

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

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Fourth Sunday of Advent
19 December 2021

Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family -
Year of Luke (C)

Dear Friends and Parishioners,
Today we reach the Fourth Sunday of the Advent season, where we find Mary emerging as the faithful daughter of Sion, fulfilling Zephaniah's prophecy in last Sunday's first reading and becoming a model of discipleship for all God's people, as she not only receives the Word of God with faith, but shares that Word in joy at the home of Elizabeth, and makes that Word real in the world even before her Son's birth as she sings her *Magnificat* of justice and mercy.

During our Masses this Sunday we shall sing the old Novena hymn *O Purest of creatures*, which beautifully describes Mary's readiness to take on the vocation of being Mother of the Redeemer.

The fourth week of Advent, which we celebrate in full this year, brings us to the joyous night and day of the Nativity of the Lord. I especially look forward to welcoming you, your families and loved ones to our Christmas Masses across the three churches. Please do invite anyone whom you think would appreciate being part of our celebrations to come with you: a warm welcome awaits everyone.

The **Midnight Mass of Christmas** is a particularly rich spiritual experience, and has a long and noble tradition in our Catholic life. For our three churches the Midnight Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral Church, the *Mother Church* of the Diocese of the Diocese of Dunkeld. Everyone is welcome here to share in this *once-a-year* celebration of the Lord's birth.

St Andrew's Cathedral

This week's Masses:

Monday 20 December at 1pm
Tuesday 21 December at 1pm
Wednesday 22 December at 1pm
Thursday 23 December at 1pm
Friday 24 December at **10.30am**

Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight Mass of Christmas

with Carols from 11.40pm

Mass of Christmas Day at 11am

Please note there will be no 4pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 25 December; there will however be the Vigil Mass in Broughty Ferry at 5.30pm.

Sunday 26 December – The Holy Family

Masses at 11am and 6pm.

Monday 27 December – Friday 31 December

Mass each day at 1pm.

New Year's Day Saturday 1 January 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Mass of Our Lady at **12noon** in the Cathedral
Vigil Mass of Sunday 2 January at 4pm.

Sunday 2 January 2022 Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 11am and 6pm

There will be no newsletter next Sunday so please retain this one for the times of Masses. etc.

St Mary's, Forebank

This week's Masses:

Monday 20 December at 11.30am

Tuesday 21 December at **10am – please note**

Wednesday 22 December at 11.30am

Thursday 23 December at 11.30am

Friday 24 December at 11.30am

Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5pm

Mass of Christmas Day at 11.15am

Sunday 26 December – The Holy Family
Mass at 11.15am.

Monday 27 December – Friday 31 December
Mass each day at 11.30am.

New Year's Day Saturday 1 January 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass of Our Lady at 11am

Sunday 2 January 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass at 11.15am

Our Lady of Good Counsel

This week's Masses:

Monday 20 December at **11am**

Tuesday 21 December at **9am**

Wednesday 22 December at 10am

Thursday 23 December at 10am

Friday 24 December at 10am

Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 7.30pm

Mass of Christmas Day at 9.45am

Vigil Mass of Sunday 26 December at 5.30pm
as usual

Sunday 26 December – The Holy Family
Mass at 9.45am.

Monday 27 December – Friday 31 December
Mass each day at 10am

New Year's Day Saturday 1 January 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mass of Our Lady at **10am**

Sunday 2 January 2022

The Epiphany of the Lord

Vigil Mass at 5.30pm - Morning Mass at 9.45am

Christmas Greetings

Betty Harrop wishes all her friends in the Cathedral a Merry Christmas and peaceful New Year and 2022.

Tom McPherson thanks all the altar servers for their commitment and dedication and wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful new year.

Kati Smith wishes clergy and parishioners a happy and holy Christmas and a good New Year.

