



It was in the early 1990s that the American Bishop issued a statement calling for the renewal of parish life entitled “Communities of salt and light”. In the light of this Sunday's Gospel, I reread this document, which had inspired me in the early years of my priesthood. It brought back happy memories of those days when across the Diocese we had embraced the *Renew* process, and the presence and effect of the small faith sharing groups gathering around the scriptures and other house groups had left a very positive mark on the wider experience of parish life, bringing people with very wide and varied experiences of life and faith together, gathered in the parish community, assembled as brothers and sisters in the Liturgy, and sent out as witnesses.

Thirty years on we find ourselves in much smaller numbers though still with great variety in experiences with a wonderfully multicultural feel in our worshipping communities. I'm still convinced that the parish is the place to be: it is never a closed community, it is open to all who come searching, enquiring, simply seeking to “be”, it does not judge; it gathers itself not as an end in itself but as an instrument of the Kingdom of God. The American Bishop introduced their *Communities of Salt and Light* by writing: (apologies if you have heard me quote this before, but it is worth repeating!)

The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth.

Parishes are the home of the Christian community; they are the heart of our Church. Parishes are the place where God's people meet Jesus in word and sacrament and come in touch with the source of the Church's life.

In the Gospel text this Sunday Jesus calls his disciples “salt” and “light” and in this Sermon on the Mount, he is supreme teacher of what it means to be salt and light. He taught his beatitudes last Sunday, and this Sunday he teaches that those who live the beatitudes are indeed salt and light in the world. **You are**...he says.

The images of salt and light would resonate immediately with his hearers: they used salt both domestically — as a preservative and to enhance taste, and also used it religiously—new born babies were rubbed with salt in the belief it was good for their health and could have a religious significance of “preserving” them; salt was also added to incense to preserve its fragrance and holiness. When Jesus calls those who are gathered around him *salt for the earth* he is surely suggesting with this metaphor that they have a responsibility to savour their work with the divine love they themselves are experiencing. Already he is planting with them a seed of witness of mission, just as the American Bishop do in their exhortation, *Communities of Salt and Light*.

We are used to calling Jesus the *light of the world* (as he says of himself in St John’s Gospel), but in today's text he calls his disciples the light of the the world. This teaching is echoed in the ritual of Baptism when the family are presented with a candle lit from the Easter candle, which is the symbol in the liturgy of Christ’s illumination of the world with his own light. *Lumen Christi: Deo Gratias*. Life lived according to the beatitudes will bring light to the world; Jesus is sure of this as he teaches. We reflected last Sunday on how the beatitudes can be misunderstood, generally, as weakness rather than strength, with meekness, gentleness, poverty of spirit and mercy often not seen as the agenda for making progress in life. But Jesus is adamant: this is the Way. On Thursday past, as we celebrated the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, we reflected at the Mass in the Cathedral with the Consecrated Religious from across the Diocese, that the biblical figures of Anna, Simeon, Joseph and Mary, teach us indeed how to be *real* people, to live and shine in the world as images of the Divine One, each according to our calling: these figures in their own way teach how to sing God’s praise and (figurately speaking to *never leave the temple* (Anna); to live with patience, expectant hope and never to give up (Simeon); to be humble, and to pursue honour and integrity while being obedient to the divine word (Joseph); and to ponder and treasure the things of faith and the Spirit with which we have been intrusted (Mary).

Today's Isaiah reading is specific about *how* the light will shine through our lives. Isaiah was writing for a community which in exile had lived in much darkness, but through which now the light would rise and shine. That community had recently returned from exile to its homeland, and had to then rebuilt itself, according to the word of the Lord. It seems this rebuilding can't stay in the realms of military or political victories, or even in resplendent liturgies, but the light will shine most strongly through the radiance justice for the most helpless and disadvantaged. Translating the ancient scripture texts to the present day, each person who seeks to be a disciple needs to grapple individually with the Word in order to make a true and rich response to it. It can seem a mighty task, but Paul gives us a word of encouragement in today's second reading. In the daunting tasks that face him he relies not on his own power but on the demonstrations of the power of the Spirit that he experiences.



The Bishops concluded their *Communities of Salt and Light* by writing words which may continue to resonate:

Today, more than ever, our parishes are called to be communities of "salt" and "light"; to help believers live their faith in their families, communities, work, and world. We need parishes that will not "lose their flavou" nor put their "light under a basket." We seek to build evangelising communities of faith, justice, and solidarity, where all believers are challenged to bring God's love, justice, and peace to a world in desperate need of the seasoning of the gospel and the light of Catholic teaching.

