



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
Exposition: Wed 6pm

Sunday 25th July—Seventeenth Sunday of the Year (B)

Our Beloved Dead: We pray for Teddy Tront, David Binnie, Hugh Short and George Cairns who have died recently; and for Paul Dempsey, John Gowans, Agnes Garrigan **and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.** We also remember all those mentioned in our books of remembrance. **Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember the sick in your prayers, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

The Mass Schedule for the months of August and September (at least)

Saturday Vigil Masses: 4.30pm—St Mary's 6pm—St Leonard & St Fergus

Sunday: 9.15am—St Leonard & St Fergus; 10.30am—St Mary's; 11.45am—St Columba's

St Mary's: Monday-Saturday: 10am Mass / Eucharistic Service

St Leonard & St Fergus; Monday & Wednesday: 6.30pm—Mass; Friday: 8.30am—Eucharistic Service

St Columba's: Tuesday & Thursday: 8.30am—Mass; Saturday 9am—Eucharistic Service

Distribution of Holy Communion at Mass: When the Mass schedule changes on 31st July / 1st August, we will return to the regular practice with regard to the distribution of Holy Communion with the congregation coming in procession to the Priest / Eucharistic Minister to receive the host. There may be some slight modifications to the way this was done in the past, but we will explain any new procedures that we have put in place.

Further Easing of some of the Rules Regarding COVID Restrictions

Scaling back of cleaning regimes in churches: there is now strong evidence that the virus is not spread from surface contact, but rather from droplet contamination. We are advised that **daily** sanitizing of the pews is not necessary. However, we will look to continue cleaning / sanitizing our churches once a week. The advice is also that good ventilation of our churches before, during and after Mass is a crucial measure in stopping the spread of the virus. Stewards would be asked to continue to make themselves available for welcoming people and checking off names on the lists.

Distribution of hymn books for Mass and newsletters: We can return to our normal practice.

Use of holy water fonts: There is still a risk that the virus can be transmitted through the use of holy water fonts. The use of fonts is not advised until further notice. I am sure that we will learn of some innovative ways of providing Holy Water so that we can bless ourselves entering and leaving church.

Hospitality after Mass and use of church halls: This is possible within the current government regulations and guidance but caution is urged. We are asked to make sure appropriate hygiene and safety measures are in place.

Use of confessionals: Although the use of enclosed confessionals should continue to be avoided. I will look at reinstating the use of the Confessional Room at St Mary's.

Test and Protect: We have been advised to continue to support the Test and Protect regime by the collection and temporary retention of parishioner information (Mass lists). Anyone not on the list can add their name on entering the church.

Fr Alex's Absence: Fr Alex will leave for Nigeria at the beginning of August and will return to us towards the end of September. We know that this will be a time of great emotion for Fr Alex as he leads the celebration of the Funeral Rites for his sister, Emmanuella. We thank God that Fr Alex will have the support of his family and friends, and also of many of the local clergy. We, too, will support him with our prayers. A number of people have asked if we could also be of practical and material help to Fr Alex and his family at this time and so we will leave collection baskets at the back of the churches this weekend and next for anyone who wishes to leave an offering for this purpose.

Collections: St Mary's £1010 || St Leonard & St Fergus' £703 || St Columba's £223. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parishes and the work of the Church. A further £40 was handed in for the appeal on behalf of Stella Maris: the monies will be forwarded to the charity this week.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: Congratulations to this week's winner, Christopher Berry (no.60).

Mary's Meals: As a result of ongoing donations a further £380 has been forwarded to Mary's Meals for the feeding programme. A very heartfelt thanks to all donors. Also, another 50 filled backpacks were picked up by courier on Wednesday and are now being added to the consignment bound for Malawi. A very conservative estimate of each filled backpack's value is £22/£23 - so a further £1,100 has been donated. Many, many thanks. A total of 12,077 backpacks have been filled and dispatched!

House at St Columba's: Thanks to all those who volunteered their time to help with tidying up the house at St Columba's. We are hoping to start the work this Thursday, 29th July at 6pm. Those who cannot come at this time, please contact me and I will arrange for us to meet at a different time that week to divide up the tasks for you according to your availability.

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

"Give to the people to eat" Jesus feeds a hungry crowd; he still feeds us with his Body and Blood. Consider the possibility that he might be calling you to share in that ministry of feeding his Church today. Speak to your local Vocations Director, Fr Mark, email *Priests for Scotland* or see the website or Facebook pages: PFS or VocationNetworkScotland.

26th July, Saints Joachim and Anne: An ancient tradition, already known in the 2nd century, gives these names to the parents of the Virgin Mary. The cult of St Anne became popular in the 6th century in the East, and in the 10th century in the West, where she is the patron saint of Brittany; Joachim was added later. We celebrate the parents who brought up the Virgin Mary to be the woman she was. At the moment of consenting to the Incarnation she took the most important decision ever taken by any human being, and the fact that she took it is, to a great extent, the work of her parents. The Holy Spirit gave her the strength to take the decision; but her parents' training gave her the wisdom to choose.

29th July, Saint Martha: Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. Familiar to us from the Gospel scenes, particularly where Martha is busy serving but also when, before the resurrection of Lazarus, she confirms her faith in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life.

31st July, Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556): Ignatius (or Iñigo) was born in Loyola in the Spanish Basque country. He was a soldier, but was wounded in the battle of Pamplona (against the French) at the age of 30. During a long convalescence he read a life of Christ and a collection of lives of the saints, and discovered that his true vocation was to devote his life wholly to God. He was as systematic about this as he had been about his military career: he spent a year's retreat in a Dominican friary, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and then set about learning Latin. Ignatius and ten companions offered their services to the Pope in any capacity he might choose. A number of them were duly ordained and they were all assigned to various tasks. Soon it was proposed that they should organise themselves into a regular religious order, and in 1540 the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) was formed. Ignatius was the first Superior General until his death. Soon after their foundation the Jesuits began to meet the challenge of the Reformation: a tough task, given the debilitated state into which the Church had fallen, but one which, as Ignatius said, had to be undertaken "without hard words or contempt for people's errors".

Ignatius had a gift for inspiring friendship, and was the recipient of deep spiritual insight. Soon after his conversion Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises, a systematic step-by-step retreat that can be followed by anyone - and has been followed by many, not all of them Catholics, ever since.