



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 12th December—Third Sunday of Advent (C)

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers — Douglas Dolan, Teresa Coull, Fred Purvis, Derek Milne and Paul Mitchell who have died recently and Patricia Ann McFarlane, James Low, Maureen Laing, May Moran, Bert Marshall, Douglas Laidlaw and Peggy Stewart 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.

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 this 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 or you can give your details on arrival. There will also be a QR code provided for the same purpose.

Parish Meetings: Thanks to all those who attended the meetings. There will be further meetings in January with an agenda produced beforehand so that anyone interested in what is going to be discussed will be able to attend. If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the three pastoral councils, please speak to Fr Alex or myself.

Collection Envelopes for St Columba's: The envelopes will be ready for collection next weekend. If anyone else wishes to move to donating through Standing Order, please let me know as soon as possible.

Masses for Christmas

Please note that there is no 'booking' system for the Masses this year, so it will be on a first come, first seated service! If you have concerns about social distancing, we would suggest attending the Midnight or Christmas Morning Masses which are usually less busy. The Vigil and Morning Masses will both be streamed from St Mary's.

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.**

Readers at the Vigil in St Leonard & St Fergus: Please note that this is only for the readers at the Vigil Mass. For the moment we will return to having just one reader who will be the first reader appearing on the rota. We will try to recruit other readers and when there are more, we will look to having two readers for each Mass.

Collections: St Mary's £976; St Columba's £417; St Leonard & St Fergus' £600. We also received a donation of £500 for St Mary's general funds. 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, Ella Hoey (75). We also received two further donations of £50 and £100 for the Restoration Fund.

SCIAF and Mary's Meals: 'Real Gifts' Cards from SCIAF for chickens, vegetable gardens and coronavirus emergency packs and from Mary's Meals for the school meal programme are available for sale. SCIAF cards 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 cards are also available on-line. Mary's Meals cards are available in all the parishes.

Mary's Meals Update: As a result of ongoing selfless generosity a further £150 has been forwarded to Mary's Meals head office for the feeding programme. This will be matched by some business folk which will double the amount given: all our cash donations will be matched in this way until the end of January 2021. Despite the restrictions of the pandemic more than 2 million children now receive a daily meal. A further 360 backpacks have been filled & forwarded during 2021 bringing our overall total to 12,387. Mary's Meals is experiencing difficulties & increased costs in transporting backpacks to the different locations, so there is a temporary stop on all backpacking activity. Many thanks to all who have purchased Gift cards, to those who have set up regular bank direct debits and to those who have included Mary's Meals in their wills.

St Columba's Christmas Party: With great reluctance we have taken the decision to cancel this year's Christmas Party. Health advice seems to be pointing us in this direction and I would not like to be responsible for people missing Christmas with their families should someone at the party test positive for COVID. We will look to have another opportunity to gather and celebrate later in the new year.

St Mary's Christmas Party: Many thanks to all those who made last week's party such a success: Special thanks to David Haddon who provided such a wonderful meal for us and to Mike McEwan who led the afternoon's entertainment. Thanks also to the individual donors who supported the cost of the party and to all who donated prizes for the raffle.

Sock Appeal: We have now stopped collecting socks for this year. Over 1,000 pairs of socks were collected and have been distributed to four shelters in the city. Many thanks to all from the three communities who have so generously donated to this appeal.

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

"What must we do?" The people ask John for guidance. Perhaps you are seeking advice on what God is asking of you too. Speak to Fr Mark, your local Vocations Director about priesthood or religious life, 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>". **SPUC Coffee Morning:** Thanks to all who supported this event—over £700 was raised. The funds will be used to send young people to the youth conference in the spring.