



# St Mary's, Lochee, Dundee NEWSLETTER

Called to be bearers of Good News

**Our Parish Vision:** "A place where people experience God in a personal way, so that they become delighted disciples, joyously putting God first, and willing to invite others to explore the love of God (for them) through our parish community."

## 3 DECEMBER, 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B)

**First Reading—Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8**

*Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.*

### Responsorial Psalm

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

**Second Reading—Corthinians 1:3-9**

*We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

**Gospel—Mark 13:33-37**

*Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.*

### Communion Refrain

**Child of Mercy, child of peace. Jesus Bread of Life, food to fill our longing. Child of justice, Child of light, Jesus saving cup. Emmanuel God with us.**

## Sacred Liturgy Schedule

**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 weekday Mass.**

**Tues: Novena to St Anthony post Mass**

**Thurs: Adoration & prayers for the renewal of St Mary's Parish after Mass**

**Sat: Adoration 10.30-11am**

**Patronal Feast of our Parish of the Immaculate Conception, St Mary's Lochee** celebrated this Friday with Mass at 10am (accompanied by the whole school) and at 6.30pm followed by refreshments. Come and give thanks.

### **Prayer to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception**

**O most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession.**

**O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. (state your intentions here)**

**O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son.**

**O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen.**

**Our Beloved Dead:** Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Joseph George Murray, Loretta Stuart, Grazia Wood, Molly McBain, Jane McKernie, Eileen Marra, Paul Stewart, Charles Kelly and Jim Carlin; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Dorothy Porter and Mary Moran. May they rest in peace.

**Prayers for the sick:** Please continue to remember the sick and the terminally ill in your prayers, especially those mentioned on our sick lists: George Charles Milne, Georgina Robbie and Andy Madoc Jones, (this list is cleared each calendar month). Please send any names for these lists to the parish email address or add them to the lists at the back of the church.

**Funeral Mass for Jim Carlin** (past president of St Matthew's SVDP conference) on Wednesday 6th December at 10am in St Mary's; **Loretta Stuart's** Reception of Remains Monday 11th at 6pm, Funeral Mass Tuesday 12th at 10am; **Paul Stewart's** Funeral Mass Wednesday 13th at 10am May; **Charles Kelly's** Cremation Friday 15th at 1.15pm in Dundee Crematorium. May they rest in peace.



St Mary's - 41, High Street, Lochee, Dundee. DD2 3AP

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Serving Priest - Fr Jim Walls; Trainee Deacon—Jim Murphie

Parish Website - [www.stmaryslochee.org.uk](http://www.stmaryslochee.org.uk)

Hospital Chaplain Mobile number 07821 624124; Safeguarding Coordinator: Emily Murphy

**Finance Matters:** Last week's collection: £1,422 Restoration Fund: £154 (£125 from Christmas Fayre)

Last weeks second collection for the **SCES**: £260

**Second Collection** taken today for the Poor Mission Fund (available for the less well-off parishes in the diocese)

Thanks to everyone who financially supports the parish; and enables the Church to reach out to those in need.

**Gift Aid:** Please consider Gift Aiding your collection and/or paying by Standing Order (forms available in the foyer). Gift Aid donors are reminded that they need to ensure that they have paid sufficient tax to cover claims.

St Mary's has exceptionally generous parishioners as witnessed by the Collection each week and by your response to any special appeal, however, if you are struggling financially, especially with winter heating bills kicking in, please don't feel embarrassed to let the plate pass you by. Nowadays many people donate to the Church by Direct Debit and therefore don't contribute to the plate.

**St Mary's Restoration Fund: 200 Club:** Congratulations to this week's winner Gary Clark

**Hall hire details:** Please note that our hall is available for private lets and community use at very competitive rates. For further information and bookings please contact: Yvonne St Clair on yvonne\_stclair@yahoo.co.uk or 01382-623618 Mob 07709040233

**Mary's Meals - Double the Love:** From 22 November 2023 to 22 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1 million. There are many ways to give, including our gift cards and e-cards. Find out more at [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk). This Advent, the same applies to **SCIAF**, donations will be matched up to £83,500 so your gift can make an even greater impact. <https://www.sciaf.org.uk/donate>



**During Advent after the Vigil Mass** a "mini Christmas market" will be held in the Church Hall for SCIA, Mary's Meals and a School for girls in Pakistan. There will be Cake and Candy, Tombola, Christmas decorations and Gifts.

**St Mary's Christmas Sock Appeal for the homeless. Box at rear of Church.**

#### Dates for your calendar:

**Parish Renewal Prayer Group**—Every Thursday after Mass in St Mary's. This group will pray specifically for a renewal of faith and missionary fervour in our parishes. All are welcome.

