

What is there for God to fill, if you are “up to the brim” already?

“The tax collector stood some way off”..... a kind of *social distancing* of the day I suppose, but there was probably more to it. “Their sort and our sort don’t mix”, even in the Temple, it seems, or perhaps especially there!

All of us in the Judeo-Christian tradition know the truth revealed in the early verses of Genesis, that we are made in the image and likeness of God, yet how conveniently this truth can be - not denied exactly - but “laid aside”, as we can revel in (rather than lovingly address) factions and divisions. Jesus knew this too, and perhaps that is why he addresses a short but memorable *parable of contrasts* to make a point, and we hear it in this Sunday's Gospel.

Nancy Spiegelberg, author of “*I’d like to ask God*”, wrote this:

“Lord, I crawled across the barrenness to you with my empty cup, uncertain in asking any drop of refreshment. If only I had known you better, I’d have come running with a bucket.”



The key players in this Sunday's Parable are a Pharisee and a Tax Collector. Both of them are in the *holy place*, the Temple, the Jewish equivalent of you and I coming into this *holy place* to address our Lord in prayer. To use Nancy's image, the Pharisee comes *with his bucket already full to the brim*, eager to tell God all about it, as if God didn't know! His bucket is full of self, full of “*me, me, and more me*”. Such success! Such unrestrained pride in voicing his accomplishments! If only he'd taken Psalm 90 to heart: *You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning; in the morning it springs up and flowers, by evening it withers and fades.....make us know the shortness of our life!*

But he has affirmed himself for all his good deeds and now he wants God to the same, thus he will go home self-satisfied. In contrast, the tax collector it seems, comes with an *empty bucket*, to continue

Nancy's imagery; he comes with the great void that failure and regret can bring, he brings the ache of his past deception and sin, perhaps his cruelty and cheating. His “bucket-list” contains one item: a craving for mercy.

Back to the Pharisee: without doubt, being true to his belonging to that fellowship of Pharisees, he would have done many good actions in his time, perhaps even he had helped a poor family while en route to the temple that very day, while his counterpart may have been fining or evicting a poor widow for not paying her property tax. Pharisees were the “pillars of the temple”, so to speak. The Pharisee, called with all Jews to fast and tithe, has actually gone beyond what was required. *Oh, all these good works I have done!* The first century Pharisees distinguished themselves by their very high observance of their religion, going beyond the norm. This guy's conscience does not accuse him of any sins which require penance. Surely all this would make him the more honourable in the sight of God?..... “*not like this tax collector here*”.

But wait: this Pharisee has not bargained for the authenticity of the God whom Jesus reveals, the God who looks at the heart, while humans tend to judge by appearances. For all his good deeds, it is when he is inside the temple, as he begins to pray, that another side to this Pharisee is revealed. He passes from gratitude to God for who he is and what he has done, to comparing himself with the tax collector. His condescension towards his fellow temple-goer is remarkable. The tax collector does not even look at the Pharisee as he might have done, and said to God, “*I'm sorry I'm not good like he is!*” But the tax collector has no need to compare. He knew who he was in his own heart. He stands there in his emptiness and asks only for mercy.

His distancing is not only “social”: it reveals the two different understandings of the Divine. The tax collector's distance shows his feeling like a fish out of water in such a “holy” assembly. He knows what the “faithful” around him must be thinking: he is a man who doesn't work for the temple but for the Roman system, most likely dishonest and corrupt. He dares not to even look up from the floor, but beats his breast in acknowledgement of his sin and shame. He doesn't promise God anything; he can't give back what has taken from unknown people. His only hope is to throw himself on God's mercy, just as he is.

And it seems that this is all God needs and asks of us: we don't have to rehearse all our good deeds before God, he knows them already; we don't to take vainglory before him because of our talents and achievements, he has enabled us to do all we have accomplished anyway! As Psalm 139 muses: “*It was you who created my inmost being.....my days were listed and determined even before the first of them occurred.*”

The Pharisee's big mistake that day was to start comparing, because when you compare it's so tempting to subtly look down on others and to start saying without truly reflecting, *There but for the grace of God...* and similar sentiments which we should be very careful of expressing. What really matters is that we allow God the opportunity to come into our emptiness, our need. If we are pleased as punch with ourselves, believing we have the full-to-the-brim bucket, then what do we need God to fill? Perhaps that's why the Church has always called her children to a true and regular examination of conscience, not so that we humiliate ourselves by doing it, but so that we are led to a deeper self knowledge.

Nancy's Spiegelberg's sentiments are probably wisdom enough: when we come before God, we should come with our voids and our emptiness, rather than rehearsing our overflowing buckets of achievements: thus he can fill us, in places where we thought the emptiness would be permanent.

