

The Mountain and the Valley

Usually on this Sunday of Transfiguration of Jesus I would write a column for the newsletter reflecting on the significance of this event as we journey towards Easter. However, I was forwarded the text of an address which Pope Francis gave recently to participants at a Conference promoted by the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, and I'd like to share something of it with you. I was immediately struck by how the Holy Father's words echoed three significant experiences in my own life, namely, my exposure to the teachings the Second Vatican Council, secondly, the vision underpinning the academic and pastoral formation I experienced in the seminary, and the understanding and vision of the Church I studied and experienced while doing a distance learning degree from Loyola University, New Orleans, two decades ago.



The text echoes the Holy Father's synodal attitude to the Church. He speaks of the witness of the apostolate of laypeople in daily life, and draws attention to the shared responsibility of pastors and the lay faithful. I can't help but feel I've lost something in recent years of the practice of this shared vision and responsibility, which happens to many priests as we are overtaken by concerns of maintenance (and not just of the plant!) and administration in the Church. Of course, these both are necessary—but at times they are at the expense of having time/energy to discern and articulate a shared vision. I am hopeful that those who come together this coming Saturday for our Lenten Day on *Thirsting for light and life* will go away with a renewed sense of being the Church, gathered round the scriptures as a source of life and grace. We surely need a renewed enthusiasm: we witness in the midst of what we might call a *secular reality* all around us, but in that we are surely no different from the early Christian communities which had to struggle in the face of persecution. The Pope urges an end to the separation often experienced between clergy and laity (indeed, he says, the word "laity" is never used in the New Testament); the texts there prefer "believers", "disciples", "brethren", "saints". "Sharing in mission", the Pope says, "builds a unity of purpose, manifests the complementarity of the differing charisms, and this awakens in all the desire to move forward together"; (that journeying, synodal theme again).

He speaks of the "correct" vision or "model" of the Church as the People of God. This is, of course, a biblical theme, present from the Book of Exodus onwards, but it was taken up afresh in the writings of the Second Vatican Council. The Holy Father speaks of pastors needing to be trained from their time in the seminary to work collaboratively with laypeople, "so that communion, as a lived experience, will be reflected in their activity as something natural, not extraordinary and occasional". It made me recall the pastoral formation, experience and reflection which were an integral part of my own seminary experience. When we were in Drygrange, near Melrose, all the students regularly took part in pastoral experiences in the local parishes in the Borders, learning how to catechise, care, celebrate and how to "team" with others, and to avoid a clericalist mentality of feeling we were somehow "above" those among whom we were being formed. I had the good fortune when the seminary moved to a new site in Edinburgh to be attached to two parishes over three years where priests and people showed me "how" to be priest through their example and guidance. This in turn informed my academic formation, which, and while I am in no way a real "academic" myself, this experience enriched and increased the fruits of the learning in the classroom. Finally, a pastoral year in a Dundee parish as a deacon proved to be a huge learning curve for me, before priestly ordination.

For all of us, priests and people, engaging with the journey of faith is surely an invitation from the Lord to grow more deeply in the things of the Spirit and to make present the Kingdom of God in the world, through the witness we give. And Pope Francis makes much of the notion of "witness" in his recent address. "A shared witness creates a people united in mission", he says. "This is the insight we must cherish", as the Second Vatican Council articulated in its Constitution on the Church, called *Lumen Gentium*: "the Church is the faithful, Holy People of God". The Holy Father develops this further, saying "The Church is neither populist nor elitist...we cannot learn this theoretically but through lived experience".

The Holy Father is clear: "Now is the time for pastors and laypersons to move forward together, in every sphere of the Church's life and in every part of the world! The lay faithful are not 'guests' in the Church; it is their home and they are called to care for it as such. Together with their pastors, laypersons must bring Christian witness to secular life: to the worlds of work, culture, politics, art and social communications".

