

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 1st January 2023, Mary, Holy Mother of God, Year A 'The Shepherds...found the baby...' Lk 2:16

By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary's motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her role in the life of Christ.

Though New Year's Day may seem more like a day for football and hangovers than for Mary, there's a beautiful spiritual significance in celebrating her during the heart of the Christmas season. Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation Marialis Cultus (1974), called the Solemnity of Mary "a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace." Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us, and especially all those caught up in armed conflicts. Amen.



**Our Beloved Dead:** Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Patricia Williams, Anne Markie, Basil Joseph, Maureen Sturrock, John Slammon, John Davie, Teresa Nicol, Honor Taylor, Mary Reilly, and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alistair Henderson, Hugh & Bella McKernie, Norah & Hendry Mulholland; Betty, Graham & Jim Gilchrist; Betty Feeney, Emily Heston, Mary Bryom, Linda Hogg Rogers; Jacqueline, Jimmy, & Mark Devine; Gary Strachan, Winnie Burns & Kathleen Petrie.

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:** Anne Markie, 10am Funeral Mass, Tuesday 10th January; **John Slammon, 10am Funeral Mass, Thursday 12th January**; Teresa Nicol, 12.45pm Funeral Service, Friday 13th January; **Maureen Sturrock, 10am Funeral Mass, Tuesday 17th January**; Mary Reilly, 10am Funeral Mass, Wednesday 18th January;

**The Missionaries of Charity** would like to thank all those parishioners who helped with the Children's Christmas Mass and Party at St Mary's; and on behalf of the parish I would like to thank the Missionaries of Charity for organizing such an enjoyable and faith-filled celebration of Christmas for the children.

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** helps ensure our young people hear the Word of God, and understand it, in an age appropriate way. Please encourage your child/children to attend.

**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.

## Collections: St Mary's £1646 St Columba's £ 1169 St Leonard & St Fergus' £1133

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.

After discussion with members of St Mary's Finance team I have decided to reinstate the collection as part of Holy Mass in St Mary's. The three main reasons are: 1) the Collection and Offertory are integral parts of the Mass, strongly symbolizing our giving of ourselves to the Lord; 2) it is easy to forget and pass the Collection bucket, and 3) the increased cost of electricity and gas. This will take effect from next Sunday 8th January. As a further means to support the parish please consider giving via Standing Order. This means that you support the parish every week whether you can attend or not, and makes for easy book-keeping. Forms are available at the back of the Church. If you give by SO please don't feel embarrassed to allow the plate to pass you by, also if you genuinely can't afford to give please don't feel embarrassed to let the plate pass you by.

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

**St Mary's Restoration Fund: 100 Club**—Congratulations to this week's winner Dave Mulligan, (100). Anne Creegan writes 'This year £3515 was raised for the Renovation Fund from the 100 Club whilst approximately the same amount was given out in prizes. Many thanks to everyone who participated. There are a few numbers still available for anyone who would like to join the 100 Club. This involves paying £5, usually at the beginning of every month, and one person wins £50 every week with £50 going to the Renovation Fund. Please see Anne Creegan if you are interested in joining.'

**St Leonard & St Fergus 100 Club (SCIAF):** Congratulations to this week's winners: (74) Terry Grubb; (61) Tom Hendry. Kathleen Tracey writes: 'Thanks to recent exceptional generosity the sum of £1,470 was forwarded to Mary's Meals for the feeding programme. This will be included in the double the love initiative so will feed even more children. In addition - £636 was forwarded to pay for Gift cards enabling a further 40 pupils to be fed for a year. A true reflection of the spirit of Christmas.'

**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 week is for parishioners.

## St Columba's Property Matters:

The Parish Council meeting on 10th January at 7pm in the Church Hall will go ahead with a delegation from the Diocese attending on a fact finding and listening basis. Bishop Emeritus Stephen Robson is hoping to attend as a member of the Diocesan Team. This delegation will then present their findings to the new bishop when he is appointed. So, please complete the questionnaire and hand them in no later than Sunday 8th January, and come along on the 10th and have a say.

To help establish the facts about heating the Church for an ordinary Sunday; we will celebrate Mass in the Church this Sunday. The Fabric Team will monitor the length of time required to heat the Church and the temperature achieved so that the cost, and the health and safety implications, can be presented to the Diocese. Also, having spoken with Fr Alex we are agreed that weekday Mass will be in the hall, and any Funeral Mass in St Leonard & St Fergus.

**Dorothy Day—Servant of God:** for more information on this remarkable woman please investigate the film *Entertaining Angles: The Dorothy Day Story* (co-starring Martin Sheen) available on Youtube, or the documentary *Revolution of the Heart: The Dorothy Day Story* available on vimeo. The late Pope Benedict XVI used her conversion story as an example of how to "journey towards faith... in a secularized environment." (General Audience, 13 February 2013)

We (Fr Alex, Deacon Len and myself) would like to express our thanks for your love, prayers, beautiful cards and generosity over the Christmas period. We pray that Mary Our Mother watch over you, and your families, in the coming year.

**St Mary's Community Café is providing lunch Saturday 31st December and Sunday 1st January at 12 till 2pm. All welcome.** It is fitting that the parish pays its thanks to those who run the Community Café in St Mary's Hall, especially over the Festive Season, when they are providing such wonderful hospitality and delicious meals to all comers.

Bishop Stephen Robson announced his resignation on health grounds on Wednesday. Please keep him in your prayers as the administrative burden of the Diocese is removed from his shoulders. The College of Consultors will now elect an Ad-



ministrator of the Diocese until a new Bishop is appointed. God willing the Administrator will be announced within the next week, although it is uncertain how long it will be before a new Bishop is appointed. The Diocese now enters into a state known as Sede vacante (lit. 'the time of the empty throne' in Latin). This is a term for the state of a diocese while without a bishop. In the canon law of the Catholic Church, the term is used to refer to the vacancy of the bishop's or Pope's authority upon his death or resignation.

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