



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 4th October—Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year (A)

We pray for those who have died recently: Frances Devine, Frances Giblin, Anita Risi, Thomas Joyce, Bill McCabe and Hugh Docherty and for Philly Alexander on her month's mind **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Alice Logan, Charles Warden, Agnes Scott, Charlie Cassidy, Irene Petrie, Fr Anthony McCarthy, George Scott, Arthur Malone and Harry Wilson. We also remember all those mentioned in our book of remembrance. **Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Confession will be available before and after each Mass—please ask at the sacristy. Confessions also available as usual after Saturday morning Masses in St Mary's and St Columba's and before the Vigil Mass in St Leonard & St Fergus'.

First Holy Communion: We celebrated First Holy Communion on Tuesday evening with 13 children from St Mary's PS. It was a lovely occasion and the children were, as always, fully participative and engaged (and engaging) during the Mass. I would like to thank the family members, Mrs Curran and many of the staff from St Mary's who came to support the children and particularly Mrs Raeper who acted as the catechist for the children in the school. The past months, as we know, have been a most challenging period for the children as far as their schooling has been concerned and similarly the celebration of First Communion was a different from the ones we have experienced in the past, but no less meaningful in its essence—the meeting of these children with Jesus for the first time in receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Our Journey of Faith—Enquirers: We will look to start our Journey of Faith in October so I 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation: The celebration of the Sacrament for our young people in P7 of St Mary's had to be postponed due to the Lockdown restrictions. The Bishop has given a provisional date of 30th November, St Andrew's Day for the celebration of the Sacrament for St Mary's and for a couple of other parishes in the city. I stress that this is only a provisional date and may have to be reviewed as the situation changes with regard to further restrictions. I will keep you informed as and when I receive further information.

Teaching from the Holy Father: The Vatican has issued the latest teaching document from Pope Francis, the Encyclical entitled, "All Brethren, on fraternity and social friendship". It is available through the Vatican Website on www.vatican.va

Focus on Vocations: "He will lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the fruits when the season arrives." Could the Lord be calling you to work in his vineyard, to produce fruits for the Kingdom in priesthood, diaconate or consecrated / religious life? Call, Fr Mark the Diocesan Vocations Director, or visit the website / Facebook of Priests for Scotland, the National Vocations Office.

Collections: Monies handed in up to 27th September amounted to: St Mary's £938 | St Columba's £198 | St Leonard & St Fergus' £539. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the work of the Church.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Housebound: I have sought advice as to how the recent restrictions might affect priests and Eucharistic Ministers taking Holy Communion to those unable to join us at Mass. It is good news in that we are still able to carry on with this ministry at the moment. We are simply encouraged to take the utmost care in carrying out all necessary precautions when we visit the sick and vulnerable. **If you know of anyone who is not able to come to Mass but who would appreciate a visit from a priest and Eucharistic Minister, please let either myself or Fr Alexander know.**

Heating in the Churches: Our three churches have never been the warmest of buildings during the Autumn / Winter. I have already noticed the drop in temperature this week. The Covid-19 measures that we have taken have included keeping the doors to the church open. We will look at ways of minimizing the loss of heat, but as the weather changes, I would advise you to come to Mass well-wrapped up.

Website: We have set up three domains with one website. This means that if you type in www.stmaryslochee.org.uk or www.stleonardandstfergus.org.uk or www.stcolumbaskirkton.org.uk, it should take you to the page. The great majority of the work has been done but there are still elements to be added—the title picture with St Mary's will also have images of St Columba's and St Leonard and St Fergus', email addresses will be added for all the parishes and the introductions to the parishes will change, and there will be links through these to the activities in the parishes. Please have a look at the website and if you have any comments—positive and negative—please make them known to us.

Charities

Macmillan Coffee Morning: The final total raised was £651.71. Thanks to all who supported this great cause.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: We now have 81 people signed up for the 100 club—a terrific response. This means that we will start the draws in October, but with weekly prize money of £41.50—half of the money gathered. The other half will go to the Building Fund. Monies for the month (£5) will be collected on this weekend. You can also place your £5 in an envelope with your name on it and pop it into the collection box. The weekly winner will be announced in the newsletter. Thanks to all who have decided to help the Fund in this way.

Electric Wheelchair: I have been asked if there is anyone who might benefit from the use of a little used electric wheelchair. Please contact me directly on 611282 or speak to me after Mass, if you or someone you know would benefit from having this.

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.