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



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

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Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

5 February 2023

[Liturgy of the Hours Week 1]

Next Sunday: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Year of Matthew



Our Sunday Masses: Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel; morning Masses at 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 11am in the Cathedral and 11.15am in St Mary's, Forebank. Evening Mass in the Cathedral at 6pm.

Monday 6 February (St Paul Miki and Companions)
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel **12noon in St Mary's—Funeral Mass for Mary Angus RIP**
 1pm in the Cathedral

Tuesday 7 February
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel **11am in St Mary's** 1pm in the Cathedral

Wednesday 8 February
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Thursday 9 February
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Friday 10 February (St Scholastica)
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Saturday 11 February Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral

**Dear Friends and Parishioners,
all the visitors to our Churches,**
Welcome to our celebration of the Eucharist this Sunday, the fifth in Ordinary time.

This Sunday we are still on the mountain of the Beatitudes where we went last Sunday with Jesus *up the hill*, to form a part of his eager and open minded crowd, hanging on his every word, hearing him announce the joy and happiness of the Kingdom of heaven. But we are left in no doubt that the beatitudes call us to action too, and Jesus calls us to shine our light in the world. Hopefully our celebration of the Liturgy this Sunday will send us back into the world, renewed and strengthened for all that we are called to do in the week ahead.



Bishop Stephen will celebrate the 11.15am Mass in St Mary's this Sunday and Father Jean Gové will celebrate the 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel. I shall be in the Cathedral for both Masses and will also celebrate the Vigil Mass in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

We shall receive the body of Mary Angus, a faithful St. Mary's Parishioner, into the Church this Sunday afternoon at 4pm in preparation for her Funeral Mass which will take place on Monday at 12 noon in St Mary's. May she rest in peace.

We had a wonderful celebration with all those in consecrated life—Sisters, Brothers and Fathers—in the Cathedral on Thursday past, Candlemas, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Thanks to all who came to support this event and to welcome all the Religious in the diocese. Particular thanks to Kevin Veal and to the Diocesan Choir for enhancing the music at the Mass, and to Jan for putting on such wonderful spread for our guests after the Mass.

Burns' Night

Almost forty young people between the ages of 18 and 30 came along to the Burns supper in the Cathedral Hall last Sunday evening and had a great time. Our thanks to Father Jean Gové and his team for organising.



Cat Soc News: The Universities' Catholic Society extend a welcome to all students for Mass at 6pm this coming Monday at St Joseph's, the Catholic Chaplaincy in Wilkies Lane, and afterwards to a talk on Marriage by Father Jean Gové.

The Mad Hatters'

Tea & Coffee, sandwiches and cake on
Wednesday 15 February in the Cathedral Hall
from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. *All welcome.*

World Day of Prayer for the Sick & honouring Our Lady of Lourdes

You are invited to honour Our Lady of Lourdes and to share in a Mass for the Sick this in St. Mary's, Lochee, this coming Monday 13 February at 7pm.

Dunkeld Lourdes Pilgrimage 2023



The Dunkeld Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage will take place this year from 14th to 21st of July. You can currently place a note of interest with Joe Walsh Tours at

<https://joewalstours.co.uk> and application forms should be in parishes over the next few weeks. If you, or anyone you know, would like more information about our pilgrimage, the services offered by the Dunkeld Lourdes Service or our medical team please contact Ruth Anne O'Neill on ruthanne@pobox.com or 07801 227443.

Cathedral 200 Club Winners

The latest winners are:
Barbara Lynch—£50 Katy Dundas—£30
George Becher—£20

Can we ask everyone who takes part in the 200 club to check if they have paid their dues? Many thanks

The Sign of Peace at Mass

We have generally not had the sign of peace at Mass since the time of the pandemic, but lots of parishes have now reintroduced it. Before the *Breaking of Bread* it is our external symbol of unity in the Lord, brothers and sisters in the Liturgy and part of the preparation for Holy Communion.



I appreciate that not everyone will want to shake hands at this time, so can we all be sensitive to each other's needs in this regard; if you don't want to shake hands or hug, a simple smile and bow with the words *Peace be with you* is most appreciated.

After the Masses on Friday past—the memorial of St Blaise— we had the traditional Blessing of Throats for those who wished. If you weren't able to come to Mass on Friday but would like to have this short blessing, please just ask.

Hospital Chaplaincy The contact number for the chaplain is 07821 624124; or the duty chaplain can be contacted by pager through the hospital switchboard on 01382 660111. There is no one designated Chaplain; the priests undertake this ministry on a rota basis.

