

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

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Fifth Sunday of Lent

27th March 2022

*Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Year of Luke (C)*

Our Sunday Masses:

Vigil Masses: 4pm in the Cathedral

5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel

Day Masses:

9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel

11am [Solemn Mass] & 6pm in Cathedral

11.15am [Solemn Mass] in St Mary's, Forebank

This week's Daily Masses

St Andrew's Cathedral:

Monday - Friday at 1pm

Saturday Mass at 10am (with Novena)

St Mary's, Forebank:

Monday - Friday at 11.30am.

Our Lady of Good Counsel:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 10am

Wednesday at 9am

Morning Prayer before Mass each day.

Come my Light and illumine my darkness!

Come my Life and revive me from death!

Come, my Physician and heal my wounds!

*Come, Flame of divine love and burn up the thorns of my sins,
kindling my heart with the flame of thy love!*



Dear Friends and Parishioners,

On Thursday past we had our Liturgy of Reconciliation with General Absolution in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

That Liturgy will be repeated again this Sunday afternoon in St Mary's, Forebank, at 4pm, and again in the Cathedral on Monday 11 April at 7pm. All are welcome.

This healing, this reconciliation, these new beginnings and this spiritual springboard for holiness are the great themes of Lent, encapsulated so powerfully last Sunday in the parable of the *Merciful Father* and the two (I think, anyway) lost sons.

This Sunday, it is the turn of a woman - scorned, embarrassed, and fearing-for-her-life who is brought before Jesus at the behest of the authorities, and what do we find? Like the Father who had waited longingly at the garden gate for his son to return, and when he did actually ran to meet him(!), so too Jesus refuses, refuses to condemn, refuses to appease the *old guard* and instead utters an authoritative divine word: *Neither do I condemn you*. In our Liturgies of Reconciliation, we have a similar experience.





I'm sure that all of us, if we were asked which is the most important feast of the year we would identify it as Easter. If you were to ask any one of our Jewish brothers or sisters the same question, their answer would immediately be the *Pesah*—Passover; it is the festival of liberation and renewal in which our Christian feast of Easter finds its roots. Since the time of Moses, the Passover has commemorated Israel's Exodus from Egypt. This central and pivotal event became the standard by which all other experiences of liberation and renewal were measured and understood.

When Isaiah (in this Sunday's first reading) describes the exiles' return from Babylon to Judah in Passover-like language and with Passover-like imagery, his fellow Jews easily understood the message. And when the Church wants to explore the meaning and implications of Easter, she too does so in Passover-like language and with Passover-like imagery. Remember last's Sunday's reading from Joshua, and the Passover meal of the pilgrims as they arrived in the Promised Land, and indeed the *Passover-liberation-new beginning* overtones in the banquet for the returning prodigal in last Sunday's Gospel! So often the Liturgy enables us to enjoy and appreciate how everything in the *Old* covenant was leading to the *New* covenant which is sealed in Jesus' own blood. Recall how "up the mountain" on the Transfiguration Sunday a few weeks back, in the vision with Elijah and Moses, he is speaking of his "Exodus", which he would accomplish in Jerusalem, and how in Luke at the Last Supper he declares, *I have longed to eat this Passover with you* – the New Passover in his blood!

Although the starting point of Passover is of course the historical event, we refer to it in its spiritual sense. Jewish teachers have long understood the Passover as also referring to the liberation of each person from her or his "inner" Egypt. In a state of spiritual enslavement, the mind and heart are in exile, cut off from the closeness of God without which there is no survival.

We may not always be able to solve the big issues of our day as clearly, but the evidence of our continuing need for conversion to the Lord and to deeper and deeper immersion into **His** covenant is all around us. The value of our celebration of the Easter Triduum next week — our own *Passover* — is that it draws us into reflection and meaning on our own lives and enables us to move forward in the light of the Passover of Jesus. That is why we begin the most solemn Vigil of Easter [*above all, whatever else you miss in our parish community during the year, please try not to miss the Easter Vigil*] with the cry *Christ our Light—Thanks be to God*. Without him we would just be feeling around in the darkness.