Hospital ministry

If you have a loved one due to go into hospital for scheduled surgery, it would seem best that you should call the priest to administer the sacraments to them before going into hospital as at present sometimes there can be difficulties in priest getting into the wards. The priests in Dundee undertake the duties of hospital chaplain at Ninewells, RVH and Roxburghe on a rota basis every five weeks. If you need the chaplain to attend when your loved one is in hospital the number to call is 07821 624124. I am on call for the hospitals at present.

Our Prayers for the sick: Ian Davidson, Janet Isherwood, Theresa Kay, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Hilda McGinness, 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, Baby Ben Welsh, 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: Cathie Brown, Albert Forbes, Hannah McNally, Betty Forbes, Julie Graham;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time: George Wylie, Sarah Haughey, Alexander Simpson, Joseph Clark, David Duffy, Rita Dagen, Ruth McGeoghie, James Smith, Emma Kennedy, Mary Sheridan, Syd Pacione, Elizabeth Macpherson, Liz Gibson, Susan Beatrice Ayimba, Peter Campbell, Bernard Creegan, Sister Clare McGurke, Fred Forbes, Rita Coleiro, Ivor Baruffati, John Garland, Elizabeth Dobbie, Honor Conway, Mary Theresa Murphy, Christina McCarron, Jim McCormack, Michelle Curley, Marie Kobine, Elizabeth Barbour, James Gibson, Mary Knight, Catherine Ogilvie, Josephine Foster,

Jane Reid, Andrew Reilly, Nan Fisher, Lola Agnew, John Gunning, Mary McComiskie, Ian Griffin, Brenda Regan, Ted Adams, Catherine Christie, Christopher Marshall, James Johnston, Louise Hermiston, Ann Salmond, Jessie Gilmour, Claudio Fugaccia, Yolanda Benedetti, Ina Carlin, Joseph Convery, Annie Myles, Charlie Hastie, John Abbott Ellen Brady, John Jaffray, Nancy O'Brien.

Important notice regarding the Sunday Mass obligation

A number of parishioners have been in touch with me since I published the letter of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland in the newsletter a couple of weeks back in which the Bishops inform us that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass will be reintroduced from the weekend of Sunday 2 January 2022.

At the time of writing this newsletter this decision has not been rescinded, but it is very important to state that if you feel vulnerable in any way regarding coming to Mass, if you are still shielding, if you feel in any way unwell, then **you should stay at home** and **there will be no culpability on your part for not attending.**

I want you to feel reassured in your decision making. Please do not take any risks in the present state of affairs with the various covid strains. I hope this note reassures.

The revised Scottish Government guidelines in the light of the new covid variant only affects churches in terms of celebrant, musicians/singers being two metres apart while unmasked. This also applies to those who have an exemption from wearing a mask. As and when any new restrictions/guidelines are published you can be assured these will be put into practice.

"Elijah's Head Shave for Mary's Meals"

If you would like to contribute please place your gift in an envelope clearly marked, and I will pass it on. The details of the fundraiser were in last week's newsletter. Kevin

The **Cecilian Choir Carol Concert** will take place in St Andrew's Cathedral this Sunday 19 December at 3pm. All are welcome to come and join us. The choir will sing from the upstairs gallery this year and the Bishop will preside.

Broughty Ferry Carols

The combined congregations of the churches of Scotland in Broughty Ferry invite you to join the m for Carols by Torchlight on Sunday 19th December 6.30pm in the Garden at St Luke's and Queen Street church, Broughty Ferry. Wrap up warmly and bring a torch

*The latest issue of the **Dunkeld News** is available at the back of the church Please take one away with you today.*

We had hoped to have all the boys and girls from **Our Lady's Primary** over to the Church for Mass this past week but with the new restrictions in place it wasn't allowed. Hopefully we'll be able to do so in the new term. The staff and pupils put on a Nativity play which parents and families can watch online, and it was a pleasure for me to get the chance to do the musical accompaniment for them.

