

*Parishes of St Andrew's Cathedral  
and Our Lady of Good Counsel*

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**Sunday 16 August 2020 -  
Solemnity of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Next Sunday: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary time**

**Dear Friends  
and Parishioners,**

We keep a glorious feast in the Liturgy this Sunday – Our Blessed Mother sings in her *Magnificat* of the plan of God who confounds the proud, lifts up the humble and fulfils the promises made to Abraham. Mary is assumed into heaven into the glory of the saints.

Where she has gone, we hope to follow. Mary treasured the word of God and pondered it in her heart. We do the same in our Mass on this feastday.



**There will be Mass each day in our Churches  
this week as follows:**

**Our Lady of Good Counsel, Broughty Ferry**

**Sunday 16 August:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday 15 August at 5.30pm;**

**Morning Mass at 9.45am.**

Monday 17 August: Mass at 10am

Tuesday 18 August: Mass at 10am

Wednesday 19 August: Mass at 10am

Thursday 20 August: Mass at 10am

Friday 21 August: Mass at 10am

Saturday 22 August: **No Morning Mass**

**Sunday 23 August:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday 22 August at 5.30pm;**

**Morning Mass at 9.45am.**

**St Andrew's Cathedral:**

**Sunday 16 August:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday 15 August at 4pm;**

**Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.**

Monday 17 August: Mass at 1pm

Tuesday 18 August: Mass at 1pm

Wednesday 19 August: Mass at 1pm

Thursday 20 August: Mass at 1pm

Friday 21 August: Mass at 1pm

Saturday 22 August: Novena and Mass at 10am

**Sunday 23 August:**

**Vigil Mass on Saturday at 4pm;**

**Sunday Mass at 11am and 6pm.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

There are no scheduled times for Confession yet, and we cannot use the Confessional Box, but I can be available for a face to face, socially distanced confession, on request, before any weekday Mass. Please don't hesitate to be in touch to arrange.

**Holy Communion for the elderly and frail**

If you are staying at home to keep safe and would like to receive Holy Communion, please don't hesitate to be in touch: 01382 225228 or [kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com](mailto:kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com) I am very glad to have resumed visiting the housebound and frail.



I know that a number of you read the weekly journal, *The Tablet*. An article appeared in last week's edition entitled *Empty pews mean Empty pockets* and the Church financial procedures reported in it might

be misleading for readers in Scotland.

Whatever the situation in England & Wales regarding parish income, the financial regulations in Scottish Dioceses for parishes and priests in Scotland mandate that **all** monies from offertory collectons, standing orders, and general donations are paid directly into the bank and are for the upkeep and mission of the parish along with a levy (15% in Dunkeld) for diocesan costs. Most importantly, there is no question of priests in Scotland retaining the Easter and Christmas offerings for personal use. This would be highly irregular and indeed has never been the case in Scotland.

In addition to "board and lodgings", and any Mass offerings received from individual donors, each priest in Scotland receives an annual stipend from the parish, which is less than a third of the £9500 noted in the *Tablet* article.

It is because of your generosity that our parishes and dioceses are able to function and for that I know each priest stands grateful.

## Booking a place for Mass - Important Update

We're now very close to entering the second month of reduced numbers at Mass, and, for the Vigil and Sunday Masses, having to book a place in order to be able to attend.

It's been a challenging time for us all and these arrangements look like continuing for some time yet. I'd like to thank you for your patience in coming to terms with the booking system in place – it's been a significant adjustment for everyone involved but I feel we are all now getting used to it. It is perhaps therefore an opportune time to refine some of the previously issued advice on booking for Mass:

