

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

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**Seventh Sunday of Eastertide  
24 May 2020**

**Dear Friends and Parishioners,**



After Jesus' Ascension, Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles this Sunday, the disciples returned to Jerusalem, eleven in number, and he names them. With them, is Mary the mother of Jesus and a number of women disciples. This Church has an important initial task to fulfil, that is to restore the number of apostles to the sacred biblical number of 12.

In order to do that, Peter gathers the community, about 120 in number. [Read the account of the event in Acts 1:15-26.] It might seem odd to us, but "drawing lots" was a common biblical process of election, but what is important is not how Matthias is elected but the fact that they are restoring the number of the apostles to 12, as Jesus had intended. These twelve will preach to the assembled community of the Israel, the 12 tribes, on the day of Pentecost, that seminal event in Acts.

On that day, the fiftieth after Jesus' rising, the assembled Church would be permeated by a new **fullness** of the Holy Spirit, the spirit that was always there, from the first page of Genesis, hovering over the waters, the same Spirit that seized upon Moses and the prophets, the Spirit that dwelt uniquely in Mary from the moment of the Annunciation, and indeed progressively came to rest on the gospel characters, but most of all on Jesus himself, he who is revealed as the very self

communication of God – as he said to Philip – *to have seen me, is to have seen the Father* - the Spirit fills Jesus, nurtures, him, drives him, sends him, and ultimately *glorifies* him.

For a short time of around three years, this group have an intensely powerful and continuous encounter with him. They see, touch and experience. Humanly, if we don't see and touch, we tend not to believe. Remember Thomas! But eventually he was able to say, *My Lord and my God*. He recognises in that moment in the Upper Room that the face of Jesus, *wounded and glorified* is the face of God, the Divine One.

It is St John who emphasises that divine nature so powerfully in the *humbly majesty* of Jesus – *humble majesty* may sound like a contradiction – but to me, this is precisely how Jesus is presented in the gospel of St John, that most intimate revelation of the Divine One, the Word made flesh.

The past two Sundays have taken us to the Upper Room on Holy Thursday, for teachings unique to John, about the *many rooms* in the Father's house and the coming of the Paraclete....and today we are still there, in the midst of the Lord's farewell speeches, but his addressee has changed; no longer is it the group assembled; today he addresses his Father in prayer. His subject is those he is about to leave behind – yes, through his human death, but more, through his ascension and glorification. Remember how definite John is that Jesus must "go" if the Spirit is to "come".

*More on the Gospel on the home Liturgy page for this coming Sunday.*

**Live stream Mass:** I shall be the celebrant for the livestream Mass this Sunday at 10.30am from Lawside Convent [www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk)  
Please join me if you can.

The Mass will be offered especially for little Anakin Forbes, who died recently, just short of his third birthday; please share our prayers for him and his grieving family.

The **Music** for this Sunday's Mass at the Convent is attached in this newsletter.

**Follow the reflections and music during the week on Facebook:**

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

There are also daily Masses, devotions etc on the website [www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk](http://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk)

I will celebrate the **Evening Prayer of the Church** for the Seventh Sunday of Easter at 4pm in the Cathedral, by the light of the Easter Candle. I'm attaching or enclosing a Word document with the text of the Evening Prayer if you'd like to share in it at home.



## Hymns for the Mass from Lawside

### Opening Hymn

Praise him as he mounts the skies, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Lord of Paradise! Alleluia!  
Cry hosanna in the height Alleluia!  
As he rises out of sight! Alleluia!

Now at last he takes his throne, Alleluia!  
From all ages, his alone! Alleluia!  
With his praise creation rings: Alleluia!  
“Lord of lords and King of kings!” Alleluia!

Hands and feet and side reveal Alleluia!  
wounds of love, his priesthood’s seal! Alleluia!  
Advocate, for us he pleads; Alleluia!  
Heavenly Priest, he intercedes! Alleluia!

### **Glory to God in the highest**

and on earth peace to people of goodwill.  
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you;  
we give you thanks for your great glory.  
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

### **GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father;  
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father.

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

The Acts of the Apostles:

*All joined in continuous prayer*

*Our Response in song:*

**I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness  
in the land of the living.**

1 Peter: *It is a blessing when they insult you for  
bearing the name of Christ.*

### **Alleluia**

**Gospel of John:** The prayer of Christ for unity.

### Preparation of gifts

New praises be given to Christ newly crowned,  
who back to his heaven a new way that found;  
God’s blessedness sharing before us he goes;  
what mansions preparing, what endless repose!

His glory still praising on thrice holy ground.  
Th’apostles stood gazing his mother around;  
With hearts that beat faster, with eyes full of love;  
They watched while their master ascended above.

