



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Charity Number - SC011041

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Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent

December 1st 2019

Church Services

Sunday Mass at St. Mary's:

Saturday Vigil, 5.30pm
10am, 11.30am

Sunday Mass at St. Paul's:

Saturday Vigil, 4pm
10.30am

Weekday Mass:

St. Mary's, Monday and Wednesday at 10am
St. Paul's, Tuesday and Friday at 10am

Rosary prayed each weekday after the Morning Mass.

Confession:

St. Mary's, Monday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 5.10 pm
St. Paul's, Tuesday Morning after Mass and Saturday at 3.40pm.

Monday 7pm: Novena at St. Mary's in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's in the side chapel Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from after Mass until 2pm, and at St. Paul's on a Tuesday from after Mass until 2pm

This is a sacred space for those who would like to pray in silence before the Blessed Sacrament

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, which begins the new Liturgical Year for the Catholic Church. Bishop Hugh Gilbert of Aberdeen, who serves as President of the National Liturgical Commission, writes this:

'The Cross stands while the world turns' is a motto of the Carthusians'. The world is certainly 'turning' at present. The Liturgical Year reminds us that, whatever happens, the Cross 'stands'. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it, 'The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life' (n.108). Thanks to the Liturgy, of which Easter is the Centre, we can stand by the Cross and empty Tomb. We can let ourselves be drawn to the source of eternal life and, in our way, draw others to it also, 'so that the world may be saved.'

In Advent the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity, when we recall Christ's first coming. As we remember so also we look forward in faith to his Second Coming at the end of time. It is a period of joyful hope. The hope of Advent is expressed during the first part of Advent with the concentration on the Second Coming, while the first coming is recalled particularly from the 17th December, when Christ is seen as the fulfilment of the hope of Israel. Throughout Advent purple is used for seasonal celebrations. The use of flowers and musical instruments should be restrained until Christmas. The Gloria is not said unless noted.

Let us pray that we have a prayerful and joyful Advent, moving toward the celebration of Christmas with renewed trust in God's love for us, evident in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus.

We welcome this Sunday pupils and staff from St. Mary's Primary and from Holy Cross High who will be with us at the 10am Mass to mark Catholic Education Week. *Our second collection will be donated to support the work of Scottish Catholic Education Services.*

St. Paul's Primary School Christmas Fayre this Friday, Dec 6th, 1.30 -3pm: all welcome

We welcome also pupils from Primary 3 and 4 from St. Mary's, who will be with us along with their parents to enrol for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

St. Mary's Music Group: it is good to have the music group with us this weekend for the 10am Mass; if you would like to join the group, playing an instrument or singing then you will be made very welcome. Why not come along to the next rehearsal in the parish meeting room on December 17th, 7-8pm?

Thanks to everyone who came along for our Annual Mass for Deceased Members of St. Mary's and St. Paul's last Wednesday and thanks to those who served us in the hall afterwards and special thanks to those who baked some cakes. *It was a lovely evening of remembrance.*

During the month of November so many of you enclosed a donation in thanksgiving for treasured memories shared with loved ones; these donations reached the astonishing sum of £2,000. This year our remembrance gifts will be donated to Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust which seeks to provide much needed care to the poor of Bethlehem, this town that is so precious to us all; a donation will also be made to Survive Miva, a charity which helps support priests and people in very remote parts of the world. May the Lord bless you all for such kindness.

Are you thinking about Christmas cards yet? Please take time to look in the stall at St. Mary's and at St. Paul's where you will find a good selection of cards, calendars and other items too.

Annual Mass for Deceased Clergy: this special liturgy will take place in Motherwell Cathedral on Thursday 5th December at 7pm. This year we remember Bishop Joseph Devine, Canon Andrew Reen, Canon John Healy and Fr. Brendan Smith who died this year. We also remember the anniversary of Bishop Francis Thomson, who died on 6th December 1987. *All welcome.*

A Message from Drama Kirk about the Reindeer Parade and Nativity: 'the parade begins at 12.30pm on Saturday December 7th and begins at the bottom cross; we will follow Santa and his reindeer up the street. The nativity characters will be part of the parade and the performance will take place at the top cross as soon as the reindeer are secured in their pen. The script is a delightful tale of Christmas from the perspective of the stars. Please do come along and support it and bring your family and friends and enjoy a lovely festive treat'.

Credo, St. Mary's and St. Paul's Faith Sharing Group meets this Tuesday, December 3rd in the parish meeting room at 1 o'clock. The group meets to reflect and share on some aspect of the Catholic Faith and then enjoy some tea and cake together. *New members always welcome.*

St. Mary's and St. Paul's Walking Group meets on Tuesday mornings at 11am and walks for around one hour, starting from the Museum and returning there to have some tea and coffee. The walking group proves to be popular and new members are always welcome.

SCIAF Christmas Real Gifts make great presents for family and friends; the parish catalogue is now available at the back of the church. You can also visit www.sciaf.org.uk/realgifts.

Please pray for our parishioners who are ill at home or in hospital.

Please pray for those who have died recently: James McCearney (Paris), Henry Magill, Lena Capaldi (Ayr), Peter Brown, Helene Coyle, Catherine Rodden, Ellen Martin, Patrick Brannan.

Special Remembrance: Bill O'Mailley, Tommy Daly, Jim Cox, David and Margaret Smith, Charles and Helen McGurk, Sadie and Tommy Tighe, deceased members of the McGurk, Brown, Tighe and Owen families and all our deceased relatives and friends and benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's.