- Bookings are no longer required for weekday and Saturday morning Mass at the Cathedral. Seats will be allocated to worshippers on arrival and you will be taken to this seat by one of our Stewards;
- Currently, bookings can be made for the Vigil and Sunday Masses up to and including Sunday 13 September;
- **Online bookings** on the Eventbrite website cease 24 hours before the start time of the Mass. This is to ensure that our organisers have sufficient time to meet seating requirements within the guidance on social distancing, households, 'bubbles' etc;
- The **dedicated phone number** (07561 699557) is primarily available for those parishioners who have **no access** to the internet. If you're making a booking on the dedicated phone number, then wherever possible, it would be appreciated if you **didn't** leave it until the day of the Mass to call. This is to avoid disappointment, as it may not always be possible for the organisers to respond in good time as they may be allocating or re-allocating seats and making up attendance sheets;
- With the start of the new school year upon us, we will be responding to messages and texts left on the booking line number in the **evenings**;
- All enquiries about seat bookings, cancellations, queries and the like **should not be sent directly to me** as I may not be able to answer them. Instead, if you booked via Eventbrite, you can click '**Contact the Organiser**' on your confirmation email. After seeing a list of questions, scroll down and select 'contact the organiser' again and you'll be able to email us with the details of your query. We'll answer it just as soon as we can. If you booked via the dedicated phone number (07561 699557), then please text or call and leave a message and we will get back to you;
- If you're not able to attend a Mass you've booked for, or if the numbers you've booked for have

decreased, please let us know by contacting us via Eventbrite or on the dedicated booking number. We've had to turn people away at the church door on a number of occasions over the last month only to find that they could have joined us at Mass after all, which is very sad indeed;

- Our Sunday Masses are very busy, with the 11:00 Mass at the Cathedral fully booked at least two weeks ahead. Our Vigil Mass on Saturday at 16:00 is generally quieter with spare seats available each week.

Finally, it would be extremely helpful if we had perhaps two additional volunteer Stewards at the Cathedral – other than for the 1100 Sunday Mass, as we can at times struggle to cover the Steward duties. If you can help, please let me know.

**Thanks for your consideration in all this. Kevin**

### BOOKING PROCEDURES REMINDER

For Mass at **St Andrew's Cathedral** search for '**Eventbrite, St Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee**'.

For **Our Lady of Good Counsel** search for '**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** (the phone won't be answered) with your **name, number, the Masses** you require seats for and whether you would prefer **upstairs** or **downstairs**.

### Hospital chaplaincy and visitation

If you or a loved one is **in hospital** and wish to receive the Sacraments, please make contact with the **Duty Hospital Chaplain** on **07821 624124**. **Other priests have been refused entry to wards at this time**. The chaplain can be contacted by pager through the hospital switchboard on **01382 660111**.

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

Russel Browne, Colin Daukes, Meg Walker, Charles Gibson; **those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

Jean Kindlen, Patrick Sharkey, Patrick Sharkey, Kathleen Brown, Sister Esther Cavanagh, James Quinn, John and Bridget Hutchison, Peggy McGhee, David Stott, Margaret Anderson, Jim Ward;

### all those who are sick and in need of our intercession:

Catherine Gallacher, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Baby Ben Welsh, Bill Boland, Thinley Chodron, Margaret McHattie, Sharon McNally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Sharon Davison, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Bridie Mossey, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga, Estelle Fox, Allison Matthew.

### Follow the reflections and music on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsRCDundee/>

A Liturgy for Children is on the Facebook page for this Sunday. Thanks to the Liturgy Team.

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 4pm in the Cathedral today. I'm attaching/enclosing a Word document with the text of the Evening Prayer for you.

*Keeping this Sunday holy  
with a Home Liturgy*

*My soul glorifies the Lord.*



*Blessed be the Virgin Mary, among women!  
Blessed be Jesus, the child of her love!  
Blessed be God our Father:  
He calls us to share the life  
of the risen and glorified Jesus.*

*Sing, sing ye angel bands,  
all beautiful and bright,  
for higher still and higher  
through fields of starry light,  
Mary, your Queen ascends,  
fair as the moon at night.*

### **A prayer to begin**

In the glory of the resurrection O God of Life,  
you raised up Christ  
to become the first fruits of the new creation,  
and in the mystery of Mary's Assumption,  
you have begun the great harvest  
of your kingdom.

Cultivate the seed of faith sown in our hearts,  
that our hearing of your Word  
may flower in our keeping of it,  
and may yield - on the day of our own resurrection  
- a harvest worthy of heaven Amen.

### **Penitential Litany**

*In order to participate one day with the Virgin Mary in the resurrection of Christ Jesus, we purify our hearts as we approach the word of God.*

Lord Jesus, you are son of God and son of Mary.

**Have mercy on us.**

You are *Word made flesh* and splendour of the Father.

