

*Parishes of St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee  
& Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry  
& St Thomas of Canterbury, Arbroath*



St Thomas', Arbroath



St Andrew's Cathedral



Our Lady of Good Counsel

Sunday 29 November 2020  
First Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday:  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Year of Mark

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**Our Sunday Mass Times**

**St Andrew's Cathedral:** Vigil Mass at 4pm. Sunday at 11am and 6pm.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:** Vigil Mass at 5.30pm. Sunday at 9.45am.

**St Thomas of Canterbury:** Vigil Mass at 5pm. Sunday at 10.45am.

*A place for Sunday Mass must be booked in advance. See inside this newsletter for details of how to book.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Please approach the Priest before any weekday Mass. Also Friday & Saturday 9.10am until 9.50am in Arbroath.

**Hospital Chaplaincy:** Ninewells & RVH Duty chaplain: 07821 624124 Arbroath Infirmary: Parish Clergy; Stracathro: Fr. High (01674)

**Man is both citizen  
and pilgrim,  
looking  
both  
ways**



**at the  
roots  
whence  
he  
comes**

**at the  
road he  
must  
take.**

## This Week's Masses

### Monday 30 November Solemnity of Saint Andrew

10am in St Thomas', Arbroath      10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      1pm in St Andrew's Cathedral

### Tuesday 1 December

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      1pm in St Andrew's Cathedral

**7pm in St Thomas', Arbroath** (with the reception of Aidan Dunbar into full communion with the Catholic Church)

### Wednesday 2 December

10am in St Thomas', Arbroath      10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      1pm in St Andrew's Cathedral

### Thursday 3 December Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier

10am in St Thomas', Arbroath      10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      1pm in St Andrew's Cathedral

### Friday 4 December

10am in St Thomas', Arbroath      10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      1pm in St Andrew's Cathedral

### Saturday 5 December

No morning Mass in Broughty Ferry      10am in St Thomas', Arbroath      **12noon in St Andrew's Cathedral**

## **Work at St Thomas' Hall, Arbroath**

The St Thomas' Hall is - in usual circumstances - very well used, a great gathering place for social activities for the people of the parish and beyond. With various improvement works and redecoration taking place over the years, the hall was in very fine shape until a serious incident of part of the false ceiling coming down a new weeks back. The best course of action - whether to have the false ceiling replaced after essential work is completed or to have it removed, given the nature of the new heating system, will be put before the Diocesan Fabric & Planning Committee. I will keep you informed of developments.

**For info/ reminder.....**The heating system in the church hall is a Rinnai Fanned Convection Powered, Gas flue space heating system. It is designed specifically for churches, halls & schools etc., particularly where they normally have very high ceilings.

The system differs from conventional convection systems, by pushing warm air (heated by gas) along the floor, to a distance of around 6 metres, then, as the warm air rises up to about door height, the convection fans draw the warm air back in through the top of the heaters & back out along the floor to reheat the hall again. The heaters are thermostatically controlled individually & work from a programmer.

As a result, the area up to around 2 metres above floor level is heated to the required temperature, where the heat is required, regardless of the height of the ceiling. This makes it ideal for the church hall, especially if the suspended ceiling had to be removed, as the heat is not wasted in heating the area at the top of the high ceiling.



## JOURNEY OF FAITH

I have prepared four (shorter than usual!) on-line sessions which can be accessed each week through the Diocesan website and the Cathedral Facebook page. The first two talks reflect on the completion of one liturgical year and the beginning of the year of St Mark's Gospel, and the remaining two take up the Advent theme of "Climbing the Mountain of the Lord".

Hopefully in the new year we will be able to get back to a more interpersonal experience of the Journey of faith programme. I was very aware as I was recording them that the essential elements of sharing, discussion, exchange of views and the general social interaction of people from across the parishes were all missing and the sessions are the poorer for that. However they may be of some help as we focus on the gift of the Advent season.

### **Please note that will be no 10am Mass in the Cathedral this Saturday 5 December.**

Mass will be at 12noon, with the Institution of two candidates for the Permanent Diaconate as Acolytes. All our Saturday regulars are invited to attend. There will be no Novena this coming Saturday. The 4pm Vigil Mass will be celebrated as usual.