**Parish Council Meeting**—the next meeting will be on Thursday 29th February 2024 at 7pm.

**Friday 9th February 2024**—An Audience with Scottish Footballer Steve Murray.

**Dunkeld Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024**—12th—19th July; Register your interest with Ruth Anne O'Neil on 07801 227 443 or [dunkeld@pobox.com](mailto:dunkeld@pobox.com)

**St Clements & St Ninians, Pilgrimage and Leisure Trip to India 2024**—8-23<sup>rd</sup> November. We are having a trip to India - visiting Goa, Tamilnadu and Kerala from 2024. 15 nights - 16 days. Cost £2495 based on two sharing, single supplement £740. If you would like further information and a copy of the itinerary please contact Fr Johny or Therese Devlin 07813051689 email [therese@devlinproperties.co.uk](mailto:therese@devlinproperties.co.uk)

**LOURDES 2024 NURSING TEAM** are looking to build a team to support Hospital pilgrims in Lourdes next year. Are you a Registered Nurse who could help in a Nursing role, recently retired nurse or have healthcare experience and would like to be part of the team? Fares for 2024 will be part subsidised depending on monies raised from fundraising. Please email [mrskimberleyblack@hotmail.com](mailto:mrskimberleyblack@hotmail.com) or call Kimberley 07947837289 if interested or would like more information.

Please submit names/items for this newsletter no later than Thursday evening to [stmaryslochee@dunkelldioocese.org.uk](mailto:stmaryslochee@dunkelldioocese.org.uk)

Turning on the Lochee Christmas Lights started with a short Christmas Service in St Mary's organised by Ann Creegan and led by Jim Murphie, and as usual accompanied by Karen Scott.

The parish's thanks to these individuals for helping to create a wonderful start to the festivities which also featured the Lochee Linties and choirs from St Mary's and Ancrum Road P.S.'s.

#### **\*\*St Mary's Christmas Calendar\*\***

##### **Advent Faith Sharing**

**Every Sunday 12 Noon; Wed 7pm in Hall**

##### **Patronal Feast**

**6.30pm Mass Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Dec then refreshments**

##### **Penitential Service**

**6pm Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December:**

**General Absolution (Individual Confessions if required)**

##### **Christmas Carol singing with mulled wine**

**6.30pm Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> Dec in Hall**

##### **Christmas Eve**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service**

**6.30pm, followed by First Mass of Christmas at 7pm. Christmas Day - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December - 10.30am Mass**

##### **New Years Eve**

**11pm Prayers for Peace followed by Holy Mass at 11.30pm and then light refreshments.**

## GLANCING THOUGHTS —WANDERING OFF

In this Reading from [Isaiah 63](#), the prophet is longing for the love of God. But what he finds instead is what he cannot bear: God angry, God gone.

The experience that the prophet gives voice to is familiar to all of us. God is angry and has hidden his face; he is somewhere above the heavens, and we cannot find him there.

How can this be? How can this be? Doesn't God love us? Where is he? Why isn't he here?

The prophet answers these questions, and in the saddest way. The reason lies in our sinfulness, the prophet says. God is not gone from us because he has forsaken us. Our sins—our weaknesses, our willfulness, our pride, our failure to love, our failure even to accept the love of others—all these things have made us wither. Desiccated and unclean, we have been blown away from God by the winds of life.

But how are we supposed to be holy—clean and good—for the Lord, except by the Lord's own doing? We reject as Pelagian the thought that any one of us can make himself holy by his own efforts. Only God's grace can make a person lovely in holiness.

And so the prophet cries out to God, "why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways?" ([First Reading](#))

There is an answer in the [Responsorial Psalm](#). The Psalmist says, "Lord, make us turn to you!" This is a cry from a person who wanders from the Lord. He wanders because he wants to—that is the sad truth. But when he can't find God in his wandering, he cries to God, "make me turn to you!" Then he wants fervently not to want the very wandering he is so prone to want.

It may be then that God lets us do what we want to do, including wandering from him, so that finally we at least want to want him. Maybe we will find God when we cry with the Psalmist, "Lord, make me turn to you!"

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### Prayer for a good and holy Bishop:

Dear God, you sent your Son to reveal what it is to be truly human. We, in Dunkeld Diocese, are awaiting a new Bishop, please send us one after your own heart: a tender heart with a zeal for souls, a love of the poor and children, compassion for the sick and those on whom time has taken its toll. Bless him with an enthusiasm for Sacred Scripture and the gift for breaking open your Word so that we, his sheep, may be inspired and nourished to lead lives worthy of our Christian calling, and enabled to evangelise others. Amen.

Thanks to all of those who donate food and toiletries for distribution from the Church House Door. If you are in need please don't hesitate to approach Fr Jim in confidence.

**The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul (SVDP)** - As winter approaches and the temperature drops please note that the SVDP supports anyone in need of assistance with food, electricity, gas, clothing, furniture etc. Please don't be shy to approach one of the SVDP members or Fr Jim for assistance.

### Season of Advent, First Sunday

Waiting for the Lord—Our Life is a long vigil, waiting for the Lord to be revealed in all his glory. We wait with longing and with "joyful hope", for his Spirit is with us, and we know that God is faithful to his promise.