On the Sunday of the Transfiguration, I am always struck how in the Gospel Peter expresses a desire to *remain on the mountaintop*, to bask in that glorious light, to remain in the idyll; but the Lord won't have that. They must come down the mountain; they must come out of the ecstasy, they must face the reality of life *down in the valley* and "get on with the work", so to speak. Ministry and Mission is that to which they are called. So it must be the same for us: ministry and mission, amidst the ordinariness, the messiness, and even the *ennui* of daily life.



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

Second Sunday of Lent 5 March 2023 [Liturgy of the Hours Week 2] Next Third Sunday of Lent in the Year of Matthew



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 6 March
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel **11.15am in St Mary's** —Funeral Mass for Elizabeth (Nuala) Devlin
 1pm in the Cathedral — Funeral Mass for Teresa (Terri) Smith

Tuesday 7 March
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Wednesday 8 March
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Thursday 9 March
Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion at 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel
10am Mass in the Cathedral
No Mass in St Mary's
Midday Prayer and Benediction at 12noon in the Cathedral

Friday 10 March—*Saint John Ogilvie*
 10am in Our Lady of Good Counsel 11.30am in St Mary's 1pm in the Cathedral

Saturday 11 March Novena and Mass at 10am in the Cathedral

Dear Friends and Parishioners,

This Sunday at the 11.15am Mass in St Mary's, Forebank we especially welcome the boys and girls who will soon receive the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, along with members of their families.

This Sunday marks the beginning of their formal preparation for these Sacraments and they will write their names in the Book of Enrolment as a symbolic gesture of their desire to participate in the preparation for these great days in their lives. The parish community is asked to pray for them and support them in any way possible. After Mass there will be refreshments for everyone in the hall downstairs. Please come and join us.

This Second Sunday of Lent is also the celebration of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain, where Peter, James and John, his close apostles, witness his human body being glorified in divine light, and they hear him being declared to them as the "Beloved Son" of the Father: *Listen to him!* the voice from heaven says. And that is what we seek to do throughout these days of renewal, to listen to **him**, so that our arrival at the Easter Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday of the Vigil, through to Easter Day itself is a full celebration of our belonging in the One who is the Redeemer. As we sing at the Easter Vigil — *What good would life have been to us, had Christ not come as our Redeemer?*



Confessions in the 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.



Lenten Liturgies of Reconciliation with a General Absolution

These will take place as follows
Sunday 12 March

in St Mary's, Forebank at 4pm;
Thursday 16 March at 7pm
in Our Lady of Good Counsel;
Thursday 30 March
at 7pm in St Andrew's Cathedral.

All are welcome.

Dunkeld Diocesan Choir rehearses this Tuesday 28 February at 7pm in the Cathedral.

A date for your diary!

The **Cecilian Choir** will give a **Concert** on Wednesday 22nd March, 7-8pm in St Mary's, Lochee, Church in aid of Renovation Funds. Entry by donation, followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome.

There will be

An afternoon Service entitled
"Transform us with your Light, O Lord"
& **Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**
this **Sunday 5 March at 4pm**
in **Our Lady of Good Counsel,**
Westfield Road Broughty Ferry.

Please try to keep the Sundays of Lent holy, and come and join us if you can.

Next Sunday, the afternoon service will be in St Mary's, Forebank.

There will be **Stations of the Cross** on **Tuesday** this week at 12.15pm in the Cathedral, and then on **Friday** this week at 11am in St Mary's and also on **Friday** at 6pm in Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Cat-Soc—the Universities' Catholic Society — meets this Monday 6 March at 6pm for Mass at St Joseph's, Wilkies Lane, then a talk from Bishop Stephen Robson then social time. The Cat-Soc AGM takes place the following Monday 13 March.

The Sunday 11am Solemn Mass in the Cathedral is livestreamed for those unable to attend. It can be accessed through the Diocese of Dunkeld Website.

SIGN UP TODAY for our
Parish Lunch
at
St Mary's, Forebank after the
11.15am Mass on
Sunday 26 March

I wish to extend a personal invitation to **every one of you** to attend our Parish Lunch in the hall below the church on **Sunday 26th March, 2023 after the 11.15 a.m. Mass.**

We worship together and this is a chance for us to come together to enjoy food and conversation and to get to know one another better. In this way we can build up our parish community.