I'm very regretful that we have not had a *Journey of faith* experience this year to lead us up to the Triduum, as this has been so enriching for many of us as we try to grow as disciples journeying with Christ, learning from each other, but we managed to have a flavour of it in the Triduum Preparation Evening last week in Broughty Ferry. Nevertheless, as we come towards the end of Lent and reach the climax of the Triduum, we are invited to a deeper reflection — to an understanding of ourselves and of how God is at work in our lives. In the midst of Israel's trial, Isaiah is pointing out how God is at work in their lives (and so, in our lives as well!) We surely need reflection and conversation with God in our spiritual development. This is more than a search for the right thing to do: **it is a search for who we are**, how we are growing and maturing as we approach the Passover 2022.

The late Cardinal Basil Hume put it this way:

"Within each of us is an inner sanctuary, where none may enter, save perhaps one or two close friends, allowed for a brief moment a quick cursory glimpse of what is hidden within. It is our inner selves, often an area where we feel ill at ease. Here we experience suffering, that dreaded visitor, a thief that steals from us our peace of mind, our joy, our hope. Here too however, we experience Love, the guest which brings happiness and contentment. It is into this area, the depth of our being, that God seeks to enter and to dwell. Suffering and love are often, in different ways, heralds of his arrival. He knocks at our door. We are free to open or not."

You'll receive a Triduum timetable as you leave the Church this Sunday.



*In the yard of olive presses
Christ endured his agony;
Now the Church, rejoicing,
blesses Oil to serve his mystery!*

Often the *Mass of Chrism* is seen primarily as the annual occasion when priests remake their commitment to their ordination promises, and everyone else is invited to “spectate” that moment. This assumption however is surely a misunderstanding, given the principal purpose of the gathering – which is articulated in the very title of the *Mass “of Chrism”* – namely the blessing and consecration of the oils for use in the coming year for the anointing of the **whole people of God** – in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the anointing of the Sick (as well as in the Sacrament of Orders).

This Liturgy, the last formal act of Lent, is a truly *diocesan* occasion and should ideally draw us together in our equality as brothers and sisters from across the parishes and all strands of community and ecclesial outlook. In this synodal time, the liturgy of the Mass of Chrism perhaps takes on an even greater significance. It is after this Mass that we return to our parishes to enter and celebrate *The Three Days* of the Easter Triduum, hopefully strengthened and bonded by having our human and sacramental dignity affirmed and strengthened at that Chrism Eucharist, which is always presided over in love by the diocesan Bishop, the *Shepherd* of the people of the Diocese.

On 19 March this year, our Holy Father Francis offered a new Constitution for his Curia (office). In its introduction he explains: “The Pope, Bishops and other ordained ministers are not the only evangelisers in the Church...the reform must include lay men and women in roles of responsibility”. A respected canon lawyer in the Church has noted that this Constitution of Pope Francis “enshrines” that “the power of governance in the Church does not come only from the Sacrament of Orders but from the ‘canonical mission’ of every baptised Catholic”.

This is surely a call for each one of us to reconsider our baptismal gifts, which were given to us so generously in that moment of “Christening”, which were “confirmed” in the Sacrament of that name, and which of course are renewed at every Eucharist. Please come to the Chrism Mass if you can, and express your human and baptismal dignity in song and worship!

It will take place in the Cathedral on the Wednesday of Holy Week, 13 April at 7pm.



I’d like to thank those who last Sunday spoke so committedly at the end of each of our Masses about the next stage of the synodal journey and issued the invitation to those present to join in a small listening group in this coming week.

These listening groups are not particular to our cluster of parishes; they are part of the official synodal process, and have been and are taking place in every parish. They are led by a lay facilitator; the parish priest, while he may be present at the beginning of the session to show solidarity with it and support of it, does not actually take part.

As I said last in last Sunday’s newsletter, The listening group is just that. It is not a discussion group or a problem-solving exercise. It is an opportunity to have your voice heard and your sentiments recorded for the work the Holy Father is asking of the Church at this time.

Two basic questions will be asked in the group:

1. What in your personal experience inspires you about the Catholic Church? *and*
2. What breaks your heart about the Catholic Church?

The listening group will have around 8 participants, with a facilitator and a scribe. The scribe will not be actually taking minutes of everything is said but will record a *flavour* of the sharings so they can be brought back to the diocesan synod group for collation. No names will be mentioned.

