

Sunday 18th December	The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Year A	'How Jesus Christ came to be born.'	Mt 3:1-12
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Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Derek Nolan, Lynn Matthew, Elizabeth McCabe, Kathleen Mason, Frances McCord, Don Cree, Ernie Russell, Brian Anderson and Isobel Schweikert ; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Douglas Laidlaw, James Law, Mary Moran, Stephen Tront, Mark McCord, Ina Drummond, Mary Warden, Frank Joyce, Ian Fortyce, John Quinn, and Robert Quinn.

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. Lists for prayers for deaths and anniversaries and for the sick are available at the back of the church. The 10am Saturday Mass in St Mary's will be offered every week for the sick of the parishes.

Funerals: St Mary's, Derek Nolan, 10am Funeral Mass, Mon 19th Dec; St Ninian's—Isobel Schweikert, 1pm Funeral Mass, Tues 20th Dec. May their souls rest in peace.

For Christmas Mass times please see the header at the top of this Newsletter. Every effort is being made to provide heating in both St Columba's and St Mary's for the Christmas Eve Masses, however, please wrap up warm.

Penitential Services (with General Absolution)

Monday 19th December 6pm St Leonard's & St Fergus;

Wednesday 21st December 6pm St Mary's, Lochee

General Absolution means that there is no obligation for individual confession at this time, however, the usual Confession Times remain available for anybody who would like to avail themselves of the Individual Rite. Please see header for times.

First Reconciliation for Children of St Mary's

Tuesday 20th December 6pm St Mary's Lochee

Christmas Carol Services: St Fergus Primary (School hall) on Tuesday, 20 December at 9.30am. Andrew's Primary (in St L&F Church) Tuesday, 20 December at 1:45pm. All welcome at both.

St Mary's Primary School End of Term Mass: Thursday 22nd December at 10am in St Mary's Church. All welcome.

Children's Christmas Mass and Party at St Mary's (organized by Missionaries of Charity): Wednesday 28th Dec at 2pm. Please bring your child to this Mass on the Feast of the Holy Innocence.

Advent Liturgies				
St Leonard & Fergus	-	Sunday's 3pm	-	Benediction and Evening Prayer
St Columba's	-	Friday's 3pm	-	Holy Hour with Adoration
St Mary's	-	Saturday's 4pm	-	The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary (livestreamed)

Tea in the Hall after Sunday Mass: Please come along and enjoy the company (and baking) of your fellow parishioners.

Hall Use: please note that our halls are available for private lets and community use at very competitive rates, including children's parties. For further information please contact Anne McGregor (St L&F) or Anne Hampton (St Mary's).

Children's Liturgy: Please encourage your children/grandchildren to participate in the Children's Liturgy as it's a wonderful way for them to hear The Word of God, and have it explained to them, in an age appropriate (& fun) manner.

Do you feel called to serve the people of God as a priest, religious or deacon? If so, please speak to Fr Alex or Fr Jim, or email Priests for Scotland or see the website or Facebook pages: PFS or VocationNetwork Scotland.

Collections; Poor Mission St Mary's £1030|| St Columba's £254|| St Leonard & St Fergus' £810

Please consider Gift Aiding your collection if you are a tax payer. Thank you for your continuing generosity to the work of the Church and to those in need.

Double your love for **Mary's Meals** this winter! From 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, donations made will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5 million. www.marysmeals.org.uk/campaigns/double-the-love

SCIAF: Bishop McGee (President of SCIAF) has asked (on behalf of the Bishops' Conference) to consider coming together to buy the gift of water for a village (£1088) this Christmas. SCIAF Real Gifts will also be available to buy this Christmas.

St Mary's Restoration Fund: 100 Club—Congratulations to this week's winner Anne Laing, (17).

St Leonard & St Fergus 100 Club (SCIAF): Congratulations to this week's winner Alex Leonard,(51). Janice Dobbins writes: 'From money raised through donations, craft and card sales and our 100 club we can send £1088 to SCIAF to pay for water for a village. Many thanks to all involved in raising this amount.'

