visit the sick and housebound regularly. I am on call to Ninewells and RVH this week. If you or a loved one need a visit, it is best to ask the charge nurse of the ward to contact me on the dedicated Chaplain's number: 07821 624124.

The Mass of Chrism will be celebrated this coming Thursday 8 October at **11.30am** in Lawside Convent Chapel [not in the Cathedral as stated in the *Dunkeld News*]. Given the present restrictions the Mass will - sadly - not be a public event, but it will be live streamed via the Diocesan website - www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk

THIS WEEK'S MASSES

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Sunday 4 October:

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm;

Morning Mass at 9.45am.

Monday 5 October: Mass at 10am

Tuesday 6 October: Parish Mass at 10am

Funeral Mass for Tilda Cavanagh at 12noon

(by family invitation only due to limits on numbers)

Wednesday 7 October: Mass at 10am

Thursday 8 October: Mass at 10am

Friday 9 October: Mass at 10am

Saturday 10 October: **No Morning Mass**

Sunday 11 October:

Vigil Mass on Saturday 5.30pm;

Morning Mass at 9.45am.

St Andrew's Cathedral:

Sunday 4 October:

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4pm;

Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.

Monday 5 October: Mass at 1pm

Tuesday 6 October: **Mass at 11am**
Please note time

Wednesday 7 October: Mass at 1pm

Thursday 8 October: Mass at 1pm

Friday 9 October: Mass at 1pm

Saturday 10 October: Novena and Mass at 10am

Sunday 11 October:

Vigil Mass on Saturday 3rd at 4pm;

Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.

Our Prayers..... for those who have died recently:

Kieran McMullan, Margaret McHattie, Tilda Cavanagh, Maureen Johnston, Eric Depta, Eileen Gillespie;

those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Frances Young, Joe McMahan, Grace Logan, Canon John Page, Elizabeth Berry, Paul Bailey, Frank Haughey, Thomas Ravey, Winnie Smith, Bill Smith, Thomas McBride, Syd Connor, Maud Duncan, William Campbell, Tommy McBride, Father Anthony McCarthy, Ann Danaher;

all those who are sick and in need of our

intercession: Joe Jackson, Tony Beck, Mel Caullay, Jackey-Forrest-Moore, May Forbes, Catherine Gallacher, Baby Ben Welsh, Bill Boland, Thinley Chodron, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Allison Matthew.

There are some copies of the **Day by Day** booklet at the back of the Churches.

The latest edition of the *Dunkeld News* is available through the diocesan website www.dunkelldioocese.co.uk

Booking a place for Sunday Mass

I have had discussions this week with our volunteers who co-ordinate Mass bookings on Eventbrite and on the dedicated phone number. Masses will continue to be available to book up to 6 weeks ahead. That is to say, right now, you are able to book up to and including Sunday 8 November. We've agreed that each Monday, a further week will be added so for example, on Monday 5 October, bookings will open for the weekend of 14/15 November.

In order that the booking process is as fair and equal as possible, we can't take bookings on the phone line any further ahead than the 6 week period described above. It would be most helpful if parishioners could note this and book accordingly. Remember too that the phone number is in place primarily for those who are unable to access the Eventbrite website.

Sunday Mass at 11am remains extremely popular. Whilst the other Masses at 4pm on Saturday and 6pm on Sunday are busy, there are often seats available up until 7pm on Friday evening when bookings close. Please do consider these as alternatives.

Please note that because of the pandemic the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays continues to be suspended: if you can come on a weekday for Mass that could help those who can only come on a Sunday to book a place.

The wearing of a face covering or mask when in Church is a legal requirement and is endorsed by the Scottish Bishops. Please avoid gathering in groups in the church porches or immediately outside the buildings without a face covering.

For Mass at **St Andrew's Cathedral** search for **'Eventbrite, St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee'**.

For **Our Lady of Good Counsel** search for **'Eventbrite, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry'**.

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**.

Please approach the priest before weekday Mass if you wish to have **Confession**.

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for the 27th Sunday of the Year at 4pm in the Cathedral today. Vespers attached/enclosed if you'd like to share in this Evening Prayer.