Our Parishes listening group times and venues are as follows:

St Mary’s, Forebank: Monday 4 April at 2pm in St Mary’s Church, and also again in the evening of Monday 4 April at 7pm in the Church.

St Andrew’s Cathedral: Tuesday 5 April at 2pm in the Church and on Wednesday 6 April at 7pm in the Church.

Our Lady of Good Counsel: Wednesday 6 April after the morning Mass and repeated on Thursday 7 April at 7pm.

Please welcome once again to the Cathedral for the 11am Mass this Sunday, Father Paul Capaldi, retired priest of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. I am very grateful to Paul for his help.

Skail Daze for SCIAF –

A special performance of the world-renowned epic *Skail Daze* is to be staged at the Little Theatre on Friday 20th May at 7 p.m. A chance for anyone who missed out the first time to come along for a night of fun and laughter (maybe!). Tickets priced £6.00 from Gerry or Clare Fulton at Our Lady of Victories, from Christine Coyle at Our Lady of Good Counsel, from Pat McGoldrick at the New 4 U shop on the Hilltown or from gerardfulton@yahoo.co.uk.

Easing of Covid restrictions

I heard on the radio today (Wednesday) that as from this coming Monday there will no longer be a requirement to wear a mask when in places of worship. I thank you for your immense patience in this regard over such a long time. Some of you may well wish to remain wearing a face mask for now, and that wish will be respected in all our Churches.

The SCIAF Coffee Morning in the Cathedral Hall last Saturday was a resounding success, first of all in terms of community involvement and participation – it was great to see so many people from across the parishes there, and so obviously just enjoying being together at a Church social event, the first time in so long, for so many of us. So, thanks to all who participated in any way – those who collected items for sale and raffle, those who baked and donated such varied goods, those who set up on Friday evening and cleared /cleaned the hall afterwards, and all who came along to support on the day. A magnificent sum of £1796.80 was raised.

On Tuesday past, the **Cecilian Choir** gave a concert of sacred music in the Cathedral to mark the Tayside Organists' Society's "President's Evening". Our own Kevin Veal has been President of the Society since 2019. The Choir did him proud, with a beautiful choice of sacred music in different styles, along with contributions by the renowned local soloist, Colette Ruddy. Thank you for lifting our spirits during the season of Lent! The event also raised £587 for the Cathedral.

Our Prayers for the sick: Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Janet Isherwood, Theresa Kay, Dawn Wood, Heather Moffit, Steven Hackney, Alan McKenzie, Joyce Scott, John McCarry, Margaret McMenemy, Tony Beck, Isobel Blackmore, Karen Dammer, Allison Matthew, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Thinley Chodron, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

for those who have died recently: Kathleen Black, Alec Morgan;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Frank Ellis, Marie Garbutt, Michelle Reglinski.

A Musical Feast next Saturday at the Cathedral 4pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday

We shall welcome the **Strathclyde University Chamber Choir**, with its director Alan Taverner.

This will be a real treat so you might like to make a special effort to come along. The Choir will also be giving a lunchtime concert in St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral at 1.00pm on the same day, Saturday, 9 April, comprising an American programme (Shaker Songs, Old American Songs and music by Morten Lauridsen and Philip Glass).

Music & Prayers for Ukraine with the Cecilian Choir & the Cathedral Choir

Please join us for an hour of music and prayers for Ukraine at 7pm on Wednesday 20th April in St Andrew's Cathedral.

A retiral collection will be taken up for the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.



Thank you for your generosity last Sunday 13 March: £676 in the Cathedral, £390 in Broughty Ferry, and £359 in St Mary's, Forebank.

The Special Collection last Sunday for the **Papal and Episcopal Charities, including SCIAF** raised £363 in the Cathedral, £234 in Broughty Ferry, and £209 in St Mary's, Forebank.

Are you new to our parish?

If so and you intend worshipping regularly with us, you are very welcome indeed. It would be very helpful if you could fill out a **parish registration form** which one of the stewards can give you at the back of the Church.

The **Cathedral 200 Club** March draw winners are: £50 Maisie Gallacher; £30 Fiona McDade; and £20 Marion Given. Congratulations!