Christmas Cards on sale after 10am Mass in St L&F in aid of SCIAF; also on sale in **St Columba's**, £3.50 per box. **SPUC Christmas fundraiser** (in lieu of Coffee morning) raised £424.50. Thanks to all those who helped and supported.

SVdP Outreach to those in need: There are small wooden boxes at the back of the churches where anyone in need can place their name and phone number. These requests will be treated in the strictest confidence. Alternatively, you can use an envelope with the same information, mark it clearly SVdP and drop it into the collection box/plate. These will be passed directly to a member of SVdP without being opened by anyone else, including the priests.

Open Doors: St Columba's Wednesday's 11am-1pm; **St Leonard & St Fergus'** Wednesday 10am to 3pm; **St Mary's** Community Café Saturday 12 noon until 2pm. Please pass the word and come along to enjoy a cup of tea, sandwiches and some comfort and cheer.

St Mary's Christmas Market after each Saturday Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass in the Car Park/Hall. Will run throughout Advent with all money raised being split between SCIAF and the Renovation Fund.

Catholicism—A series of programmes by Bishop Robert Barron exploring the beauty and truth of the Catholic Faith. Deacon Len has decided to run two courses: one for those interested in joining the Church, and another for parishioners simply wishing to deepen their own faith. This Tuesday is for those interested in joining the church.

St Columba's Property Matters: After the meeting of the Diocesan Fabric & Planning Committee on 29th November and the Bishop's consultation with the priests of the Diocese last week, he will attend the Parish Council meeting at St Columba's on 10th January, before inviting all parishioners to meet with him at the end of January, thereafter he will meet with the Diocesan Strategy Planning Group in February, and to conclude the process he will meet with the Trustees at the beginning of March 2023.

A questionnaire will be taken up prior to the Bishop's attendance at the Parish Council meeting on 10th January to enable him to have a sense of the people and of the options.

In the meanwhile we will continue to celebrate Mass in the hall, although the Christmas Eve Mass will be celebrated in the Church with the provision of temporary heating.

I hope this helps to clarify the timescale and process that the Bishop has agreed; principally in response to queries that he has received. (This text has been approved by the Bishop and the Chancellor).

The Questionnaire will be handed out this Sunday. Please prayerfully ponder your response and hand back no later than Sunday 8th January. This will allow the Bishop a couple of days to read and pray over them before meeting the PC.

St Leonard's & St Fergus: PC meeting—presentation by Scottish Water and DCC outlining plans for St Mary's area drainage scheme including possible redevelopment of church car park and grounds. Trustees of the Diocese to be consulted. Heating Survey discussed and decided to persevere with present system whilst waiting for plausible alternative, in the meanwhile insulation of the hall seen as a priority. (Minutes on display in church foyer)

Quotes for Projector-Screen System V's Large Monitors have been received. To be discussed with Finance Committee.

Finance Matters

Thanks to all those putting together a Finance Committee in St Columba's.

A prayer intention box will be placed at Our Lady's altar in St Mary's and intentions remembered during the Rosary.

Advent is the fast before the feast, the absence that makes the heart grow fonder, the empty manger, the longing for the Second Coming of Jesus. Please wait for Christmas, don't spend yourself completely beforehand!

A big thank you to all those who organized the Christmas Parties this year in St Leonard & St Fergus, and St Mary's; both events were truly appreciated. A special thank you for the wonderful welcome shown to St Columba's parishioners at the St Leonard & St Fergus party. A true example of Christian hospitality.

On behalf of Fr Alex, Deacon Len, and myself. We pray that you have a blessed and enjoyable Christmas, surrounded by family and friends. If you are looking for a bit of company **St Mary's Community Café is providing lunch Christmas Day at 12 Noon. You are welcome.**

Please consider passing this Good-Newsletter on to anyone who might be interested.