

Vigil Mass at 4.30pm. Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed) Mon - Sat Mass 10am Confessions: Saturday 10.30-11am Saturday 3.30pm-4pm Rosary before each weekday Mass. Novena to St Anthony after Tues Mass Adoration: Saturday 10.30-11am





Sunday Mass 11.30am Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am Saturday 9am Confessions after Saturday Mass Rosary before each weekday Mass. Vigil Mass 6pm Sunday Mass 10am Monday & Wednesday 6.30pm Friday 8.30am Confessions: Saturday 5.15-5.45pm Rosary before weekday Mass. Eucharistic Adoration 6pm Wednesday.

## Sunday 25th December Christmas Day Year A 'The Word was made flesh and lived amongst us.'

**Our Beloved Dead:** Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Patricia Williams, Don Cree, Catherine Hill, Anne Markie, Douglas Walker, Ernie Russell and Mary Reilly; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gerrard Mulholland, James Low, David Kidd Snr; David Kidd Jnr; Mary Flynn; Joe McLean, Joseph Convery &Honor Conway.

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, Catherine Hill, 10am Funeral Mass, Fri 30th Dec; May her soul rest in peace.

**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.

**800 pairs of wrapped socks** delivered to 5 homeless units in Dundee. Kathleen Duffy expresses thanks for everyone's generosity.

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.

**Church Workers:** A big thank you to all those who helped to prepare our Churches for the birth of Our Lord Jesus. Many people help to make our celebrations of the Birth of Jesus worthy, joyous, prayerful occasions. These include those who clean our churches and halls, those who help serve refreshments, those who arrange the flowers, the readers, Eucharistic Ministers, cantors, musicians, SVDP members, Café volunteers, and those who have worked diligently to ensure that our churches are reasonably heated.

In the New Year we will be endeavouring to recruit more people to take an active role in the church. Everyone has something to contribute in the building up of God's Kingdom through the Church.

**Christmas Reflection:** "God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us.

The challenge is to let God be who he wants to be. A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God to touch us where we are most in pain. Often we hide from him precisely those places in ourselves where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused, and lost. Thus we do not give him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone.

Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him—whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend—be our companion." Fr Henri Nouwen.

**Collections:** St Mary's £1079 St Columba's £525 St Leonard & St Fergus' £892 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 Kathleen Donachie, (86). Anne Creegan writes 'A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Market and gave donations. The grand total of £1000 was raised for the Renovation Fund. The sum of £1426 was also raised for SCIAF because of extra donations. This means we have enough for water for a village (£1088) and emergency water supplies for 1 year for 25 families (£185) leaving us with £153 towards our next water project.'

**St Leonard & St Fergus 100 Club (SCIAF):** Congratulations to this week's winner Kenny Black,(38). 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.'

**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.

**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 will resume in the New Year.

## St Columba's Property Matters:

The Church House suffered considerable damage from a burst pipe last week. Thanks again to John O'Meara (and the handymen from the Diocese) for arranging to make it safe, and starting to clear up the mess, and soak up the water.

After the meeting of the Diocesan Fabric & Planning Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Our Schools (St Mary's, St Fergus, and St Andrew's):** Please remember the pupils and staff of our schools in your prayers as they enjoy some well earned rest after a busy term. I hope that you have managed to attend one of their Carol Services, Nativity Plays, School Shows, or Christmas Masses as they are proof positive that the real Spirit of Christmas is alive and well.

**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.** 

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

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