

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

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**29th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
17 October 2021**

*Next Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Dear Friends and Parishioners,**



On Sunday last, as we were reflecting on the encounter of the rich young man with Jesus in the gospel narrative from Mark, our Holy Father Pope Francis was preaching on the same text in St Peter's Basilica, as he celebrated the Inaugural Mass of the path "Towards a synodal Church", *synodal* simply

meaning *walking together as companions*, fellow bread-breakers with Christ.

He noted in his homily that the God of the bible embodies a style of "synod" himself as he "travels the paths of history and shares in the life of humanity". The Pope then asked the question, "Are we prepared for the adventure of this journey?"

We can be sure: the Holy Father is not seeking to create a new church but perhaps a different way of "being" the Church. The synodal process, he said, is to be neither a convention, nor a study group, nor is it to be like a political gathering or a parliament, but rather it is a "grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Holy Spirit".

The documents of this preparatory stage of the synodal process I find very inspiring; as they unfold across our Diocese in due course, I hope you will find them helpful too. In November, our

Bishop will meet for reflection and discernment with his priests at Kinnoull, to bring the process forward.

This Sunday at the 11am Solemn Mass in the Cathedral, Bishop Stephen will inaugurate the *synodal path*, as an echo of the Holy Father last Sunday. We shall echo that *inaugural moment* by singing the hymn *Come Holy Ghost, Creator come*, at the beginning of all our Masses this Sunday.



**I hope you can make a date and join us next Sunday 24 October in the afternoon [Mission Sunday] at 4pm in the Cathedral for our *Prayer for the Earth* service in which we shall celebrate the beauties and wonders of**

**God's creation, echoing the sentiments of the Holy Father in his letter *Laudato Si*.**

**Our Sunday Masses**

**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**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**

**Monday - Friday at 10am**

***Morning Prayer precedes Mass***

**St Mary's, Forebank**

**Monday - Friday at 11.30am**

**St Andrew's Cathedral**

**Monday - Friday at 1pm**

**Saturday Mass at 10am (& Novena to Our Lady)**

**CONFESSIONS on request before any Mass**

**Join us this Sunday 17 October in St Mary's, Forebank, at 4pm. as we honour the Blessed Mother in the month of the Holy Rosary, a prayer of great and powerful intercession.**

**Finance matters**

**Thank you** for your offertory contributions last Sunday of £764 in the Cathedral, £450 in St Mary's and £485 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Thanks too for your generosity in the Annual special collection for the **Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' fund**. This realised £408 in the Cathedral, £224 in St Mary's and £263 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**A most important special collection is taken next Sunday for *Missio*, the work of the Church on the Missions.**



**As you know,  
Glasgow will host the  
26th UN Climate  
Change Conference  
(COP26) in Glasgow  
from 31 October – 12  
November.**

The nearness of this event galvanized me to recently revisit the 2015 encyclical letter of our Holy Father Pope Francis, entitled *Laudato Si*, the very title of which means *Praise be to you*, taken from the Hymn of Praise for Creation of St Francis of Assisi – some of you may remember singing that at the great charismatic conferences of the 1980s: *Laudato Si, O mi Signore*....

The hymn continues:

*Yes, be praised in all your creatures,  
brother sun and sister moon;  
in the stars and in the wind,  
air and fire and flowing water.  
For our sister, mother earth,  
she whom feeds us and sustains us;  
for her fruits, her grass, her flowers,  
for the mountains and the oceans.  
Praise for those who spread forgiveness,  
those who share your peace with others,  
bearing trials and sickness bravely!  
Even sister death won't harm them.  
For our life is but a song,  
and the reason for our singing  
is to praise you for the music;  
join the dance of your creation.*

The Holy Father has continually referenced the mission of the church in our time to the exhortations and teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

In re-reading *Laudato Si*, what strikes me is that while the Holy Father stresses the need to approach the environmental crisis with all the tools of reflection of today, his letter is nevertheless very reminiscent of the Second Vatican Council's stance, with its stress on addressing not only Catholics but all those who care about truth, goodness and about moral living in general. He says he wishes to address "every living person on the planet"....about "our common home". The great Constitution on "The Church in the Modern World" (known usually by the Latin title, *Gaudium et Spes* – joy and hope) which the Council promulgated was also addressed to all men and women of goodwill, appearing at a time in the 1960s when thinkers were debating the uniqueness of Christian morality. It also echoes for me the spirit of last Sunday's Gospel, where, in his most lengthy

moral teaching in Mark's narrative, Jesus addresses not a particular ethical issue or problem but speaks to the very moral stance and outlook of the human person.

You may recall the words of the Eucharistic Prayer used last Sunday at our Masses, which also took up the spirit of *Gaudium et Spes*....

*Grant that all the faithful of the Church,  
looking into the signs of the times  
by the light of faith, may constantly devote  
themselves to the service of the Gospel.  
Keep us attentive to the needs of all,  
that, sharing their grief and pain, their joy  
and hope, we may faithfully bring them the  
good news of salvation and go forward with  
them along the way of your Kingdom.*

*Laudato Si* has at times been criticised for its lack of clear and formal principles, which, with many Church documents, we are used to. While this seeming *lack* may not be pleasing to all who read it, I think we shouldn't ignore the invitation the letter sends out, an invitation to reflection, to dialogue. Pope Francis' spirit seems to be always inviting us to be courageous, to go beyond the boundaries we know and are comfortable with: in the present context that may mean an increased sharing and listening, and for us, not least a renewed appreciation for the biblical texts which address this subject, not scientifically but spiritually.

Some of you may recall the "see-judge-act" principle of the Young Christian Worker Movement. *Laudato Si* evokes such a process, but doesn't give us all the answers: rather it invites our discernment. If you haven't read it it is well worth taking time to read. You can find it on the Vatican website: <http://www.vatican.va/>

#### ***Our Prayers***

**for the sick:** Heather Moffit, Hilda McGinness, Steven Hackney, Jane Budge, Alan McKenzie, Joyce Scott, John McCarry, Margaret McMenemy, Tony Beck, Isobel Blackmore, Karen Dammer, Mel Caullay, Allison Matthew, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Baby Ben Welsh, Thinley Chodron, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

**those who have died recently:** Patricia Duffy, Neil Young, Wyn McCabe, Kit Corcoran, Irene Conning, Kathleen Kerrigan, Vina Auchterlonie, Margaret Galavan;

**those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** James Matthew, Thomas Robertson, Charlie Hanlon, Ethel McQueen, Josephine Harris, David Duncan, Winnie Golden, Bishop William Andrew Hart, Veronica van der Kuyl, John Flynn, David Walker, Ethel and John McQueen, May McCormack, Joe Esposito, Gerald Reynolds, Danny McCabe.

