

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

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**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time
30 January 2022**

*Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time -
Year of Luke (C)*

Dear Friends and Parishioners,



The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday is an experience to be cherished. It will open with the call of Jeremiah, known often as the *reluctant* prophet, and no wonder, as his was to be a very challenging vocation. The Lord says to him, "Brace yourself for action", but also speaks words of great reassurance to him as he takes on his ministry, saying he will make Jeremiah into "a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of bronze".

And Jeremiah would indeed be strengthened, and eventually he would be the prophet who would announce the new covenant in which God the Father would begin the new era of salvation, a covenant prophecy which is fulfilled in Jesus. We find Jesus this Sunday still in the Nazareth synagogue, but now, like Jeremiah before him, he is under threat for the message he preaches....so much to explore and be strengthened by in the scriptures this Sunday!

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 [Solemn Mass] & 6pm in Cathedral
11.15am [Solemn Mass] in St Mary's, Forebank
1.15pm: Mass in Polish in St Mary's.

This week's Daily Masses

St Andrew's Cathedral: Monday – Friday at 1pm
Saturday Mass at 10am (with Novena)

St Mary's, Forebank:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 11.30am.
Wednesday at 11am - please note.

Our Lady of Good Counsel:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday at 10am
Wednesday at 9.30am – please note.
Friday at 9am – please note.

Our Prayers for the sick: Ross Murray, Ian Davidson, Janet Isherwood, Theresa Kay, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Steven Hackney, Jane Budge, Alan McKenzie, Joyce Scott, John McCarry, Margaret McMenemy, Tony Beck, Isobel Blackmore, Karen Dammer, Allison Matthew, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, 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: Joseph Reilly, Lucille Duncan, Ethel Mooney, Maureen Quinn, Joyce Scott;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Robert and Ann Bertie, Rosella MacPherson. Marion Barry, Josephine Byrne, Michael Welsh, Julia Kelly, Edward O'Fee Junior, May Ward, Rose Ward, Kathleen Ward, Christina Stuart, Christopher Stuart, Giuseppina Carena, Margaret Quinn, Peggy Quinn, Mary McIvor, Jim Robertson, William Barnett, Michael Toolan, Bruno Dello Sterpaio, Christiaan van der Kuyl, Monsignor Ben Donachie, Annie Lafferty, John Caldwell, Roslyn Capitelli, Thomas Clark, Marion Barry, Sister Anne Green LSP, Andrew Ferrie, Tom Gilray.

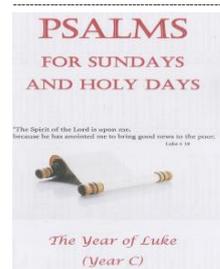
An Afternoon for Life

Bishop Stephen Robson invites you to an **Afternoon For Life** at the Pastoral Centre, at St Mary's Church Hall in Forebank Road on **Saturday 12th February at 1pm**. There will be informative talks from expert pro-life speakers. For further information and to book a place please email mcgraw.clare@gmail.com

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £579 in the Cathedral, £476 in Broughty Ferry, £351 in St Mary's, Forebank and £312 at the Polish Mass.

Student News

On Monday 31 January the Dundee CatSoc will be the Dominican Priest father Sammy Burke after the 7pm Mass at St Joseph's. All students welcome.



Any Psalm Books out there?

If any cantors have a copy of this Psalm book for Year C and no longer need it, please could you hand it back to me. For some reason the Year C Books are in short supply!

This Wednesday 2 February and Thursday 3 February I shall host the newly qualified teachers in Catholic schools, for their sessions on Catholic Education, in the Cathedral Hall at 1.30pm, along with Canon Tom Shields. Welcome to them all.

Cathedral 200 Club winners

The latest winners are Elaine Harrison (£50), Alex Adams (£30) & Kevin Golden (£20). Thanks to Sandra Scott and Linda Scott for their administration of the 200 Club.

In Synod, Journeying together



Last Sunday's Gospel couldn't have been more appropriate for taking the first step in the Synod process. Remember the scene - the synagogue at Nazareth – an enthralled audience – and the arresting themes of that first great homily of Jesus: *Good News – liberty – healing – the opening of eyes - the proclamation of the year of favour...and above all - fulfilled as they listened.* He is the Reality, the Presence, the Power.....they had just been dreaming of the possibly up till then, but now he is in their midst.

