



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am & 11.30am

Daily Mass at 10am

Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am

Saturday 9am

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10am & 4.30pm

Mon & Wed 6.30pm; Fri 8.30am

Sunday 30th August—Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year (A)

We pray for those who have died recently: Estelle Fox, Ursula Collins, Cathy Walls, Jack Simpson, James Cooney, Cath Laidlaw and Graham Brown **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Lina Angelosanto, Eleanor Moore, John Moran, Mary Dunn, Graeme Cavin and Gail Patrick.

Prayers for the sick: Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Works in St Mary's: Work will begin this week to treat the dry rot in the church. This will mean erecting scaffolding half way down the main aisle of the church. To allow the work to be carried out unimpeded, we will celebrate daily Mass in the upper hall. I am hoping that we will be able to continue to celebrate Sunday Mass in the church. **From this Wednesday, 2nd September, 10am Mass will be in the hall at St Mary's—please use the main entrance on Gray's Lane.**

Our Journey of Faith—Enquirers: We would invite anyone who is thinking about becoming a Catholic and joining one of our three communities to approach myself or Fr Alexander and we will chat through how the journey into the Church might proceed.

Requirements for visits to the church and for Mass:

- * You will need to wear a face covering (mask or scarf) at all times when you are in the church.
- * There are sanitisers at the entrance and exit to the church and you are asked to make use of these when entering and leaving the church.
- * Stewards will help you identify a space for prayer: there will be spaces for couples / family groups and for individuals.
- * You will be asked to use a one-way system in the churches so please follow the directions of the stewards.
- * If you wish to light a candle, please use the disposable tapers provided and after use (and making sure that the taper is extinguished), please place the used taper in the bin provided.

Limited Attendance at Mass: Change of Preference / Booking: Thank you to those who have generously agreed to change their attendance at Mass in St Mary's from 11.30am to 10am. We seem to be well balanced in terms of numbers attending the different Masses. If you know of people who are wanting to return to Sunday Mass but are deterred because they think we are full, please encourage them to be in touch—from week to week there is often still space available.

Cleaning the Church in St Mary's: Although there are enough people to wipe down the pews on a daily basis after Mass, at the moment we are relying on a couple of good souls to clean the whole church. If anyone is able to spare some time to help on a Friday after the morning Mass, it would be greatly appreciated.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions): Confession will be available before and after each Mass—please ask at the sacristy.

Collections: Monies handed in up to 23rd August amounted to: St Mary's £1108 | St Columba's £194 | St Leonard & St Fergus' £709. There was also a donation to St Leonard & St Fergus of a further £700. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Sign of Peace: Many parishioners have expressed their dismay that there is no opportunity to exchange a sign of peace. Although it is advised that we no longer shake hands, perhaps at the moment in the Mass when we customarily offer each other the sign of peace, we might turn and offer each other a slight bow, a nod of the head to acknowledge one another and to acknowledge the desire to be at peace with everyone as we approach the moment of Holy Communion.

The Celebration of First Holy Communion: Those of you who have become used to the restrictions under which we are living in terms of church attendance will understand the dilemma that we are facing with regard to First Holy Communion. There is no possibility of celebrating in what has become the 'traditional' manner. We will celebrate this moment in the children's lives in such a way, that while limited, enables the children to know that this is still a special moment in their lives. I also have to temper families' expectations of the celebrations for 2021 as I cannot see that everything will be back to 'normal' by then.

Charities

SCIAF Second Collection: Next Sunday there will be extra baskets at the back of the churches for a second collection for the work of SCIAF, the Church's official charity in Scotland. This is the postponed collection from the 4th Sunday of Lent when we were all in Lockdown. The government has agreed to match all donations to SCIAF until the end of September, so be aware that anything that you donate will be doubled.

SCIAF Coronavirus Appeal: So far over £220 has been handed in from our communities. We will continue to give opportunities for you to respond to this appeal from SCIAF.

Mary's Meals: From Kathleen Treacy: As a result of recent cash donations in envelopes and coins in tins, boxes and bags £250 has been sent to Mary's Meals earlier this week from our communities. This donation follows £285 sent to Mary's Meals in July. On behalf of so many hungry children thank you to all donors. May you be rewarded with good health, contentment and peace of mind. Thanks too to Kathleen for all she does in coordinating support for Mary's Meals in our communities.

Macmillan Coffee Morning: The community at St Leonard and St Fergus' will be hosting the annual Macmillan Support Coffee Morning on Friday 25th September 2020—even if it means hosting it as an outdoor/ drive-in event in the car park! Please put the date in your diary and give your support in any way you feel able to. Details to follow.

St Leonard & St Fergus' 100 Club for SCIAF: The 100 club will resume in September. Change of payment arrangements will be needed. Members are asked to pay monthly and pay £5 per number per month. Please put your payment in an envelope with your 100 numbers (or name) clearly marked. Please place the envelope in the general collection box at the back of the church. Payments will still work out as £1 per week. There will be a free month in the year to balance out the payments. Prizes will remain as before. If you had paid in advance prior to lockdown you will still be in credit! If anyone requires envelopes there will be some available at the entrance to the church. I'm sure that there are numbers available for anyone else who might wish to join and support this fundraising effort—please ask Janice Dobbin.

SVDP: Many of you give generously to the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society for the relief of the poor. In St Columba's and St Leonard and St Fergus' there will be basket at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to continue their donations to the SVDP and in St Mary's the wall box as you leave the church has been re-designated for this purpose.