



Vigil Masses 4.30pm & 6pm
Sunday 10am (also streamed)
& 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 18th April—Third Sunday of Easter

We pray for those who have died recently: Maureen Nolan, Lilian Kean, Tom Devaney, Bill Boland and Canon Michael McCoy (Newcastle), **and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Bernadette Farquharson, Margaret Glancy, Alice Marr, Canon Hugh Sreenan, Edward Lowden, George Craib and Efren Reyes,

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.

Contact Numbers: Please note that parish addresses and contact numbers are at the bottom of the newsletter but just to reiterate the phone numbers are: Fr Mark 01382 611282, Fr Alex 01382 825203.

Enquirers: we invite anyone who is thinking about joining the Church or is at the stage of being interested in knowing more, to get in touch by speaking to either Fr Alex or myself.

Change of Mass Time: Please note that there is now a 4.30pm Vigil Mass at St Leonard & St Fergus in place of the Sunday evening Mass. The list for the congregation remains the same, but there is space at this Mass for anyone else who wishes to sign up for this Mass or change to it. Please let either Fr Alex or me know. Please also note that the streamed Mass from St Mary's will be the normal 10am Mass.

Distribution of Holy Communion: We have now returned to the traditional moment in Mass for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Congregation still receives Holy Communion or a Blessing in their places, but now receive Holy Communion immediately after the priest's communion. We remain in the church for the final prayer of the Mass, the blessing and dismissal. **Please take your time in leaving the church so as to observe social distancing while exiting the buildings.**

Funerals this week: I would ask any stewards who can help at the following funeral to contact me: St Mary's, Tuesday 20th April at 11am. Thank you.

Lists for Mass: If your name does not appear, please let me know and we will add you to the list. If you find that you want or need to change the Mass you are attending, please let me know and I will make the necessary adjustments.

Records: Can I ask that if you are late for Mass and the stewards have already come into the church that you remember to check off your name or add your name to the sheet? At the moment we need to keep an accurate record of who is at Mass. Thank you.

Changes to Capacity: There is news filtering through that there may be a change in the numbers we can admit to the churches and that there will be new guidelines issued. We will act as soon as we can and with due diligence, making it as clear as we can as to how these new guidelines will affect us in each of our buildings.

Confession: Anyone who wishes to celebrate the Sacrament can present themselves at the Sacristy in any of the three churches on any day of the week before or after Mass. All we ask is that if it is before Mass, please come 15 minutes before Mass begins.

Collections: Ordinary | Easter: St Mary's £1303 | £135 (Holy Places £121); St Leonard & St Fergus' £1043| £175; St Columba's £387 | £15. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parishes and the work of the Church.

SCIAF Boxes: Donations to SCIAF this week amounted to **St Mary's £730 | St Leonard & St Fergus £613**. 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 for the UK Government's matching of the donations.

SCIAF Fundraising: Over the weekend of 24th/25th April there will be a raffle and book sale at St Mary's to further support the work of SCIAF. I am sure that there will be many of you who have either been reading more during Lockdown and are now wanting to pass on some of your 'good reads', or have done a bit of clearing out and likewise want to shift some of your books. **Thank you for all the donations so far!** We need to have the books brought in soon so that we can hold them in isolation so that they will be free of any possible traces of the virus before the sale. There will be boxes at the back of St Mary's where any books can be deposited. This event is planned to take place outside the church so pray for clement weather that weekend. **Mary's Meals:** Another £506 was sent on to Mary's Meals. Thanks again for supporting this good cause.

St Mary's Restoration Fund: The total collected so far this year from all fundraising and donations is £3,385. This is a marvellous total considering that we have only been physically in church for only about four weeks this year. Thank you all for your continuing generosity and enthusiasm. **St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club:** The winner for this week is no.18, Karen Simpson. Congratulations to Karen!

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

Just as Jesus opened the minds and hearts of the disciples to understand the Scriptures, you could be called to help others discover Christ in his word. This is the vocation of the priest, deacon and religious. Speak to Fr Mark, email *Priests for Scotland* at office@pfs.org.uk, or see our website or Facebook pages (PFS or VocationNetworkScotland).

Scottish Elections: The following is an extract from a briefing on the forthcoming election prepared by The Christian Institute Scotland. (References are to the full document which can be found on their website)

BIBLICAL PRIORITIES: When it comes to matters of public policy, Christians have to assess biblical priorities. We can distinguish those political issues on which the Bible is absolutely clear from those on which it is not. For instance, the Bible is not clear on how to improve access to GPs or the most appropriate level of university tuition fees. To decide on these issues involves a detailed assessment of the facts and the exercise of judgement based on experience. Many situations we encounter in ordinary life are at this level, and so are many political issues. But at the other end of the spectrum the Bible is "clear, direct, and decisive" about a whole host of political issues. For example, a vote for abortion or euthanasia is a vote to break the sixth Commandment (Exodus 20:13). These are the kinds of issues that we mainly focus on in this briefing – straightforward matters of right or wrong. For a very large proportion of political issues, making a Christian judgement depends on the wise assessment of several biblical principles. This can result in Christians arriving at different conclusions. For example, we know for certain that the state has a right to levy taxes (Romans 3:7). But Christians who hold to biblical truth can legitimately disagree on the level of individual taxes.

ISSUES ON THE HORIZON: The new Parliament elected on 6 May 2021 could vote on laws affecting religious liberty, freedom of speech, transgender rights, abortion, assisted suicide and drugs legalisation. More information about legislation and public policy on these and other issues is given on page 24 onwards. These are all issues of concern to Christians. Some are 'conscience votes', where MSPs are free to vote without a party whip, which underlines the importance of finding out what individual election candidates think. Biblical Christians believe that the Gospel is paramount. Salvation is only found in Christ, not in any political programme. Yet followers of Christ are to care about their world, being salt and light in our society. And in order for that to happen, and for evangelism, there has to be freedom for the Gospel. Religious liberty is a crucial issue. Christians in this country have enjoyed remarkable freedom for centuries, which was hard won down the years. Yet this is being increasingly challenged. Street preachers have been arrested, Christians have lost their jobs for talking about their faith, and individuals and churches have been discriminated against for believing in traditional marriage. Many Christians are also gravely concerned about legislative proposals that intrude into ordinary family life, evangelism and the running of the local church. Christians believe that governing authorities are established by God, but at the same time the Government is not responsible for everything – indeed it must not be, if there is to be freedom. It is important to say that society is more than the state. Society is made up of families and many institutions and organisations between the state and the citizen. Government by itself cannot solve all our problems or even come remotely close.

DEVOLUTION: The Scottish Parliament can make laws in areas such as education, health, family life, crime, local government, agriculture, social work, economic development and transport. As a result of the Scotland Act 2016, it has powers to set rates and bands of income tax, and powers over certain aspects of welfare. The Act has also devolved abortion law to the Scottish Parliament. Westminster retains responsibility for other areas such as defence, equality/discrimination law, employment law and foreign affairs. These are 'reserved matters' on which Holyrood cannot legislate. Though Westminster makes laws on reserved matters, the Scottish Parliament can still have a role on those same issues. Although legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 can only be passed at Westminster,