



St. Mary's R. C. Church
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St. Paul's R. C. Church
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Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12th 2021

My dear parishioners,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to celebrating the beautiful feast of Christmas with family and friends. The liturgy of this Third Sunday of Advent invites us to prepare spiritually to welcome Christ into our lives ever more deeply. The curious humility of John the Baptist attracts our attention. The Baptist identifies himself by emphasising who he is not; he is not Elijah, not the Christ, not the prophet, not the light; his own identity is much less important to him than the message he carries and the work he must do. Through his mission, ministry and martyrdom he points to Christ, who must increase just as he, the humble Baptist, must decrease. As we approach the celebration of Christmas let us pray for one another that Christ may increase in each one of us.

It is a pleasure to welcome pupils from St. Mary's Primary who are making class visits to the church to gather around the crib to prepare to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Likewise it is uplifting to have a class from St. Paul's Primary at the morning Mass on Tuesday. How we have all missed the visits of the whole school at various times in the year to celebrate the liturgy and to sing the praises of God. Let us hope and pray that things improve as we move towards 2022.

Sacrament of Reconciliation with General Absolution: for many of us making a good confession is very much part of our preparations to celebrate Christmas with a renewed heart. Bishop Toal has invited the priests of the diocese to celebrate this sacrament in the context of a short service with General Absolution being given to all. If you would like to make your confession in this way then come to **St. Mary's next Saturday morning, December 18th at 11.30am; the service will conclude at 12 noon.**

Christmas Cards are now available in the parish stall at St. Mary's and at St. Paul's; some Fairtrade cards are also available there for purchase.

Thank you to everyone who has brought a children's gift; it is greatly appreciated and all the gifts have been passed on. *Thank you.*

A Message from Fertility Care Scotland: Family Planning-God's Way-Nature's Way: the Billings Ovulation Method of Natural Fertility Regulation is 99% effective in avoiding pregnancy with no side effects. This method is also highly effective in helping couples achieve a much-wanted pregnancy. For an information pack or details of a teacher in your area, please tel: 0141 221 0858, or E-Mail: info@fertilitycare.org.uk; website at www.fertilitycare.org.uk

Support for those living with cancer: 'My Light' is there to support you whenever you need it, wherever you are. Whether you've just started treatment, you're living with cancer or supporting a loved one, access **My Light** for advice, blogs, information articles and helpful videos, tailored to every stage of your cancer journey. For more help and advice: 0141 212 0505, email: Info@beatsoncancercharity.org, www.beatsoncancercharity.org/my-light.

The Holy Ghost Fathers' Charity Shop in Carfin will now be open Monday to Saturday from 10am-2pm. Donations of good quality clothing and bric-a-brac will always be gratefully received.

I offer here the schedule for the days ahead:

Saturday December 11th: Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm and at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday December 12th: Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am and at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday December 13th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday: no liturgy as British Gas will be carrying out essential work

Wednesday December 15th: Requiem for Ms. Margaret Gemson, St. Mary's at 10am

Thursday, December 16th: Requiem for Mr. James Keeney, St. Mary's at 10am

Saturday December 18th: Vigil Mass at St. Paul's at 4pm and at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday December 19th: Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am and at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday December 20th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Tuesday December 21st Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

Wednesday December 22nd Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve:

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

(No service at St. Paul's)

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day:

Mass at St. Paul's at 10.30am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

(No Vigil Masses in the afternoon)

Sunday, December 26th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Please remember in your prayers:

All who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Canon Joseph Clements

Recently Deceased: James Keeney, Margaret Gemson, Geraldine McCarthy, Eugene Morrison, May McConnachie Hughes, Jim Sharkey, Matt Dick, Maria McDade

Special Remembrance, William Ward, Margaret Phairs, Margaret Bonnar, Gerard Falsey, Mary and John Dowds, Betty and Tommy Falsey, and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.