

## Dear Friends and Parishioners,

In these weeks of *expectant hope* when we express again and again in the Liturgy our longing for the return of the Saviour at the end of time, and also as we look forward to the celebration of his Nativity on Christmas Eve, at Midnight especially, and on Christmas Day, the Church offers us the opportunity for a celebration of **Sacramental Reconciliation**.

## Advent Reconciliation



In addition to always having the availability of individual confession, we are blessed again this Advent to be able to have **communal liturgies of Reconciliation** across the parishes with — instead of individual confession of sins — a General Absolution of our sins. The ceremony of Absolution takes place within the context of a short Liturgy of the Word, an examination of conscience, and ends with benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The whole liturgy lasts around thirty minutes and the first of our three of these will take place as follows:

**in St Mary's Forebank** this Sunday afternoon (11 December) at 4pm.

Please come and join us if you can, or come to one of the other liturgies:

**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 sing their annual **Festival of Carols**  
in **St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee** at 3pm  
on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Sunday 18 December.**

The Festival will be led by Bishop Stephen Robson. There will be a retiring collection and there will be refreshments in the Cathedral hall afterwards. All are welcome to attend.



**Thank you to everyone who is so generous in donating to the Foodbank**

You can of course continue to bring to bring items of food at this time of year but monetary gifts are especially welcome so that the Foodbank can purchase the items most needed for people at this time of year. Please place any donations in an envelope clearly marked for the Foodbank.

**Hospitality:** There will be Tea and Coffee in the Cathedral Hall after the 11am Mass this Sunday. The *Mad Hatters* Wednesday Afternoon Teas have now ceased until after Christmas. Thanks to Jan, Mary and Yuli and all who have helped in any way with the Wednesday afternoons.

## FAMILY CAROL SERVICE



at

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry**  
on **Wednesday 21 December at 6pm**  
followed by refreshments  
at the back of the church.  
All are 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



Catching this image in the early morning light reminded me of a line from an old hymn—*The lone lamp softly burns and a wondrous silence reigns.....*

## Christmas Greetings

**Pat McGoldrick** would like to wish Canon Kevin, parishioners, family and friends a Happy Christmas and peace and joy for 2023.

**May Tully** wishes all her friends and parishioners the peace and joy of Christmas and a good new year.

**Marie and Ian Barnett** would like to wish Canon Kevin and friends and parishioners a Happy Christmas and peace in the new year.

**Nessie, Bernard, Christine and family** wish everyone a Holy Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

**Tom McPherson** thanks all the altar servers for their continued commitment and wishes all friends and parishioners a joyful Christmas and a peaceful 2023.

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Catholics aged 18-30 are invited by Fathers Jean and Greg to the Cathedral Christmas Party which will be held this 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.



**Our Prayers for the sick:** Alan McKenzie, 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:** Brenda Barnett, Andrew Fyffe, Anne-Louise Hitchcock, Jenny Gilchrist, Mary Menzies, Ronnie Mackie;

**and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Rose Anne McKay, Aileen McAulay, Rachel Cruickshanks, Agnes McCulloch, Jean Hamilton, Isabella Queen, Debbie Duffy, Michael Laing, James Devlin, Mary Lavery, Molly McGaw, Iain Fordyce, Bridget Swan, Margaret Silver, Frank Smith, Joseph Clenaghan, Catherine Taylor, Anthony Callaghan Junior, Ted Adams; Tess Walker, Anthony James Mossey, Jessie Gilmour, Isobel Cairney, Margaret McCann, Anna Mennie, Raphael Macatangay, James Turnbull, Mary Sutherland, Elizabeth Dolan, Teresa Polo, Sister Clare McGurke, Sister Mary Bernard McAtamney, Marie Young; Hugh McKernie, Catherine Summers, John Abbot, John Jaffray, Agnes (Nancy) O'Brien, Ellen Brady.

**Thank you** for your generosity last Sunday of £857 in the Cathedral, £512 in Our Lady of Good Counsel, and £486 in St Mary's, Forebank. St Mary's, Forebank collection on 27 November was £573 and on 4 December £466.

The Special collection for the **diocesan Poor Mission Fund** came to £ in the Cathedral, £267 in St Mary's, and £ in Our Lady of Good Counsel. Thank you!

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

**Christmas Raffle with lovely prizes**, in St Marys, Forebank for Church funds. A strip of tickets costs only £1. Please support.

*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** takes place in the dining room of the priests' house during this very cold weather. 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 One and Two from Our Lady's Primary this coming Friday 16 December to Mass at 11am in St Mary's.

On Wednesday at 11am we have the Funeral Mass for Mary Menzies RIP in St Mary's.

The Priests of the Diocese of Dunkeld will be with the Bishop at Kinnoull, for a short advent retreat this coming Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, hence some adjustments in the Mass schedule. **In particular, please note that the Mass on Wednesday in the Cathedral will be at 1.30pm, not 1pm.** See front of the newsletter.

