

## The witness of the Woman....

John's Gospel has entranced me since I was a young boy, especially hearing each year the account of the *washing of the feet* being read on Holy Thursday and then watching the parish priest at St Mary's wash the feet of twelve men, in imitation of Jesus. Since then, it has consumed me many times, not least as it is read and re-read in this paschal season of Lent and Easter. One of the things I have come to realise is that Christ's washing of the feet is not just a copying of an historical event to be imitated in the liturgy once a year, rather, this action is the Lord's last will and testament to his disciples, it is a *way of being in service*, for women, for men, for the young and for the ageing: this washing of feet is the very dynamic of the Jesus, the Servant-King whom John proclaims.

This Sunday in the Gospel we experience water in another context – the water of the woman of Samaria, the water so different from that which she came to draw from the well to which she would have to return for again and again. In going for ordinary water, she encountered Christ, the Living Water. Why was it not a man Jesus met at the well? Why was it not a man's conversion to which John gives such lengthy detail in his Gospel? Perhaps it is John's implicit way of teaching us something about Jesus and the women in his ministry.

The woman at the well becomes an evangelist herself– she is an outcast at the beginning of the story, but once she has encountered Jesus, and been transformed by him, she becomes the evangeliser of her community. In this (and other scenarios in John) you find that Jesus has a sensitivity and great respect for the women he encounters. He doesn't seem just to modify the role of the women in Judaism's culture, but he affirms them, even in the face of male opposition.

In addition to seeing something of this in the story of the Samaritan woman, look also at his conversation with Martha of Bethany, the sister of Mary: [which will be read this year on the Fifth Sunday of Lent]

Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you'. 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'. Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

While the miracle in this story will be the raising of Lazarus, Jesus gives great prominence to Martha and Mary throughout it. John names Martha and Mary and Lazarus as *people whom Jesus loves*. The only other individual in the whole gospel of whom that is said is the *Beloved Disciple* himself! Martha and Mary are women of faith. They believe! The message they send to Jesus to tell him of the illness of Lazarus hints that they believe only Jesus can deal with this drastic situation. This impression is strengthened when Martha tells Jesus that if he had been there her brother would not have died. Martha's response to Jesus' words that her brother will be raised again, shows her faith, but immediately with the words "*I am*", Jesus raises her awareness of his true identity.

If you read the Gospel of John carefully, you find that the words "*I am*", are on Jesus' lips a number of times – and not by co-incidence – they reveal his identity. They echo the words of Yahweh to Moses, when Moses asks who he is: "I am" - "Yahweh" – 'Tell Pharaoh, "I am" sent you'. In return, Martha makes an unreserved confession of faith, discerning faith, steadfast faith. Within a culture which placed little value on the word and witness of women, Martha is an exemplary model of what it means to acclaim Jesus as Lord. Surely John, in giving such space to this conversation, even in the culture of his day, is proclaiming that women have a right to know the mysteries of faith, and that women are capable of and necessary for the proclaiming of faith to the world.

This truth is re-iterated in the apex of the John's gospel, where we encounter Mary Magdalene. She comes to the tomb in the early hours and discovers it empty. She encounters the risen Lord, and – as in so many of the post resurrection appearances - at first does not recognise him. Then, wonderfully, lovingly, endearingly, he calls her by name – *Mary!* As the text starkly says, "She knew him then". Immediately she is commissioned to return to the community and announce the good news. And she is believed!

The risen Lord, whose life permeates every verse of the fourth gospel, continues to make his home among us, continues to offer us living water, continues to wash our feet and to instruct us to wash the feet of others, without limitation. When on Holy Thursday we are invited to take part in this action, we should remember not only Peter, James and John and the other males present in the upper room, but the other individuals whom John records as having, figuratively, their feet washed by the Master and receiving from him the gifts of dignity, life, purpose, hope, cleansing, and resurrection: Martha, Mary, Lazarus, the adulterous woman, Nicodemus, Mary his Mother, John the Beloved, the blind man, Philip, Magdalene, and not least the woman of this Sunday, the woman who has been remembered since the writing of this Gospel – the woman who had five husbands, the woman who had to draw water in the heat of the day in order to avoid the jibes of her neighbours, the outcast woman, the woman who was gossiped about and derided, but the woman who becomes an evangelist – the *Woman at the Well*.