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



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)

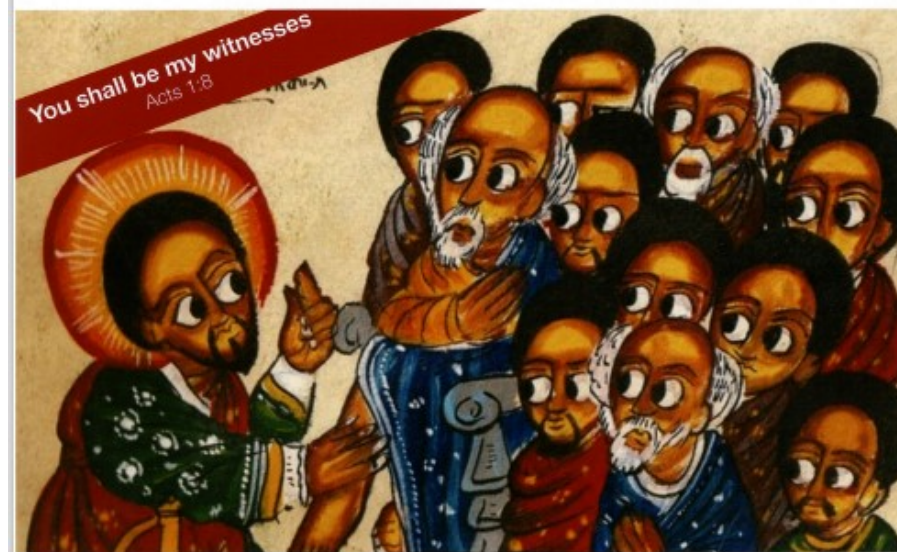


Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
23 October 2022 - Year of Luke - C
Next Sunday: 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

MISSION SUNDAY

23 October 2022



Supporting our brothers and sisters in
ETHIOPIA

Mission Sunday is marked in every Catholic Parish around the world.



On this day, as we share in our Mass we are asked pray especially for the work of the courageous missionaries, catechists, medical personnel, priests, sisters, teachers, carers, and aid workers across the globe, especially in the poorest and most dangerous regions,

For mission aid, Scotland helps particular parts of Asia, Africa South America and the Caribbean. The Mission Sunday retreat collection this year will help two projects in Ethiopia. There are copies of the Mission magazine *We are Mission* at the back of the Church, please take one if you would like.

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A warm welcome to our Masses across the parishes this Sunday! We want you to know you are a welcome part of our parish family, whether you are a visitor, a new parishioner, a student one of the Universities or Colleges or a regular worshipper with us. All are welcome in this place.

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



Monday 24 October: 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank
Rosary at 12.30pm & Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral

Tuesday 25 October: 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank 1pm in the Cathedral

Wednesday 26 October: 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's, Forebank
Rosary at 12.30pm & Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral
The Funeral Mass for John Doig RIP takes place in Our Lady of Good Counsel at 3.15pm

Thursday 27 October: **9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel** **10am in St Mary's, Forebank**
No 1pm Mass in the Cathedral. Cathedral Mass at 7.30pm — Pro life Mass
12noon: Midday Prayer and Benediction in the Cathedral — all welcome.

Friday 28 October: *Feast of Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles*
9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel **10am in St Mary's, Forebank** **11am in the Cathedral**
The wedding of Caitlin Boyle and Stephen Browne takes place in the Cathedral at 12.30pm

October Devotions

of the Rosary, Litany and Prayer to St Joseph will take place this Sunday 23 October at 4pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry. Please come and join us as we continue to honour Our Lady during this month. This will be the final Sunday after October Devotions this year and we will celebrate the Mysteries of Light, given to us by Pope Saint John Paul II.

There will be October Rosary on Monday and Wednesday this week at 12.30pm in the Cathedral, before the 1pm Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Our Lady of Good Counsel: There was previously the tradition of having a period of adoration until 11am from after the 10am Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Tuesdays. Perhaps we could restart this devotion, an extension of the Communion thanksgiving, beginning this Tuesday 25 October. I shall stay for the period and there will be a short Benediction at the end.

Father Tony also used to have a **Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing** on a Saturday morning, once a month I think. As Saturday Mass is now in the evening only, might we introduce this on another day? During a morning Mass? Or an evening Mass? Please let me know your thoughts.

Ecumenical Service this Sunday 23 October at St Aidan's at 6pm—everyone is welcome!

Warm spot at St James, Fort Street, Broughty Ferry, every Thursday from 10am until 2pm: all welcome for hot drinks; see the poster for more venues and details.

The Scottish Catholic Magazine: As this publication is not supplied on a *sale or return* basis, as the Catholic papers of old were, it might be best if you let me know if you would like to receive a copy; this will make it more economical for the parish.

Changes in usual Weekday Mass times

Please note:

On **Thursday** this week the Dunkeld Chapter of Canons meet with the Bishop in the Cathedral. There will be no 1pm Mass on Thursday, and Mass in Broughty Ferry will be at 9am, then 10am in Forebank.

There will be **Midday Prayer and Benediction** at 12noon in the Cathedral with the canons. Please come and join us if you can.

Mass in the Cathedral on Thursday will be at **7.30pm** for pro life intentions.

On **Friday** this week, the wedding of Caitlin Boyle and Stephen Browne takes place in the cathedral at 12.30pm, hence the Cathedral Mass being at 11am on Friday.