I reflected in the homily last Sunday that like the Lord, Pope Francis also proclaims good news, liberation and healing; like Jesus he seeks to put that dream into reality. Like Ezra and Nehemiah of last Sunday's scripture, the Holy Father could be called an "enterprising strategist": what he is seeking to do in this synodal approach to the Church is surely to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the Second Vatican Council when the Church sought to open herself more authentically to the world and *stand up joyfully on the mountain-top* (to use an Old Testament expression) and joyfully proclaim the good tidings of the Messiah in our midst.

So what will our synodal participation look like in the Diocese of Dunkeld?

The first stage of the synod will be the opportunity to complete a simple and anonymous questionnaire: it will be on line from this Friday 4 February; this is the most basic level of participation; you will be able to complete on line or in paper form.

Next Sunday 6 February there will be an introduction to the Synod given at each of our Masses and the paper form of the questionnaire will be launched and distributed. While you can

simply fill it in and submit it yourself online or in the paper form, there will also be the opportunities to participate in a Listening and Sharing Group. A number of you participated in an such an experience during our Advent Day in St Mary's, Forebank, and I have asked some of those who facilitated the groups on that day to once again facilitate our listening groups in the parish where we will be gathered around the scripture and pray about where the Holy Spirit is leading us at this time.

On Saturday 19 February there will be a gathering for the facilitators in St. Mary's, Forebank, which will be important for our communal confidence and our growth in reverence as we embark on this process. It will last from 10.30am until 1p.m.

The parish group listening sessions will take place during the season of Lent. I would appreciate your thoughts on how best to convene these parish sessions; it is important that everyone who wants to take part has the opportunity to do so and in our parishes we will also welcome any others who may be unable to access the opportunity in their own parish - for whatever reason - to join us.

The responses of the Listening Sessions will be collated in our diocese, and the Bishops' diocesan group will then have the task of synthesising the responses before the bishop takes the responsibility of sharing this synthesis with all of us and eventually submitting it to the Holy Father in August of this year.



The synod process will be a chance for us to revive our parish pastoral councils and parish meetings. Each parish has their own experience of these and I would

welcome your thoughts about how best to proceed. I favour a very fluid approach to pastoral councils: like the synod process itself, "they are not a parliament", as the Pope says. The business of the PPC is the business of the Good News; the proclaiming and living of the Gospel of Christ in the midst of the community. I would welcome your thoughts on the revival of the PPCs and parish meetings, building on what has gone before.

For a synodal Church



You can access a talk on the internet by lay theologian Raphael Luciani in which he explores the vision of the Church behind the synodal process of a more profound *walking together* that Pope Francis is promoting in the church and inviting us more deeply into Communion, Participation, and Mission.

What an important opportunity for the Church this is, Rafael says; he calls it a “kairos” moment, a Greek word meaning “the opportune time”, the seminal moment. He further emphasises a viewpoint that I have felt myself since the time was synod was first mentioned that it is really seeking to be a fulfilment of the vision of the Second Vatican Council, a bringing to reality of the dream of its two major blueprint documents of the Church – the actual Constitution on the Church, known as *Lumen Gentium* because of its first two words in the Latin text, and the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, known as *Gaudium et Spes* (Joy and Hope) for the same reason.

The link to Rafael’s session is:
<https://youtu.be/uWAmk32qNoc>

Pope Francis has this very sound theology behind him as he invites the Church, that is, all of us, to journey more purposefully together. When you have the opportunity to fill in the questionnaire it is vital that you speak from your heart and not be afraid to answer honestly and elaborate your feelings and thoughts. It will be important to pray before the completing the questionnaire, asking the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind and guide you. Why not pray the words of that beautiful hymn to the Holy Spirit we sang at some of the Masses last Sunday, Come down O love divine:

Here is its first stanza, so appropriate:
*Come down, O love divine!
Seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*



***I KNOW
THE
PLANS
I HAVE
FOR YOU***

The Annual Ecumenical World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 4 March and has been prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with this biblical theme, *I know the plans I have for you*.

The Cathedral World Day of Prayer service will take place at 2.30pm in the Cathedral that day and all are welcome. I shall let publicise the other times and venues of the services when I know them.

