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Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11th 2022

My dear parishioners,

Already we have reached the Third Sunday of Advent, often referred to as Gaudete Sunday. Today we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath, for the focus is one of expectancy and celebration, *gaudete* being the Latin word inviting us to rejoice.

I offer the following words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“Gaudete in Domino semper – Rejoice in the Lord always (Ph 4:4). Holy Mass of the Third Sunday of Advent opens with these words of St. Paul and is therefore called Gaudete Sunday. The Apostle urges Christians to rejoice because the Lord’s coming, that is, his glorious return, is certain. The Church makes this invitation to rejoice her own as she prepares to celebrate Christmas with her gaze focused ever more intently on Bethlehem; indeed we wait with hope, certain of Christ’s second coming because we have experienced his first.” Pope Benedict XVI

A Message from the Diocesan Choir: this year we will give three performances of our annual Carol Concert entitled ***“Unto Us is Born a Saviour.”***
Please come along on:

Wednesday 14th December in St. Mary’s Larkhall at 7.30pm
Sunday 18th December in St. Bride’s East Kilbride at 7.30pm
Tuesday 20th December in Motherwell Cathedral at 7.30pm
Admission is free and all are cordially invited to attend.

Parish Coffee Morning this Sunday after the 10.30am Mass; please come around to the hall and enjoy some tea/coffee/juice and cake; it’s also a good way to come to know other parishioners in a relaxed setting.

Reconciliation Service with General Absolution at St. Mary’s next Saturday morning at 11.30am; Bishop Toal has given permission for this service; it is a beautiful way to go to confession as part of our spiritual preparation for Christmas; so please make a note in your diary and come along and let us celebrate together God’s merciful love for us all.

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

Saturday December 10th

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday December 11th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday December 12th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Reception of the body of Patrick Murphy at 6.15pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at 7pm;

Tuesday: December 13th: Requiem Mass for Patrick Murphy at St. Mary's at 10am

Wednesday December 14th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Thursday December 15th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday December 17th: Special Advent Reconciliation Service with General Absolution at St. Mary's at 11.30 am.

Please note the times of our Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve:

Mass at St. Mary's at 4pm and at 8pm

Christmas Day:

Mass at St. Paul's at 10.30am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

CREDO, the parish prayer group meets this Tuesday, December 13th at 1pm and afterwards members enjoy some tea together.

This will be the final meeting in 2022; the next meeting will be January 10th 2023.

A Message from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP): very sincere thanks for your ongoing support of our work which allows us to continue to reach out to those in need; whatever you place in the boxes at the back of the church will go towards supporting local people in need.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Patrick Murphy, Kevin McGuire, Johanna Gallagher, Rosemary Milligan, Philip Reavey, John Fagan, Patrick Warren

Special Remembrance: Catherine Seagrave, Ellen and Daniel Gallagher, William Ward, James Keeney, Les Lovelock, John Fitzpatrick Jnr., Mandy McCallum, Margaret O'Brien, Theresa Ainslie, Peter McKinnon, Esther and Thomas Reid, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace.*