The **Christmas Mass times** across the parishes will be advertised in next's Sunday's newsletter. There will be extra Masses this year and there will be a Christmas Day evening Mass in the Cathedral. We have judged it expedient not to have the Midnight Mass this year.

Dear Friends and Parishioners,  
I hope you can take time to read and perhaps – in a little act of evangelisation - pass on this newsletter to someone else we enter a new liturgical year, and the great season of *Expectation* which is Advent, a time when we seek to live more purposefully as we *wait in joyful hope*.

In “The dry Salvages”, T. S. Eliot wrote

*But to apprehend*

*The point of intersection of the timeless*

*With time, is an occupation of the saint....*

*For most of us there is only the unattended  
Moment.....”*

Each year in Advent the Church in her liturgy seeks to make us more attentive to, and hopeful about the *Moment* of the Great Advent or return of the Master when our personal and communal histories will be brought to completion. This season ought to make us spiritually alert and ordered towards the truth of the Lord’s coming in glory, as we make our faith pilgrimage towards him.

Dreaming of the fulness of Christ’s glory, however, does not take away from the reality of living and working in this world, but instead makes us more determined to be agents of the transforming light and power of Christ to shine and be at work in the here-and-now.

The Second Vatican Council, in the powerful *Constitution on the Church in the World* stated that “the expectation of a new earth must not weaken but rather stimulate our concern for cultivating this one. For here grows the body of a new human family, a body which is even now able to give some shadowing of the new age”.

You may still be feeling restricted in your faith observance and journey as we start a new liturgical year, and that is understandable. Lots of people who receive this newsletter each week still feel uneasy about gathering with us for Mass because of the pandemic. If in these circumstances you would like to meet for a brief reception of Holy Communion and perhaps to make a sacramental Confession, all suitably socially distanced, please don’t hesitate to let myself or Father Andrew know. May the Lord guide our footsteps in this joyful season. Kevin

### **Seat booking arrangements for Sundays In the Cathedral and Broughty Ferry**

**You can book for Sunday Mass in the Cathedral and Broughty Ferry as follows:**

**Sunday 13 December & Sunday 20 December:**  
from NOW

**Christmas Day & Sunday 27 December:**  
from Monday 7 December after 6pm.

### **Book at:**

**‘Eventbrite, St Andrew’s Cathedral, Dundee’.**

**‘Eventbrite, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry’.**

**If you don’t have internet access**, ‘phone the dedicated Mass booking number on **07561 699557 & leave a message with details of Mass you want to attend.**

### **Seat booking arrangements for Masses in St Thomas of Canterbury Arbroath**

You can book a place for Sunday and Weekday Mass in St Thomas’ by texting 07831 439213. You are asked to text rather than call the number as it is easier to manage and less prone to errors. Thanks.

You can of course call if you are unable to text.

**Instead of sending Christmas cards to fellow parishioners this year....** why not place a Christmas greeting in the parish newsletter and make a donation to SCIAF in place of spending the money on cards and stamps? Here’s a sample:

Margaret and Arthur Short wish all  
their friends and parishioners the  
peace and joy of Christmas and a  
good new year.

Simply email or write out your message and place it in an envelope with your donation and hand it in to the sacristy or give it to one of the passkeepers. Messages will appear from Sunday 6 December

Unfortunately things have not worked out for our **Inter Parish Quiz night** scheduled for this Friday 4 December . Thanks to all those who have already signed up and apologies that it will not go ahead at this time. We hope to reschedule this event in the first part of the new year.

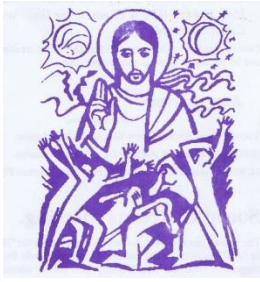
### **Our Prayers: for those who have died recently:**

Katherine Ingram, John Urquhart, Tom Murray, Graham Forbes (who was farmer at Kingennie);

