

**Welcome to  
St Andrew's Cathedral  
& Our Lady of Good Counsel  
& St Mary, Our Lady of Victories**

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**Festival of Saint Columba  
& 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**13 June 2021**

*Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**Dear Friends and Parishioners,**

On 9 June each year the Church in Scotland honours Columba of Iona, the wonderful *Pilgrim for Christ* who left behind his native land, and also left behind the prospect of a privileged life, and with his community of brothers gathered around him, he formed the community of monks which would be the *living sign* of Christ, on the Island of Iona and beyond, in the highlands of our beloved Scotland.

The feast of St Columba this year has special significance as it marks the 1500th anniversary of Columba's birth. There are celebrations on Iona itself to mark this event but these are markedly more subdued and truncated that was hoped.

Columba is of special significance for the Diocese of Dunkeld as he is the principal patron of the Diocese. In our Masses this Sunday we shall honour Columba and the 11am Mass in the Cathedral, celebrated by the Bishop as the Chief Shepherd of the local church, will be a more solemn celebration of the Saint.

**Thank you** for your generosity on Sunday 6 June of £591 in the Cathedral, £619 in Our Lady of Good Counsel and £440 in St Mary's, Forebank.

There is a **Children's Liturgy of the Word** for this Sunday on the Cathedral Facebook page. Our grateful thanks to the Cathedral Liturgy team for this.

**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 & 6pm in Cathedral 11.15am in St Mary's

*You need book a place for Mass on Sundays in the Cathedral and in Our Lady of Good Counsel. There is no need to book in St Mary's, Forebank.*

**How to book for Mass on Eventbrite:**  
Click the link for the Church you wish to book at:  
**Cathedral:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebration-of-mass-good-friday-liturgy-at-st-andrews-cathedral-dundee-tickets-112091962076>

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sunday-mass-at-our-lady-of-good-counsel-rc-church-broughty-ferry-tickets-112956403644>

**Phone Bookings:** If you have NO access to the internet call 07561 699557 and leave a message.

**Weekday Mass this week**

(there is no need to book for weekday Mass)

**Our Lady of Good Counsel:**

Monday – Friday at 10am  
Morning Prayer at 9.45am

**St Mary's, Forebank**

Monday - Friday at 11.30am

**St Andrew's Cathedral**

Monday—Friday at 1pm  
Saturday at 10am

(with Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour)

**CONFESSIONS** on request before any Mass

**Our Prayers**

for the sick: Ian Davidson, Jane Budge, Alan McKenzie, Joyce Scott, John McCarry, Margaret McMenemy, Tony Beck, Isobel Blackmore, Karen Dammer, Bridie Mossey, Mel Caullay, Allison Matthew, Jackey Forrest-Moore, Catherine Gallacher, Baby Ben Welsh, Thinley Chodron, Sharon McInally, Natalia Lucka, Benedict Stephens, Gillian Steedman, Steven Kennedy, Aubrey McMullan, Sonya Rostan, Lily Jane Douglas, Alexander McNeil, Sheila McCallum, Marie Manunga;

**those who have died recently:** Allan May;

**those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Lawrence McGoldrick, Neil McDade, Marjory Cuthill, Alexina Stevens, Helen Methven, Jane Fordyce, Marjory Reid, Chris Smith, Cathie Stott, John (Ian) Wallace, Christine Martin, Molly Murray, Brother Bede, Mary Saunders, Thomas McPherson, James Connelly, Arthur Orr, Alice Foggarty, Mary McNally, Hugh Macpherson.

This being the **Year of St Joseph**, it has been suggested in St Mary's that we have an occasion dedicated to him. I shall look to see when the Sunday scriptures would be appropriate for such a day and we shall honour this Saint with his hymns at Mass.

# The Shepherd of Iona

Columba's biographer, Saint Adamnan, noted that Columba was 42 years old when he left his native Ireland and sailed as a *pilgrim for Christ*, arriving eventually at Iona, where he remained as a "soldier of Christ" for 34 years. Many of us have experienced the beauty and serenity of that holy place.



I love the story of St Columba coming through the Great Glen and down Loch Ness to confront the King of the Picts at Inverness in his desire to evangelise the pagan Picts. His biographer a hundred years later speaks of the great *Water Beast* that was terrifying the inhabitants, and Columba blessed it and forbade to ever again to harm a human being, and that (I think) is the first recorded mention of what we call the Loch Ness Monster!

We tend to think of Columba as an Irishman coming to Scotland, but there's more to it than that, even though it's true that when he was 42 he did come from that island to this island, because he really came to his own people, speaking the same Gaelic language, in Argyll; he did not come to Scotland to convert the people of Argyll - they were already Christian. The Gospel had been brought to them a century before by Saint Patrick, but he did set out to convert the Picts, hence his journey to the King at Inverness. Like Abraham, he left his own land to go on pilgrimage for God, and settled on Iona, building a monastery and a life there.

Fast forward to the Vikings of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, who were sea raiders from Scandinavia who ravaged the sea coasts of Britain and Ireland; they targeted monasteries and churches especially; as result of this threat, monastic and Christian life became impossible on Iona, so Columba's relics were brought to Dunkeld and Dunkeld took over as the nerve centre and the centre and capital of the Scottish Church, the leadership role that Iona had played. By then the followers of Columba had preached the Gospel throughout the highlands and even down over the border in Northumbria; Columba was therefore an apostle of Scotland and even south of the border.

The difference between Columba's time and ours includes the fact that in his days the sea was not a barrier, rather it was the best method for travel and communication, because travel overland was difficult and dangerous, and in his time there was nothing in Scotland that we today would recognise as a town! Yet there is continuity between the old centre of the church at Dunkeld and the our present day diocese of Dunkeld which was suppressed during the reformation but which was restored in 1878.

So for good reason Columba is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Dunkeld. We share the same faith, the same Eucharist as he did, in a different time and in culture he would not have recognised, but the same faith nevertheless.

Many of us will also recall that great day in 1997 when the Diocese of Dunkeld came together to honour the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Saint's death, thronging the Caird Hall, and celebrating firstly with a powerful pageant which told the story of Columba's life and vocation, teaching us of his apostolic fervency and how he was drawn irresistibly to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The pageant was followed by a joyful celebration of Mass when we sang for the time the "Dunkeld Mass of Saint Columba" which Bishop Vincent commissioned especially for the occasion, and which was composed by a Glasgow priest, Father Gerry Fitzpatrick. Its staying power has been remarkable as we still sing it across the Diocese of Dunkeld and beyond. The Dunkeld *Saint Columba sculpture* was also commissioned to mark the 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, and was blessed that day in the Caird Hall, it being the work of Janet Scrymgeour Wedderburn.

The Opening Prayer of Columba's feast day Mass alludes to Columba arriving in heaven at the end of his days armed with "sheaves of justice", the harvest of his work of evangelisation. A refrain from a hymn we have sung across a few parishes puts it like this:

**"May we find richness in the harvest of justice,  
which Christ Jesus has ripened for us.  
Bread for the journey, bread for the hungry,  
all for the glory and praise of God."**

*[The historic notes on Columba in this piece are gratefully acknowledged to the writings of the late Abbott Mark Dilworth OSB of Fort Augustus]*

