



Vigil Mass 4.30pm

Vigil Mass 6pm

Sunday 10.30am (also streamed)

Sunday 11.30am

Sunday 10am

Monday-Saturday 10am

Tuesday & Thursday 8.30 am

Monday & Wednesday 6.30pm

Saturday 9am

Friday 9.30am

Sunday 17th April—Easter Day (C)

Easter Greetings

I would like to begin by congratulating and welcoming the newest members of our communities: Robert who is a member of St Columba's and was baptized at the Easter Vigil in St Leonard & St Fergus and Maureen who was received into the Church at the same Vigil and to James who was received into the Church during the Easter Vigil at St Mary's. We look forward to continuing to accompany them on their journey with Christ in the life of the Church.

Our sincerest thanks to all who contributed in any way to ensuring that we had such fitting celebrations of our Triduum Liturgies: to those who gave of their time to prepare the churches, the readers and musicians and servers and also those who came forward to have their feet washed on Holy Thursday. It was also heartening to see so many attending these great moments in the life of the parish communities.

On behalf of Fr Alexander, Fr Jean and myself, I wish you every blessing of Easter Day itself and for the great 50day season of Eastertide.

Return to Normal

Easter seems like a good moment to reintroduce parts of our usual church life that have been missing due to the various COVID restrictions.

Welcoming Groups: One of the characteristics of any Christian community is the welcome that people receive when they arrive in church. This is especially important for people who are coming to a particular church for the first time or returning to Church following a period of absence. Those who fulfilled this role in the past know how important it is and I am sure will again resume this service to the community, but it would also be good to see new volunteers coming forward. We will leave lists at the back of the church for you to sign up!

Offertory Processions: Again, an important part of the Liturgy at Sunday Mass is the Offertory Procession when we bring forward the gifts to be offered on the altar. The offering is also symbolic of the offering we make to God of our whole lives which will also be blessed and renewed through the saving action of Christ at each Mass. Part of the role of the welcoming group will be to ask people to bring the gifts forward. If you are approached, please do not shy away from taking part—you are among friends!

St Vincent de Paul Society: The members of the SVdP will once again stand with the boxes as we leave the church. The calls on the SVdP for help and support in these financially challenging times are growing and your donations to the SVdP are helping local need.

Collections: I would like some feedback on whether people want to see a return to the traditional basket collections or to leave things as they stand—there have been views expressed in favour of both. Please speak to any of us to make your views known...but perhaps leave it until next weekend!

Pastoral Councils: Since the restrictions were lifted, we have never regained the pattern of regular Pastoral Council meetings. We will call meetings in the three communities during the Easter Season to renew and revitalize this important aspect of parish life.

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers — Maureen Brown, Annie (Nan) McWilliams, Sheila Flynn and Colin Myers who have died recently and Mary Dailly, Joe Dailly, Cathy De Gernier, Henry Brogan, James Regan, Alice Marr, Leslie Dyer, Margaret Russell, Roy Petrie, Margaret Glancy, Canon Hugh Sreenan, Efren Reyes, George Donald, William Noonan and Evelyn Pendry 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.

St Leonard & St Fergus' Friday Mass: Please note that the Friday Mass this week will be at 9.30am as the school children will be attending.

Funerals this Week: Tuesday 19th, St Leonard & St Fergus 10am—Sheila Flynn (Reception of Remains, Monday 5pm); Friday 22nd, St Mary's 10am—Nan McWilliams (Reception of Remains, Thursday 5pm).

St Leonard & St Fergus—Children's Liturgy: From next Sunday there will be children's Liturgy during the 10am Mass. This will be for children who are aged 4+ to end of P4. The children will be invited to leave Mass after the greeting and will return at the Offertory.

Celebration in Honour of Divine Mercy: Next Sunday we will hold a service in **St Columba's** to mark the 2nd Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday. There will be a service including Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 4pm.

Planning for Eastertide: There has been a request for some spiritual input / reflections to do together rather than simply online. We will have a chat with some of you informally to see what we might be able to provide and advertise some ideas next week.

Masks in Church: There is now no requirement to wear masks in church, but please be sensitive to those who wish to continue to wear them. Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will continue to wear masks when distributing Holy Communion.

Collections: St Mary's £1104; St Columba's £234 ; St Leonard & St Fergus' £493. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the work of the Church and to those in need.

SCI AF—Ukraine: Although we have now ceased the official collection, another £305 was donated through St Mary's last week and £45 from St Columba's.

St Mary's Restoration Fund 100 Club: Congratulations to this week's winner, William Thomson (43). There was a donation to the Restoration Fund of £50 and another £220 handed in as income from the 100 Club.

St Leonard & St Fergus 100 Club (SCI AF): Congratulations to this week's winner, Maria Warskyj.

SCI AF in St Mary's for Lent: Thank you to all those who supported the last of the Lenten Fundraising efforts in support of the SCI AF water project. The total enabled us to provide water for a village and there was enough remaining to provide emergency water supply for a month for 55 families. Thank you all for supporting this Lenten fundraising.

Mary's Meals: Another donation of £100 was sent off to the charity. Thanks again for your generosity.

Fundraising Concert for Ukraine's Refugees: On Friday, 29th April at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Church Hall, Kirkton Community Choir and Finmill Guitar Group will entertain in this fundraising concert. There will be stovies, and a raffle. You are invited to bring your own (liquid) refreshments. Tickets £5 available after Mass.

Think Vocations / Pray for Vocations

"He saw and he believed!" Our faith in Jesus is born of witness to his resurrection. As we celebrate the resurrection, share your faith! Do not be afraid! The world needs you! 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. 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: stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 8-15th July and will be led by Bishop Stephen. Prices range from £799-£895. Please contact Fr Alex or myself for a booking form if you are interested in attending the pilgrimage.