“No star can disclose Him” the bright Angels said.  
“Eternity knows Him, your conquering head;  
Those high habitations he leaves not again  
till, judging all nations, on earth He shall reign”

**Holy, holy**, holy Lord, God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
hosanna, hosanna, hosanna, in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Save us, Saviour of the world**, for by your cross and  
resurrection you have set us free.

**Lamb of God** you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

### Communion

This is my body, broken for you,  
bringing you wholeness, making you free.  
Take it and eat it, and when you, do it in love for me.

This is my blood poured out for you,  
bringing forgiveness, making you free.  
Take it and drink it, and when you do,  
do it in love for me.

Back to my Father soon I shall go.  
Do not forget me; then you will see  
I am still with you, and you will know  
you’re very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!  
You are my branches; *I* am the tree.  
If you are faithful, others will know  
you are alive in me.

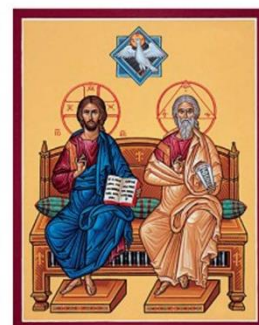
### Recessional The Church's Easter praise of Our Lady -

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia!  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.  
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

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*An image to keep in mind this Sunday:*



*Jesus, seated at the right hand of the Father*

## *Keeping the Seventh Sunday of Easter holy with a Home Liturgy*

### **A prayer to begin**

Lord, hear my voice when I call to you.  
My heart has prompted me to seek your face.  
I seek it Lord; do not hide from me. Alleluia.

Father, help us to keep in mind that although Christ our Saviour lives with you in glory, he has also promised to remain with us until the end of time.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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

#### **Acts of the Apostles 1:12 - 14**

*They all joined in continuous prayer .*

#### **Psalm 26:**

*I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.*

**1 Peter 4:13-16:** *If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad.*

#### **Alleluia**

#### **Gospel of John 17:1-11:**

*The prayer of Jesus to his Father in the Upper Room on Holy Thursday.*

### **For reflection**

In the Gospel prayer we read today, Jesus addresses the Father. His "hour" has at last arrived: the Upper Room will soon empty and they will cross the Kedron Valley into the Garden and the passion drama will begin. It will be – paradoxically – a drama of "glorification". Jesus has glorified the Father by the work he has done on earth and now the culmination of that work approaches, and through his glorification, eternal life will be given to those entrusted to Jesus.

Jesus rehearses in his prayer how those who are his closest ones had been given to him by the Father, and he has entrusted the Father's "name" to them and they have accepted it.

As the Father is glorified in the Son, so too the disciples left behind will glorify Christ in the work they will undertake in the power of the Spirit.

All through the Easter Season we have read in the Book of Acts how the early Church was transformed from being a small and frightened community into a bold taskforce of evangelisation; those who previously had been unable to communicate the Good News were given a voice by the Holy Spirit. Peter and Paul and others faced up to the realities of preaching the Gospel to the Jewish and the Gentile communities; they addressed the difficulties and disagreements, and used the gift of discernment; and so, the final command of

their Master to *go and teach all the nations* could be fulfilled.

We may be tempted to feel that we are "small fry" compared to the great pioneers of the Gospel. But this is not the most helpful way of thinking when we know that we have a task to do in echo of those great pioneers: that the Lord is sending us forth too, each one in our own "little corner" of the world, to do something of the work of the Good News. Praying for a discerning heart might be a good strategy as Pentecost draw close. Remember the sentiment of Cardinal Newman:

*"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.*

*He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place."*

### **Intercessions**

Let us pray for all those are involved in the outreach and missionary work of the Church; may the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, be with them.

We remember too all our own families and the families of our parish communities, not least those people suffering from Covid 19; and all who care for the sick and suffering with such dedication in all the caring services and the medical profession; for those who are working to ensure our society continues to function as best as possible; for those in the voluntary services reaching out to the needy and the vulnerable. We remember too, all the children of our city and those who love and care for them: parents and grandparents, teachers and classroom assistants, family liaison workers; and we remember all who have asked for a remembrance in our prayer.

Take time to voice your own prayers then sum up with the **Our Father....**

### **A prayer to close**

Father most holy,  
you have glorified Jesus your Son  
with the glory he had in your presence  
before the world began;  
and Jesus has glorified you on earth  
by completing the work you gave him to do.

Your Church has gathered spiritually today,  
even though not physically, in prayerful worship,  
just as the first disciples and Mary were gathered  
in the Upper Room.

Grant that, despite the limitations of these times,  
we may accomplish, in the joy of the Holy Spirit,  
all that you give us to do in this world,  
gladly sharing Christ's sufferings,  
so as to rejoice when his glory is revealed. Amen.