### Traffic controls in Ann Street

On school days, Ann Street is closed to motor vehicles during the times of .8.30am 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.

### New Mobile Phone

If you usually communicate with me by my personal mobile, can I ask you please to send me a text and sign it with your name, as I have recently had to get a new phone — the number is the same but not all the contact numbers have transferred over. Thanks. Kevin

The latest issues of the **Dunkeld News** and the **Scottish Catholic** are available at the back of the Church.

*This weekend I shall celebrate the Masses in the Cathedral and Broughty Ferry. Father Jean Gové will celebrate the 11.15am Mass in St Mary's Forebank. Over the Christmas period we shall welcome Father Malcolm Hutchison, who will be home on holidays from Rome, and he will celebrate some of our Masses while he stays in the Cathedral House during his break from his studies.*



Calls for peace and reconciliation often seem to be like voices in a vast wilderness. But the voice crying in the wilderness can be effective if it is persevering and faithful. Once more this Sunday we encounter John the Baptist. He is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy, mapping out the path for the Redeemer. But his faithfulness, his persevering in his vocation has led him to prison.

There, you can imagine him going to the small barred window, and calling out to his disciples,

*"Go and ask Jesus if he is the Messiah or should we wait for someone else?"*

His disciples then run, glad for the errand, and you can imagine John falling back to the floor, waiting. This man John is the very one who *leapt in the womb at the voices of his mother Elizabeth and of Mary, the one carrying the Redeemer of the world within her, the two women united in the joys of preparing to give birth. He leapt in the womb, so near was our salvation, as the liturgy sings.*

All his life, John had prepared the way for this Jesus, this Messiah, by living austerely, praying, listening for the divine voice, living by the divine word. And then the day came and Jesus asked for baptism at the hands of John. John at first protested but then acceded to the request.

Now to him in his prison, his disciples return: *"He says to tell you this: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear; the dead are raised, and the poor have good news preached to them, and blessed is he who does not take offence at me"*. John, of course, recognised the signs of the Messiah, he knew them from the mighty prophecies of old, and now they were here in the midst of the people. John must have wondered about his fate in that prison. Would he be set free, or would he meet a martyr's death for the cause of the Messiah? Again, as the liturgy sings: he *"was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood"*.

All through the year we are aware of the plight of our hungry brothers and sisters, and the untold suffering of our fellow human beings in myriad parts of the world, not least in the holy lands of Jesus, but at this time of the year the awareness of their plight is heightened. It is up to each individual how to respond; the Gospel inspires us to generosity not only from the plenty we have, but in attitude and mindset too. The God who is rich became poor for me and for you. The greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, was generous unto death. Blessed are those, as Jesus says, who are not offended by his way. Just as John looked for signs, so we too in our humanity look for signs of the Messiah.

Please continue to pray **Psalm 121** for peace during this Advent season. Jesus the Messiah unremittently tells us to look for the signs of his presence in the sick, the outcast, the suffering, the refugee, where perhaps we might not always think to look. Yet he tells us these are signs of the his kingdom which shall surely come.

**All of the Advent season encourages us:**  
**do not doubt, even though he delays, he shall surely come.**



**Hospital Chaplaincy** The contact number for the duty chaplain is 078821 624124; or the chaplain can be contacted by pager through the hospital switchboard on 01382 660111. I am on call to the hospitals this week. If you know of someone who needs a visit, don't hesitate to call or text the chaplain's number above.

*The Christmas Greetings in the newsletter have so far realised £220 for SCIAF.*

*If you'd like to place a greeting in next Sunday's newsletter please get it to me by Tuesday of this week. Thanks. Kevin.*

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



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

### Third Sunday of Advent in the Year of Matthew (A)

**11 December 2022**

[Liturgy of the Hours Week 3]

Next Sunday: Fourth 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 12 December:**

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

**Tuesday 13 December:**

Liturgy of Word & Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      No Mass in St Mary's  
1pm Mass in the Cathedral

**Wednesday 14 December:**

9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      11am in St Mary's—Funeral Mass for Mary Menzies RIP  
1.30pm in the Cathedral

**Thursday 15 December:**

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

**Friday 16 December:**

9am in Our Lady of Good Counsel      11am in St Mary's, Forebank with the boys and girls of Primaries 1 & 2  
1pm in the Cathedral

**Saturday 17 December:**

Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral

**THE BLIND REGAIN THEIR SIGHT  
THE LAME WALK  
LEPERS ARE CLEANSED  
THE DEAF HEAR  
THE DEAD ARE RAISED  
AND THE POOR HAVE THE GOOD NEWS  
PROCLAIMED TO THEM**  
Matthew 11:5

The text  
this  
Sunday