Follow the reflections and music on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

A Liturgy for Children is on the Facebook page for this Sunday.

Newsletters by Post

Since the lockdown, I have been posting out in the region of ninety newsletters each week to those without email. I have been very happy to do this so all our parishioners are kept in the loop regarding news and developments in the parish. This will be the final week I will post out the newsletter, except to those who have said they need it to be posted. A good number of those to whom the newsletter is posted are now returning to Mass on Sundays or weekdays. If you would still like the newsletter posted to you, and have not already let me know this, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks.

If necessary in the future, I will again begin posting the newsletter to the full list of parishioners not on email. I will continue at present to email the newsletter each week to those who have given me their email address. The newsletter can always be collected from the back of the Church. I ask that you take it home with you once you have handled it.

Wedding Congratulations to Ossian Moncreiffe and Fiona Campbell who were married in the Cathedral last Saturday. May the Lord bless them as they embark on married life together.

Baptismal Congratulations

- to Zoe Zarembo, daughter of Matthew and Sonia who was Baptised in the Cathedral on Saturday 15 August;
- to Jack Frances Derrick, son of Lyndsay and Emma, who was baptised in the Cathedral on Saturday 29 August;
- to Joshua Sheppard, son of Stephanie and Craig who was baptised in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Sunday 13 September

Finance Report

Our Lady of Good Counsel parish recently benefitted from a Gift Aid claim of £5735.

Grateful thanks to all parishioners who are able to *Gift Aid* their contributions to the Church.

Thanks to Mike McCarry for recording the gift aid envelope donations in the Diocesan finance system.

Grateful thanks for your Offertory

contributions in Our Lady of Good Counsel:

- the week up to Sunday 9 August: £580;
- the week up to Sunday 16 August: £932;
- the week up to Sunday 23 August: £605;
- the week up to Sunday 30 August: £1167;
- the week up to Sunday 6 September: £1013;
- the week up to Sunday 13 September: £669.

The **Cathedral income** shall be recorded in the newsletter when the next bank statement arrives.

Keeping this Sunday holy with a Home Liturgy



A prayer to begin

Who can they be, God and Master of the vineyard,
the tenants who have failed to produce the fruits
of the kingdom, rejecting your prophets,
rejecting your Son?

Break our hardened hearts,
pierce our self-righteous souls,
and reveal to us the truths of today's parable;
that, laying aside our judgement of others,
we may attend to our own fidelity
in bearing fruit for your kingdom. Amen
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Penitential Prayer

The Lord calls us to work in his vineyard.
Soon the time of the harvest will come.
Are we ready to give an account of ourselves to the
Master of the vineyard? We implore his mercy.

For the grapes that we have let die in the garden of our
hearts, through indifference or jealousy,
pardon us, Lord.

For the grapes that we have let die through selfishness
or cowardice, **pardon us, Lord.**

For the vineyards we have allowed to lie fallow
through lack of devotion to the service of the Gospel,
pardon us, Lord.

For the plants in the garden of our lives which we have
allowed to wither, through negligence or spiritual
laziness, **pardon us, Lord.**

Read the Scriptures of the day

Book of the Prophet Isaiah 5: 1 – 7:

Isaiah's song of the vineyard.

Psalm 79:

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9:

If there is anything you need, pray for it....

The Gospel of Matthew 21: 33- 43

*Jesus, the stone rejected by the builders....the
parable of the tenants in the vineyard*

A reflection:



The vineyard owner was probably one of the wealthy Romans who had vineyards in Israel at the time of Jesus. Since the vineyard owner may have been living abroad, native Palestinians had to look after the vineyard. Unfortunately, the tenants had the wrong attitude. When the owner sent servants to collect the produce of the vineyard, the tenants thrashed one, killed one and stoned the third. They did the same with the next group of servants and also killed the owner's son.

The tenants' problem was that they thought they owned the place, they were acting as if they could get the produce from the vineyard and forgot that they were working for the absentee owner living abroad and that the produce was his. Because of the mess their wrong attitude got them into, committing murder, the absentee owner would take the vineyard from their care and give it to others who would give him the produce.