### **those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Joe Wilkinson, Patrick Ruddy, Frances McFarlane, Frances McKernie, Kathleen Lancaster, Bella McBride, Tom Elder, Martha Dey, Stephen Coyle, Ken Oxford, Keith Whitehead, Bill Barnett, Nuala Robertson, Thomas Downie, John Chalmers, Lawrence Connor, James Knight, Donald Henderson, David Annan, Mary Callaghan, Andy Dornan, Elizabeth Henderson. Jack Fisher, Conway Stuart, David Sharp, Alexander Duncan, Monsignor James Brennan, Jim Masson, Thomas Meredith, Margaret Affleck, Nellie McKeever, Elizabeth Caird, John Gray, Mary Law, Bridget McLean, Peter Millan, John Wright;  
**the sick and in need of our intercession:** Katie Shephard, Monsignor John Harty, Maria Robertson, Mary Welsh, Frances Young, Tony Beck, Mel Caullay, Jackey-Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Baby Ben Welsh, Bill Boland, Thinley Chodron, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Allison Matthew.

## Oh, that you would open the heavens and come down!



*Pray to stand with confidence before the Son of Man*

**Whose fault is it?** It seems that Isaiah comes to the conclusion in the first scripture of this Advent Season that it is all God's fault!

Listen carefully to the first reading this Sunday. Odd that we begin the time of Advent with a lament, but it is an echo of life's reality. Historically, the people had been allowed to return to their homeland after the exile in Babylon, but their first fervour in the rebuilding of the temple, and their lives, had waned: the prophet, on the people's behalf, cries out to God (as we all do when faced with crisis and disappointment), at times ourselves looking for someone else or something else to blame. The prophet comes through the lament however, and (as if he needed to) reminds God, *You are our father - you the potter and we the clay.*

This Sunday we begin a **new Liturgical Year**—it is all waiting there for us to look forward to: Advent, then **Christmas**, and all its related feasts; then a little respite in **Ordinary Time**; then the great journey of **Lent** with its climb *up the Lord's Mountain* toward the **Sacred Triduum**; then the **Easter Season** — *50 days of Alleluias*, climaxing in the **Pentecostal** gifts of the Spirit, opening out to the feasts of **Trinity** and **Corpus Christi**. Myriad other feasts and saints days lie before us also, many opportunities to grow in faith and to renew the covenant of love which the Lord has made with his people. Our communal observance of the liturgical year has been seriously curtailed in 2020. I pray that after the restrictions of this year we will be able to celebrate fulsomely in 2021.

This Sunday we begin the whole process with **four weeks of waiting**, In Advent we are waiting for the Christmas feast, yes, but also waiting symbolically for the return of the Lord in glory. As we acclaim at

Mass: *"We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection until you come again"*. We wait; the child in each of us waits; the Church in her liturgy waits.

The season of Christmas for which Advent prepares invites us not to only receive, not just to take, but to give and in giving to encounter the *Greatest Giver* of all, the one who gives life. Christmas is Christ and the life he comes to bring. Advent seeks to open you and I again to the newness and wonder of that life. It calls us to renew ourselves in spirit, to become more faithful, more devoted, more personally committed. It calls Mums and Dads to model the things of the Spirit to their children, to give Jesus a true place in the home; his word, his presence, to sanctify the home in which you live.

Advent is a season when you can *rediscover* family prayer with the lighting of an Advent candle on a small evergreen in your home at mealtimes, for instance; there will be the opportunity to make a Sacramental Confession during the season—what an astounding gift of God's mercy Confession is, a celebration not to be feared but to be welcomed joyfully. In it, Christ says to us as he said to Zachaeus, *"Come down, come out of your tree, I want to stay at your house, I want to dwell in the home that is your heart"*.

**Whosoever's fault it was, God has taken the blame!** In Jesus, he has crucified the blame to the cross, and *ridden dry shod* [as we sing at the Easter Vigil] over the sea of despair. In the Advent weeks which lie ahead, the pace of your life will almost certainly quicken, but we, the Church, are now being called to pay attention to the *waiting child* within us, and to take stock of what we are *really* waiting for, that is, the reality of God's life breaking in on the world as we celebrate the Christmas liturgy, and, beyond this, we are waiting for the one who will return in glory *with all his shining train*. As the Advent prophet Isaiah puts it:

*Every valley shall be exalted and every hill made low, and all creation shall see together the glory of the Lord.*