Please pray for those who are sick: Baby Joshua Hopkins, Joe Dolan, Ann Nicoll, Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Theresa Kay, Heather Moffit, Sonya Rostan, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Steven Kennedy, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

for those who have died recently: Pat Harrop, Andy Dawson, Christine Dillon, Betty, Joyce Cartwright, George McKenna, Frank Markie, Mary Angus, Maureen Small;

for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Rennie Connelly, Barbara Brannan, Irene Doak, Kathleen Ward, Rose Ward, Christopher Stewart, Rosella Macpherson, Christina Stewart, Tom Gilray, Derek Mousley, Irene Doak, John Ramsay, Edna May Mann, Jack Ferrie, Rose Gorman, William Gorman, James Johnston, Christiaan van der Kuyl, Monsignor Ben Donachie, Annie Lafferty, John Caldwell, Sister Anne Green LSP, Patricia Farnan, William Rooney, Jim Bordulak, Mina Marnie, Vicki Walker, Catherine Ravey, Bernice Connelly, Adrian Whytock, Helen Lynch, Joe Swan, Betty Murphy, Jim Robertson, William Shields, Patricia Eve, Frances Sreenan.

New Dawn in Scotland

New Dawn in Scotland invites you to St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Dundee, on Saturday 11th February,

The day will start at 10.00 a.m. with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Emeritus Stephen Robson, followed by praise and worship, inspiring talks, testimonies, workshops, reconciliation and an evening healing service, led by two or more priests.

New Dawn is a worldwide organisation of laity and priests, whose aim is to share and deepen our Catholic faith. It is Eucharistic centred, sacramental, Marian and spirit-filled. Come and be refreshed and share with us the treasures of the Catholic church and experience the healing power of Jesus.

More information and details are on the posters sent to diocesan churches and on the New Dawn in Scotland website and Facebook. www.newdawninscotland.com

Confessions in the Cathedral

A set time for Confessions from after Saturday morning Mass until 11.30am on Saturdays will resume from this coming Saturday 11 February. I can't yet put the Friday slot back permanently as I often have household visits to fulfil. As far as reasonable, Confession is also available on request.

Finance Matters

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £389 in St Mary's, £478 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £829 in the Cathedral, and the previous Sunday of £277 in St Mary's, £438 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £987 in the Cathedral.

The Annual Special collection for the **Ecclesiastical Students' Fund** is due next Sunday 12 February and will be taken up at all the Masses as a retiral collection when you leave the church.

Forthcoming Events

Diocesan SCIAF Training Session

A training session for the SCIAF Lenten Campaign 2023 has been arranged for Saturday 25 February 2023 at Scotland's aid agency St Joseph's, Wilkies Lane, Dundee. The session will be lead by **Steve McManus**, SCIAF fundraising manager, and will commence at **10.30 am**. Tea and Coffee will be served from 10.15am. All are welcome. It would be great if each parish could represented to kick start the Lenten Campaign.



Day for Life event

The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child will hold their annual Day for Life event at the Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's, Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, DD1 2PB on Saturday 4 March from 12.30pm until 3.30pm, with various speakers on pro life themes. All are welcome to attend.



Diocesan Lenten Day of Renewal and Prayer

whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to *Eternal Life*

This will take place on Saturday 11 March at the Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's Forebank Church Hall, Forebank Road, DD1 2PB with the theme "*Water, Light and Life*", focussing on the Initiation Gospels of the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. Poster and full details to follow.

SCIAF COFFEE MORNING

Save the date and join us for a Coffee Morning for SCIAF in the Cathedral Hall on Saturday 18 March from 10.30am -12.30pm, with all usual stalls. This is a joint initiative with St Joseph's Parish.

I had an interesting conversation with a visitor from Ireland at the Cathedral during the week. He was the nephew of Canon Patrick O'Donohoe, and bore a striking resemblance to the late Canon. He had come to pay tribute to his uncle at his grave, the first opportunity he had had to do so since Canon O'Donohoe died in 1992.

Many of you will remember the Canon fondly. He was immensely proud of St Patrick's Church where he was parish priest from 1964 until 1990. With the changing landscape and demographic in Dundee he saw the numbers in his parish diminish greatly in the '70s and then the closure of St Patrick's School which then amalgamated with St Mary's, Forebank on the Nelson street site in 1974, taking the new name Our Lady's Primary (I entered primary four there that year.) I remember as a boy regularly going with my Dad to confession to Canon O'Donohoe in St Pat's where the Canon was always gentle and encouraging.