So, what has this parable got to do with us? What is the vineyard now? The vineyard for us is everything God has given to us. The absentee vineyard owner is God himself. We are the tenants looking after the vineyard that God has given to us. What is our attitude to the vineyard? How am I tending the garden of life, which God has given me as a most precious gift?

Jesus delivers this stinging parable to the chief priests and scribes; they are the ones who have abused their status, so the reign of God will be taken away from them: that reign would be entrusted to the Church which he would found, but in the process he would himself become the son in the parable, he would go to the cross for the sake of truth and justice. He would be rejected as nothing, but would be for those who could see with eyes of faith, the very cornerstone of life.

The Church is a community for which all of us have a responsibility, for it has been for us a conduit of grace: the grace of baptism is both a gift and a call. That gift links us to each other, gives us an identity as children of God. The Liturgy calls us brothers and sisters, the scriptures call us the community of the saints. The song of the vineyard which Isaiah sings today is the song of our lives, the music of love and laughter, and

the lament of struggle and hardship and sin which characterise our existence. The responsibility is that we work to make grace triumph over evil. The key for this is Christ: his example, his selfgiving and his risen life which affects us now. Here in the Liturgy he tends his Church, his vineyard; here he fences us round with love, digs a wine press of deep faith in our hearts, builds a tower of a vision of what life can really be like and gives it to us. So his eyes become our eyes, his work our work.

In the history of the Church, we have had those who have been seized, thrashed, and imprisoned because of their faith. Because they remained faithful they were martyrs; others did the seizing and the thrashing, they were bad tenants: often their seizing and thrashing was just their apathy, their discontent, their forgetfulness.

The warning is that the vineyard, the grace of faith, the Church will be taken from us and God will create a new people. He calls us perhaps not so much to perfection as to faithfulness. When faith grows cold it must make his loving heart suffer.

Intercessions: Take time to voice your own prayers, and conclude with the *Our Father*.

Thanksgiving

For the call that you address to us, to work in your vineyard, *we thank you, O Lord*.

For the grapes which ripen in the sun of our lives, *we thank you, O Lord*.

For the wine of your blood in the Eucharist, which is the blood of the new covenant, *we thank you, O Lord*.

Caring for God's Creation



On 1 September, Pope Francis, in his World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation offered a profound reflection for us:

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

He talks of the current pandemic bringing us to a crossroads. He asks us to examine our habits of energy use, consumption, transportation and diet, encouraging us to nurture life-giving ways to trade, produce, and transport goods.

He asks us to think once again of our fellow human beings, especially the most poor and the most vulnerable, to share the common heritage of creation in a "spirit of conviviality, not in competitive scramble but in joyful fellowship, supporting and protecting one another."

Pope Francis' call for us to be mindful of how we care for creation naturally includes all peoples, all living things, land and resources.

LAST WEEK we focused on supporting those who struggle to make a living in the most harsh of climates with the most basic of material resources when we looked at FAIRTRADE. This week, we turn our eyes to LOCAL PRODUCE and how it can also help our poorer brothers and sisters in some of the earth's harshest environments.

Some questions we could begin by asking ourselves:

Do I know where my products come from?
What was their journey to get to my home?
Who was supported? Who was harmed?
Who might benefit? Who might suffer?
What are the ingredients and how were they obtained?
What methods were used in its production?

Do I know the country of origin?
Does this country promote life-sustaining policies and practices?

Which companies have a monopoly? Why?
Do we look into their trading standards and ethics or do we buy because they are a 'well known' brand?
What do we ethically produce here that we can buy, rather than encourage air miles and pollution?

How in practice do we support local producers, purchase and eat local food?
Think seasonal: what can we buy here..... and now!

Something to ponder.....

As an example of import folly, Egyptian potatoes had been seen on sale in Dublin....in the heartland of the spud!

We can all buy the vegetables and fruit that thrive here! Find local greengrocers, bakers, butchers, cheese and fish shops. Some still exist!!

Or.....why not grow your own!!

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to-grow-plants/how-to-grow-potatoes-in-a-pot/>

For further reading, some websites you may find informative.....greenchristian.org.uk

<https://foodrevolution.org/blog/why-buy-local-food/>

NEXT WEEK - Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!