



Vigil Mass 4.30pm

Sunday 10.30am (also streamed)

Monday-Saturday 10am

Sunday Mass 11.30am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30 am

Saturday 9am

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10am

Mon & Wed 6.30pm

Fri 8.30am

Sunday 5th December—Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers — Fr Colin Golden, Douglas Dolan, Marlene Cheret and Paul Mitchell who have died recently and Ivy Stark, James Ashwood Snr and Kathleen Ashwood 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 and the terminally ill in your prayers, especially those mentioned on our sick lists.

Funeral for Fr Colin Golden: Fr Colin's remains will be received into Our Lady of Lourdes, Struan Road, Perth (PH1 2JP) at 6pm this Thursday, 9th December. It will be a service of the Reception of Remains with Mass. The Funeral Mass will be on Friday 10th December at 12noon.

Advent Services: These will take the form of Evening Prayer and Benediction and this year will take place in St Leonard & St Fergus at 4pm.

Penitential Services and the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Preparation for Christmas: We continue to be allowed to hold Penitential Services with General Absolution. There will be two services for our communities: Monday 20th December at 6pm in St Leonard & St Fergus' and in St Mary's on Wednesday 22nd December at 10.45am. It is hoped that these timings will allow as many as people who can to celebrate the Sacrament prior to Christmas. Fr Alex and I are also available before or after Mass each day for the individual celebration of the Sacrament.

Christmas Carols with the Lydian Singers: There will be a carol concert in St Mary's on Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm led by the Lydian Singers. There is no charge for entry but there will be a retiring collection for the Restoration Fund. Tickets are available to help with Track and Trace.

Welcome to the Syro Malabar Catholic Community: We are delighted to be able to host this venerable Catholic community for their Eucharistic celebrations. Their first celebration will be today, Sunday, 5th December at 5pm.

Parish Meetings: We will hold Pastoral Council meetings on the following dates: Monday 6th December (L&F); Tuesday 7th December (St C's); Thursday 9th December (St M's). The meetings will be at 7pm.

Masses for Christmas

Over the past years we have been taking note of the relative popularity of the Christmas Masses. This year we are proposing the following Mass schedule for Christmas. If you have concerns about social distancing, we would suggest attending the Midnight or Christmas Morning Masses which are usually less busy.

St Mary's: Vigil Mass at 6pm with Carols starting 30 minutes before the start of Mass; Christmas morning Mass at 10.30am. There will also be a celebration for the Syro-Malabar Community in St Mary's at 5pm.

St Columba's: Vigil Mass at 6pm (Carols 5.30pm); **St Leonard & St Fergus':** Midnight Mass (Carols 11.30pm); Christmas morning 10am. There will be no Christmas morning Mass in St Columba's this year.

As Christmas Day is a Saturday, there will be no Vigil Masses for Sunday 26th December. Sunday Masses will be as usual: **St Leonard & St Fergus 10am; St Mary's 10.30am; St Columba's 11.30am.**

Fr Alex writes: CONGRATULATIONS! FR. MARK—On Tuesday, November 30th Solemnity of St Andrew, Our Parish Priest was among the four priests who were installed Canons of St Andrew's Cathedral. This was necessary in order to bring the number of the Chapter back to eight. Canon 503 of the Code of Canon Law says, "A Chapter of canons, whether cathedral or collegial, is a college of priests which performs more solemn liturgical functions in a cathedral or collegial church. In addition, it is of the cathedral chapter to fulfil the functions which the law or the diocesan bishop entrusts to it." Canon 509 SS 2: A diocesan bishop is to confer canonries upon priests outstanding in doctrine and integrity. This office is therefore not an award; it is on one hand, a recognition of one's faithfulness to his vocation, soundness of doctrine, pastoral zeal and sensitivity; and on the other hand, a responsibility given on trust. We therefore pray for Fr Mark and other Canons on the Chapter that God gives them the grace they need for the office. We the Assistant Priests and Parishioners of St Mary's, SS Leonard and Fergus' and St Columba's, CONGRATULATE VERY REV. MARK CANON CASSIDY and wish him well. **Installation of the New Canons:** I would like to express my sincerest thanks to those who managed to come to the Cathedral last Tuesday for the installation and Mass. The prayerful support of so many people from our communities was truly heartening and I realized once again how fortunate I am to be a priest in these communities. Thank you, too, for the cards, gifts and good wishes that were sent to mark the occasion. May God give you the reward of your kindness.

Collections: St Mary's £904; St Columba's £213; St Leonard & St Fergus' £538. We also received a donation for St Leonard & St Fergus of £1,000 as well as a donation of £50 for St Columba's. There was also £50 income from St Columba's repository handed in last week. Thank you for your generous support of the parishes and the work of the Church.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: Congratulations to this week's winner, Jim Low (53).

SCIAF: 'Real Gifts' Cards (for chickens, vegetable gardens and coronavirus emergency packs) can be bought after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning in the church hall at St Mary's along with Nativity sets, Christmas Cards etc etc. **SCIAF Afghanistan Appeal:** Almost £400 was raised from the Christmas Market at St Columba's and St Leonard & St Fergus'. Many thanks to all who supported this appeal.

St Columba's Coffee and Chat: The last of the Thursday drop-in sessions at the hall will be this Thursday, 9th December and will recommence on Thursday 20th January.

St Columba's Christmas Party: will take place on Sunday 19th December from 1-4pm. There is a poster at the back of the church and a list to add your name and make a menu choice. A reminder that **St Mary's Christmas Party** takes place today, Sunday, 5th December.

Sock Appeal: We are still collecting for the annual appeal for socks (new) for the homeless in Dundee. There has been a great response in the past to this appeal from all three communities and I am sure that this year will be no different.

Masks in our churches: Just a gentle reminder that we are still advised to wear masks in church. I was reminded recently that wearing masks is not so that we will not be infected by the virus, but that we will not spread the virus if we are infected. So, in Christian charity there is even more reason for each of us to wear a mask. If you have the virus and do not wear a mask, then even those of us who wear masks are not protected. Please think of the safety and health of others. **With a new variant of COVID causing concern**, please continue to wear masks unless exempt.

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

'Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight'. Is the Lord calling you to be a herald of his Gospel to bring others closer to Him? Speak to Fr Mark, your local Vocations Director about priesthood, email *Priests for Scotland* or see the website or Facebook pages: PFS or VocationNetworkScotland.

Notice from SPUC: "A public consultation has been launched on a bill proposed by Liam McArthur MSP to legalise assisted suicide in Scotland. It is important that as many people as possible respond to this consultation. The consultation is running until Wednesday 22 December 2021. Please complete the questionnaire as soon as you can and encourage others to do the same. You can find resources to help you do this at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/assisteddyingscotlandconsultation>".