All food and drinks will be provided but if anyone would like to bring a special dish to share with others then please do so. **EVERYONE WILL BE MOST WELCOME** and **especially all the children and young people.** We have so many people of varied backgrounds and stories: please feel welcome to come and get to know other parishioners and feel part of the parish family.

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:

Nuala Devlin, Teresa Smith;

those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Bernard Cooper, Josephine Wogan, David Wogan, Tom Rooney, Stewart Duncan; Letitia Lebonnois, Jacqueline Paine, Teresa Haughey Joseph McGarry, Catherine McAulay, David Pullen, Marie Gowans, Sarah Dillon, Elfreda Colvin, Jim Mortali, Peter Cabrelli; Mary Anne Rosie, Wilhelm Riegner, Josef Kobylarski, Stephen Hood, Corriene Roncone, James Crossan, Margaret Zabowska, John McCaig, Veronica Jackson.

The **Dunkeld Chapter of Canons** meets this **Thursday 9 March** in the Cathedral. There will be Midday Prayer and Benediction with the Canons at 12noon. Please come and join us if you are free. Because the Canons' meeting, Mass in the Cathedral this Thursday will be at **10am**; there will be no Mass in St Mary's and there will be a Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion in Broughty Ferry.

Next 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.

Don't forget our



in the Cathedral Hall on **Saturday 18 March** after the **10am Mass.**

Please support us by buying a ticket and coming along on the day. Raffle prizes and/or home baking are still needed. Bottle especially welcome!"

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

Finance Matters

Thank you for your generosity last Sunday of £383 in St Mary's, £573 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £745 in the Cathedral.

Post of Cathedral Cleaner

We need a Church Cleaner at the Cathedral; this is a paid post, and involves a fair amount of work. If you would be interested in exploring this, please email janwilliamson@blueyonder.co.uk

Bookings for the Dunkeld Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage (14th to 21st of July 2023) for those planning on staying in the Panorama or Louis de France Hotels can now be made online to Joe Walsh Tours at

<https://joewalshstours.co.uk>. Physical booking forms should be in parishes this week. If you, or anyone you know, would like more information about our pilgrimage, the services offered by the Dunkeld Lourdes Service (yellow t-shirts) or our medical team please contact Ruth Anne O'Neill on ruthanne@pobox.com or 07801 227443.

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.

The Mad Hatters'

Tea & Coffee, sandwiches and cake on **Wednesday 8 March** in the Cathedral Hall from 1.30pm until 3pm.
All welcome.

Statues new to the Cathedral

We now have the Dunkeld Statue of Saint Columba in its new home at the Cathedral (it had previously been in the Chapel at Lawside Convent). Many of us will remember that great day of celebration - *Columba '97* - in the Caird Hall, when the statue, which had been commissioned by Bishop Vincent, was blessed.

The other new statue is that of Saint Margaret of Scotland, which had also previously been in the Chapel at Lawside Convent. This statue was commissioned by Bishop Stephen.

Would you like to join Fr Johny and parishioners of St Clements/St Ninians on their Pilgrimage to Fatima?

It is 5 days/ 4 nights – 20th to 24th June 2023. Flight from Scotland to Lisbon Tentative Cost £ 700/ £750 based on 2 sharing If you would like more information please contact Fr Johny 07831 580 361 or Bernadette Dailly 07919106129 email bdailly@btinternet.com

Thirsting for Light and Life?

If so, don't miss our **Diocesan Lenten Day of Renewal and Prayer for parish people** at the Pastoral Centre, St. Mary's Forebank Church Hall on Saturday 11 March.



The graphic above shows images from the Gospel of John: the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and Lazarus emerging from the tomb. These stories are key texts in the fourth gospel and our day together on the 11th will be a fresh opportunity to get to the heart of St John the Evangelist and the transforming power of Jesus which he shows and most importantly *makes available to us* through his Gospel text.

Please consider join us at St Mary's from 10am on Saturday 11 March. There is a list at the back of the Church for names.