Cathedral 200 Club

Kenny and Caroline Brown have administered the Cathedral 200 Club for many years. I want to thank them most sincerely for doing this with such dedication and enabling so much fundraising for the Cathedral. One of the benefits of the 200 club funds is that they boost our income which helps us keep the church lovely and warm for our liturgies. So we all appreciate Kenny and Caroline's work. Thank you both.

Sandra Scott and Linda Scott will now take over the administration of the 200 club.

If you have not yet paid your dues, could you please do so as soon as possible., this will help us keep the books in order; the Christmas draw will be made soon.

Notice from the Society for the protection of the unborn child

A public consultation has been launched on a bill proposed by Liam McArthur MSP to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland, It is important that as many people as possible respond to this consultation, It is running until Wednesday 22 December 2021. You can find resources to help you respond at

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/assisteddying>
Consultation

On the Feast of the holy Innocents, Tuesday 28 December, the Mass in the Cathedral at 1pm will bring all the pro life causes before the Lord in prayer.



God Has Visited His People

So much of the way we celebrate Christ's coming into the world is wrapped up (*pardon the pun!*) in the custom of giving and receiving gifts. This giving and receiving is a symbol of the true "presents" (presence) of the season which await our fresh discovery each year at Christmas time.

Not only once a year at Christmas, but every week, the believing community which gathers together is gifted with the Sacred Liturgy—the rites, readings, prayers, psalms, songs and gestures which grace us with an ever new disclosure of God's ways and works.

Key to *unwrapping* the gift of the Word of God for this Fourth Sunday of Advent is the simple question of Elizabeth: "**Why should I be honoured....?**"



Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

"Why should I be honoured?" underscores the surprising wisdom of God, who seems to choose:

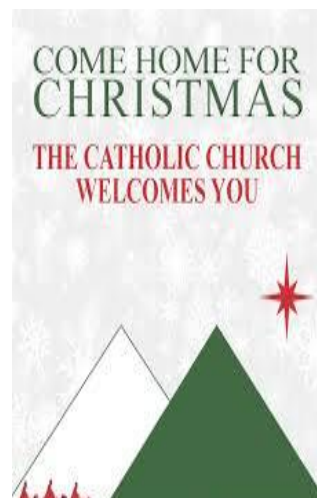
- **the least likely people** (c.f. the Gospel today — Mary and Elizabeth),
- **the least likely places** (c.f. the First Reading today—Bethlehem; and the Second Reading: human flesh) and ...
- **the least like methods** (c.f. the Second Reading today: Jesus' sacrifice) in order to give his people his saving presence.

Next to the Easter Triduum and its related feasts, the Church holds most sacred this memory of Christ's birth. The feast now approaching calls forth from us a sense of wonder and awe, and with Elizabeth we should surely gratefully accept the good news, asking, *Why should we be so honoured to be visited this way by our God?*

But what good is this visitation and the wonderful love of God in our midst if such news is not shared with all those who are his people? The messengers (*angels*, as we say) who brought the good news to the shepherds were first in the line of a glorious tradition of service to the Gospel. Following on, there were apostles and martyrs, witnesses and preachers, and now there is **us**.

For the Christmas feast which approaches I say to you: you have been **honoured** with a visit in your life from God. Bring others to that same visitation: invite them to come and share our Christmas Eucharist and to belong in faith with us, in a vibrant, joyous, loving and forgiving community of disciples.

Could YOU bring someone "home" for Christmas?



Father Emmanuel, who has been living in the Cathedral House for the past few weeks has now taken up residence in Pitlochry where he is parish priest to the people there, along with those in Birnam and Aberfeldy.

Father Sebastian, who has until now been resident at St Mary's, Lochee, and who is returning to our diocese from Poland this weekend will be coming to live in the Cathedral House. Sebastian will offer Christmas Mass for the Polish community of Dundee in St Mary's, Forebank. We welcome him.

Deacon Malcolm Hutchison will also be resident in the Cathedral House over his Christmas holiday from the seminary in Rome and will assist at some of our Masses.

