





Vigil Mass 4.30pm
Sunday 10.30am (also streamed)
Monday-Saturday 10am
Tuesday Evening also 7pm

Sunday Mass 11.30am Tuesday & Thursday 8.30 am Saturday 9am Vigil Mass 6pm
Sunday 10am
Mon & Wed 6.30pm
Fri 8.30am

## Sunday 20th March—Third Sunday in Lent (C)

**Our Beloved Dead:** Please remember in your prayers — Eddie Folan, Rachel Duncan, Margaret Mordente and Maureen Rourke who have died recently and Serafino Dora, Meg Marr, James Marr, Edward Burns, Mary Love, Irma Cabrelli, Monica Easson, David and Nan Hynd, James Timmons, Helen Timmons and Alan Timmons Jnr 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.

Funerals: Wednesday 23rd March, St Leonard & St Fergus 3.30pm—Eddie Folan.

**First Reconciliation:** Please remember in your prayers the children of St Fergus PS who celebrate their First Confession this coming Tuesday.

Masses and Devotions for Lent: There will be an extra Mass in St Mary's at 7pm on the Tuesdays in Lent. There will also be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the Mass on Tuesday from 6pm. The hour will consist of a meditation on the Stations of the Cross with a period of silence and conclude with Benediction. It is my intention to livestream this service on Facebook. There are also Stations of the Cross in St Mary's every Friday at 9.20am (This timing ensures that we have plenty of time to prepare for Mass when there is a funeral—as there is again this week). St Leonard & St Fergus and St Columba's: There are Stations of the Cross each morning starting 25minutes before Mass. Exposition in St Leonard & St Fergus during Lent (Wednesdays at 6pm) will also consist of a Meditation on the Cross before Benediction. These times of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed for adoration might be another opportunity for a moment of intense prayer for the people of Ukraine.

Pope Francis Needs our Help: The Synod Process—Listening: In our parishes we are going to meet across this weekend, Saturday, Sunday and Monday (19th-21st March). We will meet at the following times—one hour before the Saturday Vigil Masses—3.30pm St Mary's, 5pm St Leonard & St Fergus' and after each of the Sunday morning Masses in St Mary's, St Leonard & St Fergus and St Columba's. There will be an additional meeting in St Leonard & St Fergus tomorrow, Monday 21st March at 7pm. Younger people from all three parishes are encouraged to attend the Monday evening meeting but are welcome at any of the sessions. These sessions are also open to friends and family and parish members who have moved away from practicing their faith so please invite those you know who don't usually come to Mass to come along to these sessions. The sessions will be led by at least two lay people who were recently on the Diocesan training day. These sessions are a response to Pope Francis' call to Catholics across the world "to open our hearts in a time of fraternity with one another". The purpose is to share our dreams about what we would like our parishes and our Church to be. We begin by listening to each other and learning from each other's experiences. In the Pope's words..."to weave new and deeper relationships, to bind up wounds, to build bridges, to warm hearts and to restore strength to our hands". These meetings are not question and answer sessions. I ask you to come to these meetings with what you would like to encounter in the church every time you come. So, please be as positive as you can, even if you are identifying negative things...so, for instance, if you think sermons are long and rambling, you could say, 'I dream of coming to Mass and every time hearing a concise and meaningful sermon'. Instead of 'we do nothing for the children'...'I dream of a parish where the children are at its very heart'. To add to that...this is a process which is all about who we are and so the most important part of this is not 'what is Father going to do about...?' but what should we do? If you can, please spare just a little time to come together and help reflect on the needs and mission of the Church in our day.

Confirmation for P7 St Mary's: We thank Bishop Stephen for being with us last Wednesday to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the Candidates from P7 in St Mary's. Thanks too to Mrs Curran and the staff at St Mary's, especially Mrs Natalie Murray who acted as the catechist for this year's Candidates. My thanks also to Karen Scott for playing the organ and to the three altar servers from the Black family. Our congratulations to the Candidates, their sponsors and families. May the Lord continue to bless you in his love.

**Absence from the Parish:** Fr Alex will be away for his annual retreat from after the Masses next Sunday (27th March) until Friday 1st April. Daily Masses will continue as usual.

**Collections:** St Mary's £1031; St Columba's £231; St Leonard & St Fergus' £631. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the work of the Church and to those in need.

**SCIAF—Ukraine:** We will simply keep a running total of all the monies collected for the humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. St Mary's £3,325; St Columba's £412; St Leonard & St Fergus' £1,386. All the donations are being forwarded immediately to SCIAF so that your donations can be put to good use as soon as possible.

**Aid to the People of Ukraine:** Apart from the financial donations there is the ongoing support for the appeal for children's supplies for the Ninewells Appeal for Ukraine. Thanks again to all who have contributed to this further appeal.

**St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club:** Congratulations to this week's winner, Wullie Tracey (102). Other donations to the Restoration Fund last week totaled £213.

**St Leonard & St Fergus 100 Club (SCIAF):** Congratulations to this week's winner, Mary Heywood. There are now 90 members of the 100 Club. Many thanks for your support.

**SCIAF in St Mary's for Lent:** There will be coffee/teas after 10.30am Mass in the hall again this Sunday.

**SCIAF in St Leonard & St Fergus:** There will be a Cake & Candy Sale after Mass next Sunday, 27th March. Donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go to the SCIAF Ukraine appeal.

Welcoming Area in St Leonard & St Fergus: One of the proposals for the church in preparation for the 2025 Golden Jubilee is to have an interior area as we enter the building which would be cut off from the rest of the church. This would be an area from the inside double doors to the head of the main aisle and to the sides of the long cupboards. Rough drawings are available to view on the noticeboard inside the church. The idea is to create somewhere where we can meet and greet without disturbing people praying in the church...and also to cut down on draughts. Please have a look—comments welcome!

**Mary's Meals:** We have been advised that Mary's Meals is bringing to an end their long running 'Back Packs' Project. **But only the Backpack initiative.** This is so that the charity can focus again simply on making sure that as many children as possible receive their daily meal. This good work will continue.

## Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

"Come no nearer, for the place on which you stand is holy ground." (1st Reading) Could you be called to reveal God's presence in the holy ground of people's lives and hearts? Speak to Fr Mark, your local Vocations Director about priest-hood or religious life, email *Priests for Scotland* or see the website or Facebook pages: PFS or VocationNetworkScotland. Diocesan Priesthood: **Thinking about Diocesan Priesthood in 2022**? We are now inviting enquiries from those considering applying for seminary. For more information please contact Fr Mark Cassidy e-mail: stmaryslo-chee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

## **Lenten Opportunities for Prayer and Reflection**

**Retreat Day:** "Boundary Breaking Good News—keeping a Good Lent in the Year of Luke". Canon Kevin Golden will be leading a Lenten Retreat Day at the Pastoral Centre, St Mary's Forebank Church Hall next Saturday, 19th March from 10.15am-2.15pm. There are posters on the noticeboards with a timetable for the day. Please book places by calling 01382 275539 or email kevinjamesgolden@hotmail.com.

**Beginning Experience:** A weekend for anyone suffering bereavement through the loss of a loved one through widowhood, divorce or separation is being held at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull from 25-27th March 2022. For further details phone Catherine on 0131 665 3383 or email beginningexperiencescotland@hotmail.com