## Welcome

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



St Andrew's Cathedral (1836)



St Mary, Our Lady of Victories (1851)



Our Lady of Good Counsel (1904)

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**The newsletter is available on the parish website and on the Facebook page each week**

## Third Sunday of Lent 12 March 2023

[Liturgy of the Hours Week 3]

Next Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent in the Year of Matthew & SCIAF Sunday



**Our Sunday Masses:** Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel;  
Morning Masses at 9.45am in Our Lady of Good Counsel, 11am in the Cathedral  
and 11.15am in St Mary's, Forebank. Evening Mass in the Cathedral at 6pm.

### Monday 13 March

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral

No Mass in St Mary's

### Tuesday 14 March

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral—No Stations of the Cross today

No Mass in St Mary's

### Wednesday 15 March

Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Mass at 1pm in the Cathedral

No Mass in St Mary's

### Thursday 16 March

9.30am in St Mary's Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Stations of the Cross at 12.15pm in the Cathedral then Mass at 1pm

### Friday 17 March—St Patrick

10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's (Stations at 11am) 1pm in the Cathedral

### Saturday 18 March

Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

This Sunday at 4pm we have the first of our three

### Lenten Liturgies of Reconciliation with a General Absolution

and it will take place in St Mary's Forebank. There will be short scripture service, followed by a reflection, general absolution of sins, and then Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We shall sing some appropriate hymns. Please come along and join us if you can, and receive an absolution during this sacred time of lent. The same Liturgy will be repeated on Thursday 16 March at 7pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel and on Thursday 30 March at 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral.

A set time for Confessions from after Saturday morning Mass until 11.30am has resumed. Also, as far as reasonable, Confession is available on request.



### Make hospitality your special care....so wrote St Paul.

Thank you to those who provide the hospitality of welcome, care and refreshment in our parishes. While the prayer below is designed to be prayed by those who welcome us at the church door, it is nevertheless surely worthy of recitation by all involved in any ministry of hospitality and indeed all of us in the gathered assembly for the Liturgy.

Lord Jesus,  
You welcome those who seek you with kindness and gentleness.  
You welcomed conversation with the Samaritan woman.  
You welcomed the lame, the blind, the broken.  
You were a friend of sinners, whom religious people often rejected.

In imitation of you,  
as people come to our church, help me to be kind to them.  
Help me to give them a welcome that is worthy of your name.  
Help me to display kindness in a way that will prepare the way for them to hear God's word proclaimed in our gathering.  
Help me to set aside my preoccupations and worries and focus on them.

Allow kindness to show forth in me, blocking all negative judgment over what a person wears, their apparent social status, or any other bias I might be tempted to conjure up.  
Allow kindness to show forth in me as I greet each and every person who walks in the door of our church.  
Allow kindness to help me see an unspoken need and meet it today.  
Let the way I behave today as a member of the Body of Christ be pleasing in your sight.  
May the kindness I share, help the shy or nervous person to be calm, and enable the nervous, first-time visitor to feel safe;  
May I have a special care for the elderly, the infirm, and the young; may I rejoice in the families and look out for the person alone,  
May the kindness I show help everyone who enters today be at peace.  
Amen

### The Mad Hatters'

Tea & Coffee, sandwiches and cake on Wednesday 15 March in the Cathedral Hall from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. All welcome.

### Also in Our Lady of Good Counsel

Tea and coffee after Mass each Wednesday  
Our Parish Lunch in St Mary's is on Sunday 26 March—full details on next page.

## Toward a Triduum of new life

I invite you to come and share a *spiritual evening* preparing for the Easter Triduum in our parishes, at Our Lady of Good Counsel on Monday 27 March from 6.30pm until 8pm.

All are welcome, but especially those who read the scriptures, sing the psalms, play the music and lead us in any way during the liturgy of *The Three Days*.

If you have not been involved before, this will hopefully inspire you to take a full part in the Easter feast; if you have been involved before, hopefully it will re-ignite your fervour for the great three days of our year.

You can still sign up for our **Parish Lunch** at St Mary's, Forebank after the 11.15am Mass on Sunday 26 March.

I'm hoping everyone will feel able to come along. Lunch will be provided but if you'd like to ring a dish to share, especially particular dish from a particular country or region, please let us know.

