



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

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### Sunday 6th September—Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year (A)

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**We pray for those who have died recently:** Ruth Haliburton, Philly Alexander, Norman Pope and Margaret McLaren **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Margaret Lowden, Marie Hogan, Virginia Lorente Kelly, Regina Mulhearn, Harry Colgan, Margaret Leonard and Mary George

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

**SCIAF Second Collection:** There will be baskets at the back of the churches after Mass for the SCIAF collection that we missed during Lent. Please give as generously as you can. We are still accepting the Lenten boxes as well as any monies for the SCIAF Coronavirus appeal. 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.

**Works in St Mary's:** Scaffolding has now been erected half way down the main aisle of the church, allowing an initial survey to take place. The news is a little worse than we might have hoped for in that there is dry rot in one of the main roof trusses. A structural engineer will come to advise us on how we will need to proceed. The scaffolding will remain in place for some time. When work is actually being carried out, we will have weekday Mass in the hall. This will not be every day so the rule of thumb will be that if there are workmen in the church, Mass will be in the hall. Saturday and Sunday Masses will be celebrated as usual in the church.

**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.

**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.

**Cleaning the Church in St Leonard & St Fergus:** Would any stewards (and other willing volunteers) please help with cleaning the church after Mass on Friday morning.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):** Confession will be available before and after each Mass during the week—please ask at the sacristy. We will also return to having confessions scheduled after the Saturday morning Masses in St Mary's and St Columba's and before the Vigil Mass at St Leonard's and St Fergus. There is still the option of remaining behind the screen.

**Collections:** Monies handed in up to 30th August amounted to: St Mary's £1075 | St Columba's £255 | St Leonard & St Fergus' £522. There was also a donation to St Mary's Building Fund of £500. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

**Sign of Peace:** We will pause for a moment at that part of the Mass when we would generally offer each other the sign of peace so that we can turn and acknowledge one another and also acknowledge our desire to be at peace with all people 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.

**Grant Applications for the Restoration Project at St Mary's:** It would seem that many associations which give grants for the kind of work that we are proposing for St Mary's are not accepting applications until 2021. However, we have to start compiling reports for those applications. Part of the grant application will be to underline how we are of service to the local community, not just to our own congregation. One great asset we have is our hall. Part of the work that will be undertaken is to upgrade the hall in every way (lift to the upper hall, new kitchen, toilets and multi-media capability etc) so that it might become a greater resource for hosting meetings, consultations, health promotions as well as social events. I need your help to identify groups and organisations that I could approach to see how they might use such a facility if it existed. Any and all feedback will be welcome.

### Charities

**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.