



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 8.30am (Streamed)

10am & 11.30am

Monday-Saturday 10am



Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am

Saturday 9am



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm

Sunday 10am

Mon & Wed 6.30pm;

Fri 8.30am

Sunday 4th April—Easter

We pray for those who have died recently: Alex Kiddie, Eleanor Kimmet, Kathleen Garty and Ellen Cruickshank **and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Catherine Folan, Barbara Cossans, Cath McCabe, John McGuire, Sandra Biggans, Martin Bryan, Ethel Cassidy and Mina Dailly. 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.

Congratulations: Our heartfelt good wishes go to Willie and Linda Thomson who celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary this weekend. May the Lord continue to bless them and their family, and keep them in his love.

Change of Mass Time: Please note that from next Sunday there will be **no** 4.30pm Mass on Sunday evenings in St Leonard & St Fergus. This Mass will transfer to 4.30pm on Saturday evening and will continue to be celebrated in St Leonard & St Fergus. The list for the congregation will remain the same.

Penitential Services with General Absolution: Due to the number of people wanting to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter, we celebrated four of these services. My sincere thanks to all those who were able to alter their time for coming to the service—great generosity at short notice! I know how many of you appreciated the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament and in the setting of the parish community. It was a great privilege for us to preside over these services.

Easter Celebrations: Our thanks go to all who helped in any way to help prepare the churches for Holy Week and Easter, especially those who cleaned and prepared the sanctuary linen and flowers. We also thank all those who participated in any way in the liturgies. With readers, cantors, stewards and organists all giving of themselves in service to our communities it meant that although our liturgies were slightly simpler, we still had very dignified and meaningful celebrations of the Triduum in our churches.

St Mary's PS Easter Prayer Cards: The children in the primary school have prepared Easter Prayer Cards for us. Please take one as you leave the church today. Some are in the form of praying hands which open to reveal the prayer. We thank the children for the preparation of these cards and for Mrs Curran and the staff for their dedication to the education of our children and their formation in the ways of faith.

Funerals this week: I would ask any stewards who can help at the following funerals to contact me: St Mary's, Monday 5th April at 11am; St Leonard & St Fergus, Tuesday 6th April at 1.30pm; St Mary's, Friday 9th April at 1.30pm; St Mary's, Monday 12th April at 1.30pm. Thank you.

Reflections: We are continuing our short break from the daily (email) reflections during this coming week.

Lists for Mass: Please remember that your names are permanently on a list for Sunday Mass. However, there are always more than 50 names on the lists which means that if you want to be sure of a place, it is best to come in good time. With the vagaries of people's diaries, we have kept to the 50 maximum limit and have managed not to have to turn anyone away...so far!

Memorial Prayer Cards: There are a small number of prayer cards for Bishop Vincent available. If you would like one, please ask at the Sacristy.

Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound: After Easter, I will be happy to resume visits to the sick and housebound just so long as they are happy with this. I would suggest that Eucharistic Ministers wait until they, and those they visit, have received both doses of the vaccine. Please contact me whenever this happens so that we can resume our regular visits to the sick.

Financial Contributions: Many people played 'catch up' with their collections last weekend for which we are extremely grateful. **Collections:** St Mary's £3,060; St Leonard & St Fergus' £2,353; St Columba's £1,425. There was also a donation of £575 for St Mary's Restoration Fund (the result of a Lenten fast of a family and friends); another donation of £200 and a further £50 donated—both for the Restoration Fund. There were also contributions for SCIAF totaling £170. Thank you all for your contributions supporting the work of the Church and the upkeep of the parishes.

Mary's Meals: From Kathleen Treacy, "As a result of your ongoing generosity towards starving children worldwide a total of £440 has been forwarded to Mary's Meals. May you be rewarded with good health and peace of mind."

SCIAF Boxes: Please hand these in to any of the churches as soon as possible so that we can make sure that our Lenten Alms reach SCIAF in good time.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: This was paused for the past three months and will resume in April. As we had a draw on the first Sunday of January, the next draw will be next weekend. All who had money already paid will have that cash credited for the weeks and months ahead. So, for example, those who paid their subs for January will find that money used for April. If you paid for the whole year, then the three months will be added on at the end. The long and the short of it is that no-one will lose out!

Fr Jim Walls: Bishop Stephen wrote to us this week to let us know that Fr Jim will not be returning to the Diocese from Rome this May as previously announced. Due to logistics concerning the staff rotation at the Scots College, Fr Jim has agreed to extend his stay at the College for a further year.

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

"Do not be afraid! Go and tell my brothers...!" Perhaps these words are being spoken to you today as you celebrate the resurrection. Share your faith! Do not be afraid! The world needs you! Speak to Fr Mark, your diocesan vocations' director or visit our website or Facebook pages (PFS or VocationNetworkScotland) for more information.

An Extract from an Easter Reflection from Universalis on John 20:1-9

The situation on Holy Saturday, as far as the disciples knew, was not that Jesus going to rise tomorrow but that he was dead and would never rise again. This Gospel moment on Easter Sunday has to be understood in the same sense. What was in John's mind as he ran? He knew that the most perfect and Godlike man had been humiliated and destroyed in the worst way imaginable, because he had seen it happen. Now he was embarking on the journey of mourning by enacting his grief and paying his respects. And as he approached the tomb, he saw that *something had happened*.

Stop there for a moment, try for a moment to forget the Resurrection, and think what that 'something' could have been. What could possibly have happened, except something bad? Primitive societies show extreme respect for their enemies' dead. If the opposing side cannot retrieve the bodies of their dead, then their dead will be buried by those they had fought, according to their own rites or according to as close an approximation to the enemy's rite as they can manage. But those of Jesus' day were not primitive but civilised. They had no superstitious taboos about death. So if the tomb was disturbed, it could only be that Jesus' executioners had decided that death was not enough for him – that the one they had humiliated and spat on in life had to be desecrated in death also. That is what John might have been imagining as he ran towards the tomb, and then stopped because he could not bear to see it. It was Peter, the impulsive, the unthinking, who went on and, looking in, found something very different—he discovered Resurrection and new life!