### Please pray for those who are sick:

Katie Carpenter, Baby Joshua Hopkins, Joe Dolan, Patrick Ruddy, Agnes Whyte, Norman Hadden, Ray Conchie, Ross Murray, Theresa Kay, Heather Moffit, Sonya Rostan, Steven Hackney, Karen Dammer, Steven Kennedy, Margaret McMenemy, Isobel Blackmore, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Aubrey McMullan, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

**those who have died recently:** Ella Ogilvie, Michael Sweeney, Irena Jendrycha;

### those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Alex Whyte, Ralph McCann, Vincent Knight, Edward Noble, Jimmy Millington; Sheila McCartan, Molly Anderson, Francis O'Rourke, Canon Quinn, Robert Blake; Ron Dey, Paul McNally, Ronald Gabriel Mackie, Allan May, Rose Finnigan, Michael McBride, John Murphy, William Cairnie, Ella Leonard, Elizabeth Pressagh, Michael Healy, Margaret Healy, Maureen Mannion, Sean Healy, Una Gibbs, Chris Healy, Sid Harkar, William Lowrie Junior, Kathleen Walker, John Colvin.

**Lenten Youth Retreat:** Fr Jean Gové invites young people aged 18-30 in Dundee are invited to a half-day Lent retreat in St Andrews, on Saturday 18 March, from 10am to 1pm concluding with lunch together. All those interested can sign up by scanning the QR code on the poster, or contact Fr Jean Gové for more information.

**This week** on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th, I have to attend the meeting of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland at the house of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary at Campsie Glen, Glasgow. Consequently, there will be **no** Mass in St Mary's on those days, and there will be a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion in Our Lady of Good Counsel. My apologies for this. One of the other priests will cover the 1pm Mass in the Cathedral on those days.

*On Wednesday and Thursday mornings this week we welcome to the Cathedral hall the newly qualified teachers in our Catholic schools across our Diocese for sessions on "The strands of faith" which will be led by Canon Tom Shields.*

Don't forget our



in the Cathedral Hall this Saturday 18 March from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

If you would like hand in home baking or raffle prizes for this event you can do so on Friday 17 March at the Cathedral after the 1pm Mass at the back of the Church, or on Friday evening to the Cathedral Hall between 6pm and 7.30pm.

This annual Special Collection for SCIAF and the Papal and Episcopal Charities will be taken at all Masses on Sunday 19 March.

### Papal Honour for Cathedral Parishioners

I'm very pleased to let you know that Our Holy Father Pope Francis has awarded the Papal *Benemerenti* to two of the Cathedral Parishioners for their unstinting service to the church over many decades—Mrs Elinor McBride and Mr Pierluigi Carena. Congratulations to them both. I look forward to arranging with them a suitable occasion for them to be presented with their parchment and medal by Bishop Emeritus Stephen Robson.

### Finance Matters

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £397 in St Mary's, £579 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £787 in the Cathedral.

### Sunday Collections:

Relying on receptacles at the back of the Church, we have not resumed the taking of the **offertory collection** in either St Mary's, Forebank or Our Lady of Good Counsel, though we have resumed this in the Cathedral.

I am aware that a great number of people in Our Lady of Good Counsel make their Church contribution by standing order and some also in St Mary's, so when the offertory collection resumes, of course there is no expectation for them to contribute again!

I propose though that the offertory collection should be reinstated, as this is what is expected by the Diocese. If you are willing to help with taking up of the collection, please let me know. Thanks. Kevin

### From Blackpool to Lochee!

You are invited to an afternoon of music with Gary White playing the virtual Wurlitzer organ, at St Mary's Lochee Church Hall on Sunday 23 April at 2.30pm. Tickets are £7 from Gerry Fulton—gerardfulton@yahoo.co.uk — 07496 539968. All monies raised will go to St Mary's, Lochee restoration fund.

### Holy Land Pilgrimage

**Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> – Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023**

Fr. David Borland of the Diocese of Galloway is organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during October this year, using Laila Tours & Travel Ltd. based in Bethlehem to organise everything for the group in the Holy Land – they will handle everything from landing at Tel Aviv until the group arrives back at Tel Aviv airport to fly home, with flights themselves booked separately, and each pilgrim needing to have their own travel insurance, The total cost of this pilgrimage will be £1,128 plus the cost of the flight, based on two people sharing a twin room on a half-board basis in 3\* hotels. I have more details from Father David if you are interested.