Looking ahead:

On **Monday 31 October** the Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel will be at **6pm** and it will be a Vigil Mass of All Saints' Day—a holy day of obligation.

All Saints' Day Masses on **Tuesday 1 November** will be celebrated at 9.30am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 11am in St Mary's, Forebank, and 1pm & 7pm in the Cathedral.

On **Wednesday 2 November**, the commemoration of the all the faithful departed, in addition to the daytime Masses there will be an extra Mass in the Cathedral at 7pm.

On **Thursday 3 November** there will also be a 7pm Mass in the Cathedral - a memorial Mass for all deceased Catenians.

On **Friday 4 November** the Mass in St Mary's Forebank will be at 12.15pm, due to a Funeral taking place earlier in the morning.

Last Sunday evening's dinner in the Cathedral Hall

Father Jean Gové writes:

"Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine, there's always laughter and good red wine. At least I've always found it so. Benedicamus Domino!" — Hilaire Belloc

Last Sunday's first 'Cathedral Dinner' was quite a success, with over 20 youths attending. The group comprised students from the universities of Dundee and St Andrews, as well as other young people who have finished their studies or are working in or around Dundee.

It was a great opportunity for many of them to get to know each other in a fraternal atmosphere. After dinner, the evening concluded with Night Prayer.

The next Cathedral Dinners shall be on 13th November and 11th December. Furthermore, on 26th November there will be a half-day retreat for the beginning of Advent. All youths are invited and welcome to attend.

Our Prayers for the sick: Ann Nicoll, Helen Brannagan, Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Jean Drummond, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Janet Isherwood, Theresa Kay, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Thinley Chodron, Catherine Gallacher, Steven Kennedy, Sonya Rostan, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;
for those who have died recently: Mary Gilhooley, Al Levesque, John Doig;
and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ricky Miller, John Joseph McGlinn, Alexander McGlinn, Patrick Murphy, Canon Lavelle, John Dowdles, Jane Berry, Agnes Cumming, Mary Ellen Murphy, Mary Fitzpatrick, Canon McCurrach, Dorothy Waddell, Irene Rooney, Thomas Adams, Kathleen Elder, Ambrose Given, Paul Dillon, Betty Dillon, Murray Alexander, Andy Smith, Williamina Duffy, Thomas Robertson, Bob Gardiner, Lorna Small, Mary Clark, Gerald Fleming, Baby Kalso Eze, John Flynn, George and Annie MacMillan, Vivienne Kenneth, May Forbes, Hugh Brown.

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

Refreshments after Mass on Tuesday in the old Priests' dining room in the house at St Mary's Forebank, all welcome.

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £807 in the Cathedral, £747 in St Mary's, Forebank and £458 in Our Lady of Good Counsel. The collection in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Sunday 9 October came to £584.

Mass in Italian: Santa Messa in Italiano, Domenica 30 Ottobre 2022 alle ore 17, St Bride's, Brook Street Monifieth, Dundee DD5 4BD

A **ornate brooch** was found in the Cathedral hall last Sunday, please come into the sacristy if you have lost it. There is also a gents' lambswool sweater (black) in the choir room which someone has left at some point!

Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2023

St Mary's, Forebank

First Holy Communion may take place at Primary Four stage or after, and the Sacrament of Confirmation at Primary Seven stage or later. We shall celebrate **First Holy Communion** in St Mary, Our Lady of Victories on Sunday 14 May 2023 at the 11.15am Mass.

If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion in St Mary's in 2023, whether or not they are at Our Lady's Primary School, please come along to a short preparation meeting on Monday 7 November at 6pm in Our Lady's Primary School, Alexander Street. You will be very welcome.

Bishop Stephen Robson will visit St Mary's Parish on Sunday 21 May 2023 and will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 11.15am Mass. If your child would like to be confirmed please come along to the same meeting—Monday 7 November at 6pm in the school.

Our Lady of Good Counsel

If your child is at Primary four stage or older and you would like them to make their **First Holy Communion** please take a form from the back of the Church, fill it in and return to me as soon as you can. We will decide a date later.

The Bishop will come to administer Confirmation in Our Lady of Good Counsel on Sunday 28 May during the 9.45am Mass. If your child would like to be Confirmed please fill in the form at the back of the Church.

St Andrew's Cathedral

If your child is at Primary four stage or older and you would like them to make their **First Holy Communion** please take a form from the back of the Church, fill it in and return to me as soon as you can. We will decide a date later.

The Bishop administer Confirmation in the Cathedral at Pentecost 2023. If your child would like to be Confirmed, or indeed any young person or adult who has, for whatever reason, missed the opportunity for Confirmation, please fill in the form at the back of the Church.

Pro life Vigil and Mass: To commemorate the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act, SPUC Dundee are holding the 19th consecutive annual Silent Vigil, this **Thursday 27th October** in the City Square from 6-7pm. The Vigil will be followed immediately with a procession to the Cathedral, and Mass at 7.30pm. All are welcome to the Vigil and/or to the Mass. If coming from Broughty Ferry and you need a lift, Phil Kearns can provide one for you. Please let him know as soon as you can.