



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am & 11.30am

Daily Mass at 10am



Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Saturday 10am



Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10am & 4.30pm

Mon & Wed 6.30pm;

Thurs & Fri 10am

Sunday 10th January—Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

We pray for those who have died recently: Calum Duncan, Alice Easton, Mary Burns, Jim Reilly and William McWilliams **and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** David Murray, Owen Cassidy, Ella Davie, May McFee, Jim Short and Gary Strachan. We also remember all those mentioned in our books of remembrance. **Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember in your prayers the sick, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Lockdown: I can only express my frustration about the way in which the news of the latest Lockdown was communicated to us. Initially we were told that churches would close from Friday 8th (as outlined in the First Minister's statement). Late on Tuesday we were given further instructions that we should have closed from midnight on Monday. We believe that this situation will continue at least until the end of January. Hopefully we will be given adequate warning to re-organize ourselves for public Masses whether these are for 20 or 50 people. We will do our utmost to keep you informed of developments as they affect us.

Streamed Masses: The Sunday Mass will continue to be streamed on Facebook (fb.com/stmaryslochee) but now at the slightly later time of 10am.

Newsletters: We are in the process of compiling a list of those to whom we will post out the newsletter during Lockdown. If any of you already print off and deliver newsletters to family, friends or neighbours, I would be grateful if you would let me know (if you have not already done so). This will enable us to avoid doubling our efforts and, if I know that there is someone else on your delivery route, I may ask you to deliver one or two extra. We are also happy to print off copies at the chapel house which could be collected and distributed by anyone who wished to take on the task during their daily walk round their neighbourhoods.

Resources during Lockdown: We will prepare some extra materials for prayer and reflection over the coming weeks both on Facebook and by email (material which can be printed and distributed too). Through suggestions received already we will prepare something on prayer—forms of prayer, challenges to prayer, effects of prayer. If anyone has other suggestions, please do not hesitate to send them in: what is not used in the immediate future will be kept for another occasion.

Collections: Please do not be concerned about the immediate financial situation of any of our parishes during this period of Lockdown. Thank you to those who have already been in touch asking about Standing Orders or how to get their collections to us. Experience from the period of Lockdown last year we know that everyone took their responsibility towards the finances seriously and continued to donate or saved up their collections for the time when the churches reopened. Please do not let this aspect of life be something else to add to any worries you may already have. In the coming weeks I will be able to prepare and share with you a financial report for the three communities to allow you to see what our income and expenditure has been in 2020.

Restoration Work in St Mary's: Hampton's came in this week and checked the remaining beams in the

Charities / Fundraising

Collections: Up to Sunday 3rd January: St Mary's £938 | St Columba's £192 | St Leonard & St Fergus' £581. Thank you for your generosity towards the work of the Church.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: The logistics involved in collecting monies, making the draw and delivering the winnings are probably beyond us during Lockdown. We will suspend the 100 club for the moment and resume after Lockdown. We have a record of all who have paid for this month (and beyond) and everything will be transferred forward when we start up again.

SCIAF's Advent Focus: Posted off to SCIAF during the week were cheques from the three communities which totaled £2,816. Thanks are due to the SCIAF representatives in our communities for helping to spearhead the Advent Campaign.

Vaccines for Protection Against Covid-19: I received questions regarding the Church's stance on the morality surrounding some of the vaccines produced in the fight against Covid-19. I would refer anyone who has doubts to the document from the CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, 'Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines', available through the Vatican website, vatican.va

Part of Pope Francis' Homily for New Year

"You can have flaws, be anxious, and even be angry, but do not forget that your life is the greatest enterprise in the world. Only you can stop it from going bust. Many appreciate you, admire you and love you. Remember that to be happy is not to have a sky without a storm, a road without accidents, work without fatigue, relationships without disappointments. To be happy is to find strength in forgiveness, hope in battles, security in the stage of fear, love in discord. It is not only to enjoy the smile, but also to reflect on the sadness. It is not only to celebrate the successes, but to learn lessons from the failures. It is not only to feel happy with the applause, but to be happy in anonymity. Being happy is not a fatality of destiny, but an achievement for those who can travel within themselves. To be happy is to stop feeling like a victim and become your destiny's author. It is to cross deserts, yet to be able to find an oasis in the depths of our soul. It is to thank God for every morning, for the miracle of life. Being happy is not being afraid of your own feelings. It's to be able to talk about you. It is having the courage to hear a "no". It is confidence in the face of criticism, even when unjustified. It is to kiss your children, pamper your parents, to live poetic moments with friends, even when they hurt us. To be happy is to let live the creature that lives in each of us, free, joyful and simple. It is to have maturity to be able to say: "I made mistakes". It is to have the courage to say "I am sorry". It is to have the sensitivity to say, "I need you". It is to have the ability to say "I love you". May your life become a garden of opportunities for happiness ... That in spring may it be a lover of joy. In winter a lover of wisdom. And when you make a mistake, start all over again. For only then will you be in love with life. You will find that to be happy is not to have a perfect life. But use the tears to irrigate tolerance. Use your losses to train patience. Use your mistakes to sculptor serenity. Use pain to plaster pleasure. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. Never give up Never give up on people who love you. Never give up on happiness, for life is an incredible show. Happy new year!"

Prayer of Spiritual Communion of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself to you now and forever.

Amen