Safeguarding Review

The Social Care Institute for Excellence is **conducting an external, independent review of safeguarding arrangements in the Catholic Church in Scotland.**

The independent team want to hear from people with first-hand experience of how people in diocesan roles have responded, or failed to respond to disclosures of abuse or sharing of concerns. They want to understand what is working well and what has gone wrong in the past. They are looking at the responses of people in diocesan roles to knowledge of abuse by clergy or risks posed by clergy and others in Church-related roles, paid or voluntary.

The diocese will have no role in this except to help to publicise that the audit is taking place and that the external team want to hear from abuse survivors.

We recommend that you speak to SCIE staff directly. Nobody at any level in the Church will be told that you are taking part. What you tell SCIE will be confidential and will not be shared with the diocese except as part of an overall report which will absolutely not identify you.

SCIE expects the diocese to publish the report. Copies of the report will be made available to survivors. If you feel able to contribute, please contact SCIE directly:

By email on learningtogether@scie.org.uk
By phone on 07921 251614

The Synagogue scenario

Wasn't it just a **feast** of liturgy last Sunday? Such a wonderful and vivid word-picture from St. Luke, of Jesus in the synagogue of his home town, giving the opening sermon of his ministry. So poignant, that of all the Old Testament passages he could have cited as he laid out the agenda for his mission he chooses *Beloved Isaiah* proclaiming glad tidings from a joyous Messiah-figure: the poor lifted up, the downtrodden set free, sight given to the blind. This is what it is to live in God's Kingdom now, in God's reign now, as we sing in the hymn, not just in "some heaven light years away, but here in this place". This kingdom is welcome and inclusive. I have offered you this parish identity-statement many times and do not tire of quoting it for it is always to be a work in progress

In this parish all are welcome, because all are equally brothers and sisters; none are judged; everyone needs God's healing, mercy and peace.

The beautiful thing about the "ordered account" which Luke gives us is that Jesus, continuously driven by the Holy Spirit, goes on from this opening homily to "make present" in his deeds all that he his words have preached.



He made Isaiah's memorable text his own, not relying on any of the old rabbinic literature to help him explain or expound on it. He simply says: "This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen. Such a wordsmith is Luke that you feel you are actually there in the synagogue, watching him unroll the scroll and solemnly proclaim the text. From then on in his ministry he would "do" what he has "said" in his great charter of the work of the Messiah; and **we** will be witnesses to all this as the *Year of Luke* unfolds. Healings, acts of reconciliation, parables of mercy, meals and journeys.....the feast continues! I always connect the scene in the synagogue with the event of Mary

the mother of Jesus at the home of Elizabeth, when she breaks into her *Magnificat*. In that song, she has on her lips the agenda of her Son's mission, even before he is born (such is a mother's union with her child), as John the Baptist his precursor and "best man" leaps in the womb for joy.

Isaiah (the third) had spoken those words in a similar situation to that in which found Nehemiah and Ezra last Sunday, in the time after the exiles were allowed to return home from exile at the behest of King Cyrus, and allowed to rebuild their temple and their religious and cultural life. As we saw the returned exiles sitting in the square at the watergate they were weeping (probably tears of joy) for the word of God proclaimed once more in their own land. Isaiah's prophecy is visionary and messianic in nature; it is pointing a new era. In the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus was definitively inaugurating that era.

We saw last Sunday that the initial response to Jesus reading from Isaiah was positive, all eyes fixed on him, he "won the approval of all", and this Sunday's gospel takes up where we left off last Sunday. Very quickly a doubt arises in their minds of the listeners. "The is the son of Joseph the carpenter, surely?" Of course it is! Well, how can he be speaking like this? Jesus the carpenter's son, it seems to them, is going beyond the honour given him, and beyond the bounds of the place where, culturally, he should have been. In that culture and in their minds, if Jesus' father is a carpenter then why is he preaching and teaching rather than working with his hands? For in that world a son was expected to take up the profession of his father. John the Baptist, according to that way of thinking, should have been a priest in the temple offering sacrifice like his father Zechariah, not a wandering preacher. But as the prophet says: God's ways are not man's ways!

Synod
2021
2023

Hear and see what happens in the next part of the story this Sunday.