

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

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

28 January 2024

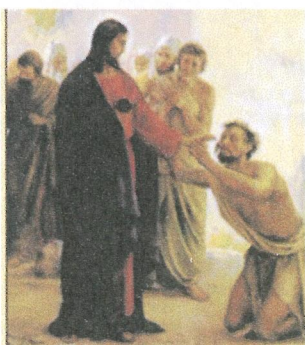
Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time -
Year of Mark (B)

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

The saying "Do what I say and not what I do" has no place in Jesus' understanding of his vocation. Indeed, his understanding is precisely the opposite. Saint Mark notes this Sunday that Jesus "unlike the scribes, taught with authority". What is this authority of Jesus? Jesus' authority is surely the authority of action and words being in harmony, words put into practice by action.

Jesus, like Moses, that reluctant prophet, allowed God to work through him; so this Jesus, one who is raised up from the people of Israel, speaks God's word with a new freshness, he is that *Word incarnate*, present, made evident, through his saving actions. As he speaks and acts, he gradually inaugurates the new Israel, the Church. He not only speaks words of healing, he actually demonstrates the Kingdom of God by deeds of healing; he doesn't only speak words of inclusive love, he actively reaches out to the rejected and the vulnerable; he

not only speaks of prayer, he models a life lived in communion with God his Father. This Sunday we find him at Capernaum, demonstrating God's reign as he frees the man possessed, allowing the gracious healing of God to come through him.



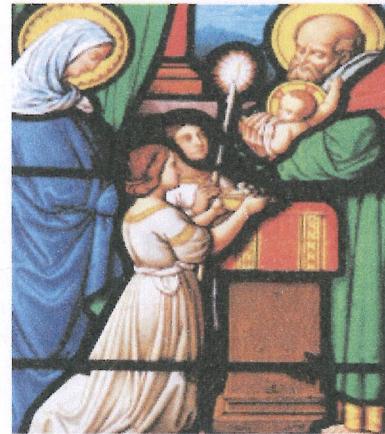
WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2024

The White flower appeal by the Society for the protection of the Unborn Child will be taken this Sunday in our three churches.

SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy.

As well as ending the live of precious babies, SPUC reports that this policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. SPUC further reports that 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion.

It was great to be part of the *Diocesan Synodal Team Meeting* last week. A diary date – *Diocesan Lenten Day on Saturday 2 March in St Mary's, Forebank 10am until 3pm. Come and join us for day in the spirit of Lent and the Synod.*



The Presentation at the Temple
WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

This Friday 2 February we keep the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in his Temple. It is also the World Day of Prayer for those in Consecrated Life. I have invited the priests, brothers and sisters in religious life and

also the Dundee priests to come to the Cathedral for Mass at 1pm and join us a Sung Liturgy and Procession. Please come and join us if you can, and affirm those in religious life with your presence and prayer.

Members of the diocesan choir will lead us in the music.

Children's Sacramental Preparation

A Meeting of Parents/Carers who wish their child to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation this year takes place this Thursday 1 February at 3.30pm in Our Lady's Primary School, Alexander Street. All parents/carers are welcome whether your child attends Our Lady's School or not.