### St Mary's Restoration Project (All under one roof)

The Restoration Steering Group met on Friday to hear confirmation that our grant application to Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for £100K has been accepted. This is good news although it's only another step in the process which now sees HES send out their own experts to access for themselves the work that St Mary's requires, and for us to update the estimates that were submitted at the beginning of the year. Please keep this process in your prayers.

**Journeying towards Jesus in Advent**—come and prepare for Christmas with like-minded people after Sunday Mass in the Upper Hall (12 Noon until 1pm) preceded by soup & a roll; and the Session will be repeated each Wed 7pm in Lower Hall. An ideal way to get into the real spirit of Christmas.

Session 1: Sunday 3rd December— Preparing for the end: the 1st week of advent explores the theme of the end of the world. We will reflect on Jesus' teaching on the last Judgement, which kindly coaches his followers how to prepare for the end time.

Session 2: Sunday 10th December—In the 2nd week of Advent we will look at the figure of John the Baptist, the wild man from the wilderness, who stands between the hidden life of Jesus and his public ministry.

Session 3: Sunday 17th December— For the 3rd week of Advent we will journey with Joseph as he faces six interruptions in his life. We watch this gentle man follow his dreams as his life is diverted to take new roads.

Session 4: Sunday 24th December—We conclude our Advent journey with a reflection on the birth of Christ and its significance for us today. **All are welcome no previous experience necessary.**

## LOCHEE HARP CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

Following last year's success, the Harp are again appealing for the donation of suitable toys and gifts in aid of the children at St Mary's P.S.

Donations can be dropped off at New Beechwood Park, Lundie Avenue on Thursday evenings between 6.30-8.00pm or alternatively, collections can be arranged by messaging the club on its social media accounts.

**The Appeal will be open until 19th December** and then all toys and gifts received will be taken to St Mary's for the Head Teacher and staff to distribute as appropriate.'

**New Liturgy Rota available for Sunday Morning Mass, and Welcome Rotas for both Masses.** The Second Vatican Council called for active participation of the laity in the liturgy and to help with this our Sunday Mass will now have a separate reader for each of the two readings and a cantor to sing the psalm, as well as someone to read the Prayers of the Faithful, and Welcomers to greet people at the door. The other important ministry of bringing down the gifts will be arranged on the day, with a variety of people being asked.

**The Vigil Mass needs more readers and cantors so this weekend Marian Milne will be available before and after the Vigil Mass to enlist people to the various ministries of reader, cantor, welcomer, gift bearer. Please be generous in your response.**

**Thanks to all those who already serve the Lord and the parish in our Liturgical Celebrations**

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/579-israeli-palestinian-emergency-appeal>



**From the Bishops' Conference of Scotland:** May the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Peace, grant us peace, and we pray for all the victims, for those who are injured, and we also pray for all those who offer sacrifices for the good of the people in the Holy Land, especially those who tirelessly pray for the small Christian community in the Gaza



Please keep 5 minutes silence before the start of each Sunday Mass. The bell will ring 5 minutes before Mass to mark the start of silence. This creates a decompression chamber in which we acclimatise to the Sacred and come into God's presence.



If you need a visit from a priest whilst in hospital please phone 07821 624124 for the on duty Catholic Priest.

If you would like a house visit simply call St Mary's on 611282.

## Christmas Greetings in the Newsletter.

Rather than distribute cards to all your friends in the parish simply put a message in the newsletter. For example: 'Mr & Mrs Clause wish all their friends a White Christmas', or 'Bob and Jean Smith pray their friends and family have a Blessed Christmas'. This will be done to raise money for the Christmas Flowers, so please pop your message in an envelope along with a donation and drop in the collection plate. Any surplus cash will be kept for flowers in ordinary time. 'Fr Jim wishes all the generous people of St Mary's Lochee a reflective Advent followed by a joyous Christmas.'

## Loss and Damage: a Call to Action

At COP26 in Glasgow, one of the biggest disappointments was the failure to agree a fund for Loss and Damages. Countries which are most vulnerable to climate change and yet the least responsible, need financial support from industrialised countries who were, and continue to be, responsible for gas emissions. A Dialogue was set-up to continue the conversation. At COP27 in Egypt no conclusion was brought to this dialogue. Now is the moment for world leaders to take responsibility for the damage caused by climate change especially affecting the smallest and most vulnerable countries. COP28 in the United Arab Emirates should not be mere talk but take decisive action to create a robust fund to aid those struggling with climate change that threatens their very existence. *May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame.* (Laudate Deum 60) I pray that the hearts and consciences of all participants will be sensitive and open to the cries of the poor and weak and I entrust them to the intercession of St Andrew, our patron saint, on whose feast day COP28 will begin in Dubai.

Archbishop William Nolan  
President of Justice and Peace

## 'Mgr Aldo continues his 50th Anniversary celebrations



spending St Andrew's Day in Rome courtesy of the Scots College and Fr Rogi Thomas. Canon Steven Mulholland is also present having celebrated his 25 Anniversary.'