

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

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 14 November 2021

Next Sunday: Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

This Saturday evening (13th) I shall travel to Birnam to celebrate the Vigil Mass in the little church of St Columba. Father Emmanuel will celebrate the 4pm Mass in the Cathedral, before travelling on Sunday to Aberfeldy and Pitlochry to celebrate there. My going to Birnam for the Vigil Mass will save him having to travel up the A9 twice on consecutive days. Fr Greg Murphy shall celebrate the 5.30pm Vigil Mass in Broughty Ferry.

170th anniversary

of the opening of St. Mary's Forebank

We shall celebrate the milestone of the 170th anniversary of the opening of Our Lady of Victories Church on Sunday 28 November at 11.15am.

Please, spread the word of this celebration and invite former parishioners, friends and all those with an association to St Mary, Our Lady of Victories to join us for Mass on this special day. Refreshments afterwards in the Church Hall.



Synod
2021
2023

Hearing the word of God in the joy of your heart

An Advent Day, open to everyone

Join us for a gentle introduction to the new liturgical year with the Gospel of Luke and an opportunity to hear the vision of our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis for our Church at this time.

It will take place at the new Pastoral Centre, the hall of St Mary's, Forebank, Church, Forebank Road, on **Saturday 4 December at 10am**. You are invited. There is a list at the back of the church for names.

Programme for the day

10am: Morning Prayer and praise

10.20am: Coffee and social time

10.50am: Scene setting and a short input from Kevin: God's people on the journey through Advent;
Silence, prayer, scripture, listening, sharing.

12.30pm: Refreshments and lunch

1pm: Celebration of Mass then departures.

... this path of synodality which
God expects of the Church
of the third millennium ...

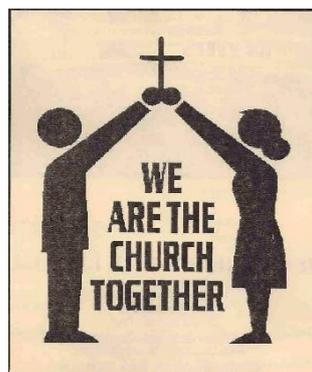
**Some nuggets of wisdom from the synod
preparatory document**

This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through Her experience which processes can help Her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open Herself to mission. Our "journeying together" is, in fact, what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God.



In spite of our infidelities, the Spirit continues to act in history and to show his life-giving power. It is precisely in the furrows dug by the sufferings of every kind endured by the human family and by the People of God that new languages of faith and new paths are flourishing, : capable not only of interpreting events from a theological point of view but also of finding in trials the reasons for refounding the path of Christian and ecclesial life

... a synodal Church is a Church
"going forth," a missionary Church
"whose doors are open" ...



The meaning of the journey to which we are all called is above all that of discovering the face and form of a synodal Church, in which "everyone has something to learn.

The faithful people, the

college of bishops, the Bishop of Rome: all listening to each other, and all listening to the Holy Spirit, the 'Spirit of truth' (John 14:17), in order to know what He 'says to the Churches' (Revelation 2:7)."¹⁹ The Bishop of Rome, as the principle and foundation of the Church's unity, asks all the Bishops and all the particular Churches, in which and from which the one and only Catholic Church exists (cf. LG, no. 23), to enter with confidence and courage into the path of synodality. In this "journeying together," we ask the Spirit to help us discover how communion, which brings together in unity the variety of gifts, charisms, and ministries, is for the mission: a synodal Church is a Church "going forth," a missionary Church whose doors are open.

... The proclamation of the Gospel is not addressed only to an enlightened or chosen few. Jesus' interlocutor is the "people" of ordinary life, the "everyone" of the human condition ...

Come Holy Spirit
Make our ears to hear
Make our eyes to see
Make our mouths to speak
Make our hearts to seek
Make our hands to reach out
And touch the world with your love.
Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church,
Pray for us.

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 at 10am

Tuesday at 9.30am

No Mass on Wednesday

Thursday at 1pm

Friday at 10am

Morning Prayer precedes Mass

St Mary's, Forebank

Monday at 12noon

Tuesday at 10.30am

No Mass on Wednesday

Thursday at 12noon

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

Priests' Reflection and Meetings

This week the priests are asked by the bishop to attend with him a recollection and various meetings at Kinnoull monastery: hence the changes in the Mass times and the fact that there will be no Mass in Forebank or the Ferry on Wednesday. I am grateful to Father Paul Capaldi who will offer Mass in the Cathedral on Wednesday and Thursday.

Weekdays beginning Monday 22 November

During the week Monday 22- Friday 26 November Mass will be at **12noon** in Our Lady of Good Counsel, and will be celebrated by Father Mark Cassidy or one of his assistants.

Bishop Stephen will celebrate Mass each day that week at **11am** in St Mary's Forebank, In the Cathedral, Monsignor Ken McCaffrey will celebrate the Mass at 1pm. Thanks to these priests and due to their help I will be able to take a short break before Advent.

More generally, I know that in the past we were used to having Mass in our parishes at the same time each day, each week. Now, with priests covering more than one parish, with funerals to schedule and other commitments and

chaplains, and indeed being able to help one another out, it means that weekday Mass times sometimes have to change. I always try to advertise the Mass times in the newsletter which as well as being in printed form is also on the parish website and Facebook page and is emailed to a large number of parishioners too. I do endeavour to have very few days when Mass is not celebrated in any of our parishes.

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, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

for those who have died recently: Ron Lesslie, Silvia Delnevo, Elsi Carroll;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Stephen Shepley, John Fernie, Elizabeth Alexander, Charles Rosie, Mary Lavery, William McQuillan Mary McKee, Alexander Devlin, Lawrence Ford Elaine Quinn, Hubert Johnston, Mary Hughes-Laird Celine Nuttall, Herbert Horn, Margaret Tait, June Crichton, John Joseph Hoey, Luigi Barbieri, Charles Zandre, Joseph Coyle, James Duncan, Elaine Quinn, Bridget Connor, Bruce Robertson, Helen Lowrie, Arthur Thorndyke, Cathel Graham, E Unnitta E.U. Abraham, Anne Brennan, Ann Cunningham, Joe Moore.

The **200 Club winners** in the cathedral latest draw are:

1st. Caroline Brown - £50

2nd. Maureen Watson £30

3rd. Frances Morrison £20.

Uni Catholic Society

Elijah Smith, President of the Universities' Catholic Society (CatSoc) invites all students to Mass at 7pm this Monday at St. Joseph's, Wilkie's Lane, then to a talk from Chris McCrossan on prayer. Social at the pub may follow.

Finance matters

Thank you for your offertory contributions last Sunday of £770 in the Cathedral, £342 in St Mary's and £371 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The latest editions of the *Bible Alive* and *Day by day* are available at the back of the Church today.

This Sunday's Scriptures

As winter approaches, the Word of God paints a rather bizarre picture for us this Sunday. It is of a world with a darkened sun, falling stars and a vision of Jesus in glory.



At first sight this is not the Jesus with whom we are most familiar, the caring Good Shepherd image or the merciful image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Jesus of this gospel passage sounds stern, and the first reading seeks to back up what Jesus says about the final judgement - *“There is going to be great distress”*.

While believing and trusting that all scripture is inspired by the Holy Spirit, when we are faced with scripture texts like these, one of the important Catholic principles in interpreting the words and the message is to place the given text in its original historic context, so that we don't risk assuming implications from a text, or drawing understandings from it that are not actually present. Catholic scripture scholarship discourages us from placing our own personal interpretations on biblical texts — for instance, seeking specific answers from biblical texts to twenty first century questions which the biblical authors could not ever have thought of asking — **until** we have been guided to understand the texts on their own ground, and in their own time and circumstance.

It is important to know that the texts of the first reading and the Gospel this Sunday were written for audiences who were being persecuted. They were not afraid of these passages from the word of God because they saw themselves as the ones who would be saved, not condemned, by God's action: *When the time comes, your own people will be spared”*.

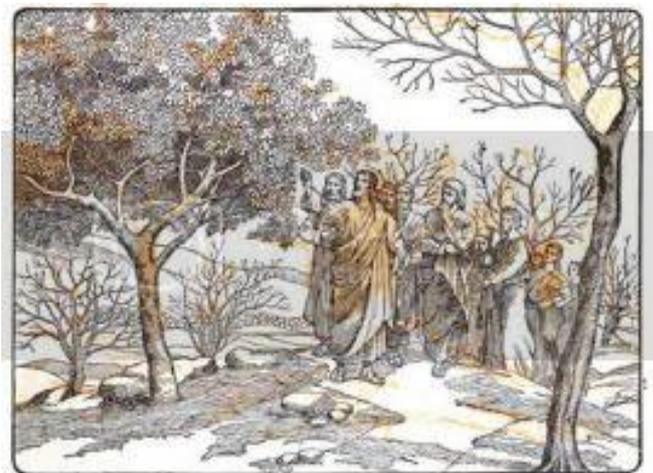
As the second reading makes clear, we are the successors of those early believers. Because Christ died, making “a single sacrifice for sin” our sins are forgiven. We will be “gathered from the four winds” under the protection of the Father.

What can we make of this for our daily lives?

Firstly, we can know that our lives have a direction. We are not, ultimately, victims of our advancing years or declining health. We are invited to see God in our experience, God who will one day come dramatically, but who in the meantime comes quietly in our everyday experiences.

Secondly, we can know that God is in charge of our lives, not us, just as He and no one else will bring the story or the world to a close. Being a Christian means dying to the sense that we control our own lives and letting ourselves fall into God's hands, with confident trust in his graciousness and mercy.

And thirdly, our response must be confident hope. For Jesus has already achieved the “eternal perfection”. The Opening Prayer in today's Mass identifies where the source of *constant gladness* and *full and lasting happiness* is to be found; it is to be found in serving *with constancy*, the *author of all that is good*. This prayer asks us that we make sure we are using all our gifts and resources to serve God well; it is only by doing so, that we can hope to share in the fullness of the joy of the Kingdom, of which Jesus Christ himself is, as we celebrate next Sunday, the Servant-King.



Take the fig tree as a parable