**Have mercy on us.**

You are mighty God and Prince of peace.

**Have mercy on us.**

### **Read the Scriptures of the day**

**Book of Apocalypse/Revelation 11.19;12:1-6.10**

*A woman, adorned with the sun,  
standing on the moon.*

**Psalm 44:**

*On your right stands the Queen,  
in garments of gold.*

**1st Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26**

*Christ as the first fruits, raised from the dead,  
then those who belong to him.*

**The Gospel of Luke 1:39-56**

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

### **A reflection**

*Take time to read the reflection on the next page.*

### **Intercessions**

Take time to voice your own prayers, and conclude with the *Our Father*.

### **A Litany to conclude**

With the Blessed Mother, our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord and our spirits rejoice in Jesus our saviour.

**Blessed are you Lord, through all eternity.**

You looked with favour on your lowly handmaid.

**Blessed are you Lord, through all eternity.**

Your mercy reaches from age to age.

**Blessed are you Lord, through all eternity.**

You scatter the proud of heart and lift up the humble.

You fill the hungry with good things,  
and send the rich away empty.

**Blessed are you Lord, through all eternity.**

You are ever mindful of the covenant made to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.

**Blessed are you Lord, through all eternity.**

# The Ark of the Covenant

This will surely be one of the more difficult Sundays to celebrate the Eucharist without singing, because it is one of the great feasts of the Blessed Mother and in our Catholic life we love to raise our voices in song to praise the beauty of Mary and her role in the plan of God's salvation, just as she lifted her voice to praise God in her *Magnificat* at the home of Elizabeth, which we hear in the Gospel of the *Visitation* today. Like many of you I guess, the first hymn I ever learned was *I'll sing a hymn to Mary*.



One of our contemporary hymns speaks of her as the *Mother of Jesus and mother of lowliness*, and traces her place in salvation history and finally praises her as *Mary, our Lady of light, the Father's delight* and sings of her role as heavenly intercessor – *pray for us sinners to Jesus your Son*.

Along with these and many other hymns, the **Litany of Our Lady** has long been part of our devotional life, usually prayed after the recitation of the Rosary. It cries out for Mary's intercession, addressing her in myriad titles of praise. Among these is the invocation *Ark of the Covenant*. On this Solemnity of her Assumption we can say that the *Ark of the Covenant* becomes the *Gate of Heaven*, and its *Morning Star*, to continue the language of the Litany.

At the time of the Book of Revelation – from which the mighty text of the First Reading on this feastday is taken, the original *Ark* had been lost for over 500 years. The prophet Jeremiah had hidden the *Ark* to prevent its capture and desecration by the Babylonians, and declared, “The place is to remain unknown until God gathers His people together again and shows them His mercy” (see the 2nd Book of Macabees 2:7).

In his vision in the Apocalypse, John saw the ark and then he saw Mary. Mary carried in her womb our Lord, who is the Word of God, the true High Priest and the Bread of Life. So we can say that Mary is the new Ark of the New Covenant, which our Lord will make in his own blood.

This “woman clothed with the sun” surely refers to our Blessed Mother, the “birth pangs” being that pain she shared with her son at the foot of the cross, bringing old Simeon's prophecy - “a sword will pierce your own soul too” – to fulfilment. Way back in her *Magnificat*, she had sung of the promises made to Abraham being brought to completion. No wonder that in our Catholic life we honour and celebrate regularly her unique role in the fulfilment of those promises - from her first “Yes” to the angel Gabriel, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done unto me according to your word”, through her life as mother and disciple, her martyrdom at the foot of the cross, the awaiting of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room with the apostles, to her crowning as Queen of angels, patriarchs, prophets, (as the Litany says) in heaven.

Often Mary is portrayed with her foot crushing the head of the serpent. The early church fathers called her the “New” Eve, her complete obedience of faith contrasting with disobedience of the “old” Eve of Genesis.

A long forgotten hymn from the old St Andrew Hymnal – which would have been so appropriate for this feastday - puts it like this:

*Queen of the world,  
the stars around her spread,  
upon the summit of the world she stands.  
Her heel is set upon the serpent's head  
and grace falls shining  
from her outstretched hands.*



*The statue of Our Lady in the little Catholic Church at Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria*