

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

In this season we regularly sing the robust Advent hymns like *O Come Emmanuel*, *Come O divine Messiah* and *On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh*.

The voice of the Baptist does indeed resound in the Liturgy this Second Sunday of Advent, calling us to interior conversion, in order to have strength not only to *accept* the Kingdom of God which the Messiah brings, not only to be spiritually ready for its "new day" but to help usher that new day in, by our joyful, persevering and selfless witness to the good news.

May our Mass today truly strengthen us for the week ahead. *It is good for us to be here!* Let's enjoy our celebration of the Liturgy together.

Kevin

This Sunday 4 December there will be an **Afternoon Service and Benediction at 4pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry.**

Please come and join us if you can. In a short time of scripture and reflection we shall honour John the Baptist, that *voice crying the wilderness*, and announcing the nearness of the Messiah.

Father Jean Gové

Please welcome among us Father Jean Gové, who last Saturday celebrated the Vigil Mass in Broughty Ferry and who this weekend will celebrate the Vigil Mass in the Cathedral prior to the **Nightfever** event, and also the 9.45am Mass in Broughty Ferry on Sunday. Father Jean is studying at St Andrews University and will often celebrate one of our Sunday Masses over the next few months. We welcome him.

You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. Receive this baptismal garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ so that you may have everlasting life.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults paragraph 360



Advent Reconciliation Liturgies with a GENERAL ABSOLUTION OF SINS

will be held as follows:

in St Mary's, Forebank

on Sunday 11 December at 4pm.

in Our Lady of Good Counsel

on Thursday 15 December at 6pm

in St Andrew's Cathedral

on Monday 19 December at 7pm.

The Cecilian Choir will give their **Annual Festival of Carols** in the Cathedral on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 18 December at 3pm.

Join us for a **Family Carol Service** on Wednesday 21 December at 6pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by refreshments at the back of the church. All welcome.

Our Christmas Masses

Christmas Day this year falls on a Sunday
Masses in our parishes as follows

St Andrew's Cathedral:

The **Solemn Midnight Mass** of Christmas with a carol service from 11.30pm.

11am: Solemn Mass of Christmas Day

6pm: Mass (no music)

St Mary's Forebank:

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 4pm

on Saturday 24 December.

Mass of Christmas Day at 11.15am

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Vigil Mass of Christmas at **5.30pm** on Saturday 24 December.

Mass of Christmas Day at 9.45am

A Diocesan Day Retreat

Join us for a time of reflection

"Clothing ourselves once more in the Baptismal Garment – celebrating dignity, service and reverence"

at The Pastoral Centre, St Mary's, Forebank Hall, this coming Saturday 10 December from 10am - 3pm

To book a place, please email

StAndrew@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

All will be welcome: please take some time out of your busy schedule to commune with the Lord.

Make the most of Advent!

Christmas Greetings

Mary Storrie would like to wish Canon Kevin, the Clergy, congregation and family and friends a merry Christmas and peace, health and happiness for 2023.

Christmas Blessings and Peace in the new year from **Hilda Mackie**

Betty Harrop would like to wish all her friends and parishioners a joyous Christmas and peace in the New year.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Catholics aged 18-30 are invited by Fathers Jean and Greg to the Cathedral Christmas Party which will be held on Sunday 11 December, after 6pm Mass, at St Andrew's Cathedral Hall. All young people - whether still studying or working in Dundee - are invited to join this new youth group. Please register by scanning the QR code on the poster at the back of the Church.



The final **Mad Hatters** Afternoon until after Christmas will take place this Wednesday 7 December from 1.30pm until 3pm.

On Thursday 8 December, the Church keeps the

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although this day is not a Holy Day of Obligation as it formerly was, it is nevertheless a day of Special devotion.



The Masses will be at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 11.30am in St Mary's Forebank and 1pm in St Andrew's cathedral. Please do join us if you are able.

Our Prayers for the sick: Joe Dolan, Ann Nicoll, Helen Brannagan, Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Jean Drummond, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Theresa Kay, Janet Isherwood, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Sonya Rostan, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Steven Kennedy, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Thinley Chodron, Catherine Gallacher, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

for those who have died recently: Mary Menzies, Marnie Connelly, Eddie Kennedy, Andrew Fyffe, Derek Nolan, Stephanie Milne, Ronnie Mackie, Jeffrey Ruddy;

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Callaghan, Andy Dornan, Bert Mann, Mary Connor, Elizabeth Henderson, Jack Fisher, Mary McLinkey, Anthony Reynolds, Filomena (Phyllis) Bruce, Mary Devine, Peter Cosgrove, Henry Chivers, Mary Smith, Sandy Watson, Roy McHardy, Benta Apondi Ayimba, Alan Rodger, Theresa Ogilvie, Tess Walker, Hamish Donaldson, Derek Anderson, Patricia Cavin, Helen Wilkie, Mary Callaghan, Rena McKaig, John Brady, Theresa Ogilvie, Mary Squire, Lisbeth Pennycook, John MacLean, Peggy and Bill Johnston, Lisbeth Pennycook.

Finance matters:

A Special Collection is taken today at all Masses for the **Diocese of Dunkeld Poor Mission Fund**. This fund is used to help parishes in our diocese which are unable to support themselves financially. I ask you, if you can, to be generous in that second collection.

Thank you for your generosity in recent collections:

Sunday 20 November:

£770 in the Cathedral, £465 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Sunday 27 November:

£863 in the Cathedral and £465 in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

St Mary's, Forebank totals will be noted in next Sunday's newsletter.

The Special collection for Catholic Education came to £326 in the Cathedral, £180 in St Mary's, and £357 in Our Lady of Good Counsel. Thank you!

Christmas offering envelopes will be available in St Mary's Forebank next Sunday. In Broughty Ferry, if you give you offering via Standing Order and wish to make a Christmas offering in addition there will be envelopes for this purpose at the back of the church next Sunday. Please include your name on the envelope so that we can register your contribution for gift aid.

There will be a Christmas Raffle in St Mary's, Forebank for Church funds. A strip of tickets costs only £1.

Could you help us with a deep clean of the Church for Christmas in St Mary's, Forebank? We would be very grateful for volunteers to help, the week beginning Monday 19 December to Friday 23 December. Please speak to Pat McGoldrick if you can spare any time.

Weekday Mass at St Mary's

Given the difficulty of heating St Mary's adequately on weekdays, - *some of us remember the days when you could actually see your breath!* - for the duration of the colder weather, from this Monday 5 December weekday Mass will take place in the dining room of the priests' house. Just come through the church and enter via the Brothers' door, at the back sacristy. When we have the school children with us, Mass will be in the Church. We welcome primaries six and seven from Our Lady's Primary this coming Friday 9 December to Mass at 11am in St Mary's.

Traffic controls in Ann Street

On school days, Ann Street is closed to motor vehicles during the times of .8.30 and 9.15am, and then again from 3pm until 3.30pm, to allow safe entrance and exit of children to Our Lady's Primary School.

Instead of sending Christmas cards to fellow parishioners....

why not place a Christmas greeting in the newsletter and make a donation to SCIAF in place of spending the money on cards and stamps?

Simply write out your message and place it in an envelope with your donation and hand it in to the Sacristy or to myself. Messages appear today, and will appear on Sundays 11 and 18 December.

Who is the One?

When we conjure up in our minds images of the kings of long ago, a common idea is that they had things pretty much their own way, living in splendour with no one to challenge them. But certainly 800 or so years before Christ, there lived a king who was very conscious of the fact that it wasn't all fun being a king! His name is Ahaz and we hear of him in the book of Isaiah the Prophet. He had a real problem, in that his kingdom was under threat by imminent invasion and the advice he was receiving was conflicting! His own inclination was to strengthen his army, and make alliances with some foreign countries whom he didn't really like but whom he thought might help him against the threat of invasion. However, opposing advice came from the man we know as Isaiah, who warned Ahaz that those whom he was seeking to make alliance with could in fact turn against him. Isaiah urged the king to put his trust in God, to "remember the covenant this people has with God, in which God promises to protect us and provide for us". But Ahaz persisted in trusting his political alliances, and as a result, his Kingdom - Judah - was attacked not only by one but by a whole host of countries: Syria to the north, Edom and Philistia to the south. Faced with this disaster, Ahaz then tried to buy in favour with the most powerful of countries—by offering the king of Assyria some of the precious treasury from the Temple.

Isaiah was appalled by the whole thing. He saw no hope in Ahaz and looked to the next generation and encouraged his contemporaries with the hope that security and peace would be realised by a king yet to be born (Hezekiah). In that "shoot from the stock of Jesse" (the first verse of this Sunday's first reading) there was more hope. Hezekiah was a good king who surpassed his father in exemplifying the gifts of the Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, awe of the Lord) - see again this Sunday's first reading. But even Hezekiah was not the king to bring that peace and security for which God's people longed. That king was still to come.

Eventually Isaiah would give the promise that the Prince of peace would be born of the virgin. Even as the reading from Isaiah is proclaimed this Sunday we see its perfect fulfilment in the person of Jesus. Through him we still cherish the hopes of peace and justice. The centuries which have passed since eighth century BC Isaiah, with the coming and goings of kings, and kingdoms, rulers and leaders, people have placed their hopes, asking *Is this the person in whom our hopes will be fulfilled?* Every strategy has been tried: we rejoice in democracy but there have been kings, dictators, military coups and the many "isms" like capitalism and communism. Yet the question remains, as the prophet poetically describes in today's reading: Who will lead us to the new age of innocence, reconciliation, truth and gentleness. Who is the One who can restore our world in such a way that the fragile, the fainthearted and vulnerable will be cared for and respected. Who can lift us up in expectant hope of the true future, and in the present moment, what instrument do I have to be able to foster healing, grace and dignity?

These hopes and expectations have lived in human hearts through the centuries. We continue to gasp and cling to them. As Advent will give away to Christmas, on that most sacred of nights we shall sing of Bethlehem, that "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee, tonight". Isaiah paints a vivid word-picture which continues to sustain us: the image of the little boy bringing the wolf and the lamb together in peace.

Now he comes—the king whose coming and whose reign we know—Jesus. The bridgebuilder, John the Baptist, brought the Old Testament witness to completion and opened the way for the coming of the true Redeemer. In his spirit, we sing this Sunday that *God's Spirit is in our heart* also. Of course we still await the complete realisation of Christ's Kingdom, but like Simeon, our eyes have seen salvation: we have experienced the life of the divine one in our sacramental celebrations: we open our minds and hearts to the power of his word every Sunday. We cry out for its fulfilment in this season and throughout the liturgical year—Come, Lord Jesus!



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



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

Second Sunday of Advent in the Year of Matthew (A)

4 December 2022

[Liturgy of the Hours Week 2]

Next Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent in the Year of Matthew

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Vigil Mass: 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel
Day Masses: 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel
11am & 6pm in St Andrew's Cathedral
11.15am in St Mary's, Forebank



Monday 5 December:

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

Tuesday 6 December:

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

Wednesday 7 December:

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

Thursday 8 December: Solemnity of the Immaculate conception of the Blessed Mother

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

Friday 9 December

9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11am in St Mary's, Forebank with the boys and girls of Primary 7
1pm in the Cathedral

Saturday 10 December:

Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral
Advent Retreat Day at St Mary's, Forebank, from 10am onwards.



A prayer for this Sunday

With righteousness you judge the poor, O steadfast and faithful God,
and with justice you give your word for the meek and lowly of the earth.
Shatter the silence of Advent's wilderness,
with the voice of the one who cries out that we must *prepare a path*
for the Messiah, and become worthy of repentance.
Help us live in harmony with our families and in the communion of your
Church, until we are gathered at last in to the peace of Christ's Kingdom.
Amen.