



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."

10 DECEMBER, 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B)

First Reading—Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Prepare a way for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading—Peter 3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel—Mark 1:1-8

A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord

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.

This week's events: **Sunday 12 Noon**—Advent Faith Sharing.
Tuesday 6pm Penitential Service (General Absolution with the opportunity for Individual Confessions).

Weds 7pm Advent Faith Sharing

Thursday 6.30pm Singalong Christmas Carols & mulled wine.

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Joseph George Murray, Loretta Stuart, Eileen Marra, James Smith and Paul Stewart; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Derek Milne, Gillian Ballard, James Low, Charles Kelly, Fr Andrew Walls OSM, James and Elizabeth Gibson. 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: Chic Whytock, Wendy Birnie, Kathleen McDonald, Margaret Ann Young, Kerry McFadyen, 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: 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; **Charles Kelly's** Cremation Friday 15th at 1.15pm in Dundee Crematorium; (**Eileen Marra's** Reception of Remains Sunday 10th at 5pm **St Joseph's RC Church**, Funeral Mass 10am Monday 11th in **St Joseph's RC Church**.) May they rest in peace.



Sacred Liturgy Schedule

Vigil Mass at 4.30pm.

Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed)

Mon - Sat Mass 10am

Confessions:

Saturday 10.30-11am

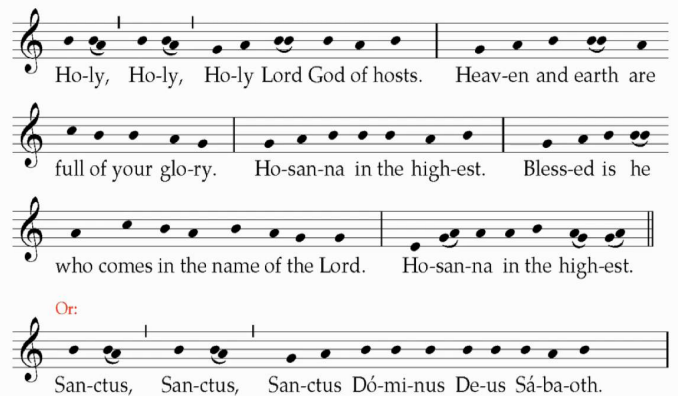
Saturday 3.30pm-4pm

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



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

Tel: 01382 611282 | Email: stmaryslochee@dunkelddiocese.org.uk | facebook.com/stmaryslochee

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

Parish Website - www.stmaryslochee.org.uk

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

Finance Matters: Last week's collection: £1,280 Restoration Fund: £166 (£150 from Buy a Brick scheme)

Last Sundays Second Collection for the **Poor Mission Fund £234**

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 Robert Law

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. 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 SCIAF, 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

St Clements & St Ninians, Pilgrimage and Leisure Trip to India 2024—8-23rd November. For further info please contact Fr Johney or Therese Devlin 07813051689 email therese@devlinproperties.co.uk

LOURDES 2024 NURSING TEAM Are you a Registered Nurse who could help in a Nursing role? Fares for 2024 will be part subsidised. Please email mrskimberleyblack@hotmail.com or call Kimberley 07947837289 if interested.

Thanks to all those who help with the catering in St Mary's, especially those who are providing the Christmas Party Lunch.

Please submit names/items for this newsletter no later than Thursday evening to stmaryslochee@dunkelldiocese.org.uk

We think churches are brilliant.
Become a **Friend** of the National Churches Trust today to help keep churches open and in use.
nationalchurchestrust.org/friends
NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST
We're funding repairs to your church.

St Mary's Christmas Calendar

Advent Faith Sharing

Every Sunday 12 Noon; Wed 7pm in Hall

Penitential Service

6pm Tuesday 12th December:

General Absolution (Individual Confessions if required)

Christmas Carol singing with mulled wine

6.30pm Thurs 14th Dec in Hall

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December - Carol Service 6.30pm, followed by First Mass of Christmas at 7pm. Christmas Day - Monday 25th December - 10.30am Mass

New Years Eve

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

Thanks to those who painted the Sanctuary this week, freshening it up prior to Christmas. Thank you also to Fr Kevin Rennie who has set up a YouTube Channel for St Mary's. As you know as Catholics we are obliged to attend Sunday Mass in person if possible, however, this will enable families scattered throughout the world to watch funerals without having to be on Facebook; and for the housebound.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B): GLANCING THOUGHTS —COMFORT

In the [First Reading](#) the prophet reports a command given by God: ‘Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God!’ In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God? But what is comfort?

Sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don’t want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to have to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

And comfort isn’t a matter of giving weakness. It’s a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the “-fort” in “comfort” comes from the Latin word for “strong.” The “com-” in “comfort” is from the Latin word for “with.” To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The [Gospel](#) says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ.

That is why no one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism of the Holy Spirit walks the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is “the Comforter.”

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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 it’s 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, Second Sunday

The Good News—Today we celebrate the Good News of God’s incredible love for all his people. Every messenger of this Good News says the same thing: he is coming to save you; he will make all things new; prepare a way for him; take him to your heart.

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 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 Liturgy during Advent takes on an air of expectant waiting and we're instructed that 'The use of flowers and musical instruments show be restrained until Christmas.' (Liturgical Calendar for Scotland).

Thanks to those who have responded to the plea for more involvement in the Liturgy and all those who already serve the Lord in this manner.

<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.

'Carol Irons wishes Fr Jim and all the parishioners of St Mary's a holy and happy Christmas.'



St Andrew's Day Celebrations in Rome with jubilarians Mgr Aldo and Canon Steven Mulholland. Also present Canon Mark Cassidy (Rector) and Fr Rogi Thomas CST. Also present Aidan Mattheson (Aberdeen) whose grandparents are St Mary's.

Next Sunday is Gaudete Sunday where we are invited to bring along our Baby Jesus (Bambinelli) to be blessed prior to placing in our cribs. Please oblige and be blessed.

"When we go to Mass, maybe we arrive five minutes before, and we start to chitchat with those in front of us," however Pope Francis added "it is not a moment for chit-chat. It is a moment of silence for preparing ourselves for dialogue, a time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus," he said, adding that "**silence is so important.**"

(Wednesday audience on the Eucharist by Pope Francis, 15 Nov,

