



# 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."

## 17 DECEMBER, 3RD(GAUDETE)SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B)

**First Reading—Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11**

**He has sent me to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**My soul rejoices in my God.**

**Second Reading—Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!**

**Gospel—John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**There stands among you the one coming after me.**

**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.

A Carole Concert in aid of **Youth for Lourdes** this Sunday (17th Dec) at 3pm in St Peter and St Paul's Church, Byron Street, Dundee.

**Our Beloved Dead:** Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: James Freeman & Sarah Bayley and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Shannon Forbes, William Nichol, Douglas Laidlaw, Stephen Tront, Ella Tront, Frances McCord, John McCord, Mark McCord, Lynn Matthew, The Feeney Family, Anne Markie, Frank Joyce and Ellie Joyce. 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, Scott Brown, Brian Davie 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:** James Freeman (former head of Lawside Academy) will be buried from **Our Lady of Good Counsel**, Broughty Ferry, at 11.30am on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

## Sacred Liturgy Schedule

**Vigil Mass at 4.30pm.**

**Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed)**

**Mon - Sat Mass 10am**

**Confessions:**

**Saturday 10.30-11am**

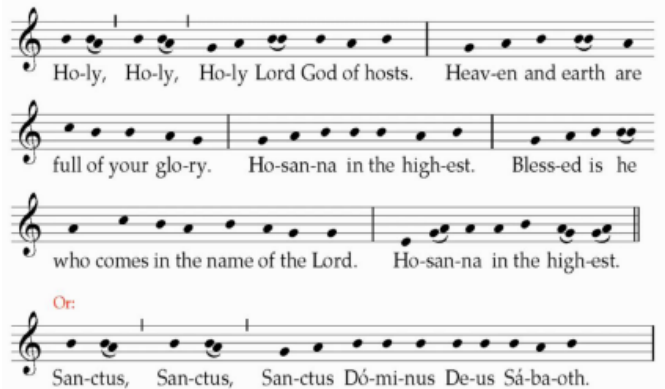
**Saturday 3.30pm-4pm**

**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

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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: £1867 (Thanks to the couple who donated £500 to Church Funds.)  
Restoration Fund: £1442 (includes £400 from 'Buy a Brick' scheme and a £1,000 donation in loving memory of Eileen Cavin.)

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, Maureen Murray.

**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 SCIAF, Mary's Meals and a School for girls in Pakistan. There will be Cake and Candy, Tombola, Christmas decorations and Gifts.

### 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. For further info please contact Fr Johny or Therese Devlin 07813051689 email [therese@devlinproperties.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mrskimberleyblack@hotmail.com) or call Kimberley 07947837289 if interested.

Thanks to Mgr Ken McCaffrey and Fr Greg Murphy for helping at our Advent Penitential Service.

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

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**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**

#### **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.**

**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 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.**

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B): GLANCING THOUGHTS —JOY IN THE LORD

"I rejoice heartily in the Lord," the prophet says in the [First Reading](#). And why wouldn't he? He has glad tidings. The poor will be taken care of, the brokenhearted will be healed, the captives will be freed, and the prisoners will be released.

Who wouldn't rejoice in these things?

As the winter dark and cold encroach on our days, and as the birth of the baby Jesus draws near, we hear these beautiful words everywhere. But the problem is that, for so many people, this is a time of depression, not of joy.

And why? Because the poor are still poor; the people are still broken-hearted; and the captives and prisoners are only slowly released. In this country, the bank still forecloses on the house of a person who has lost his job; a friend still becomes treacherous; a spouse succumbs to alcoholism. What has happened to the promise and the beautiful words? How is joy possible?

The answer lies in Mary's words in the Magnificat. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior," she says. Does anyone think that she took these words back when she stood by the cross as her son was crucified?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat still at the foot of the cross? The answer is that the greatest love of the Lord was there. The words of joy that Mary spoke, before the Lord was born, are only more true in the suffering she bears at his cross. His love doesn't take away her suffering at his crucifixion (how could it)? But her suffering is enveloped in great love, and so it is transfigured.

Joy in the Lord is compatible with waiting for the final redemption from our suffering and our sin—because Christ is Emanuel, God with us. Even now, since his love infuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits can rejoice in God.

Our Lord transfigures the suffering of our lives in his love.

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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, Third Sunday

Our Joy in Christ—We celebrate our joy in Christ's redeeming work among us, realising that he who is to come is indeed already with us, "unknown to us".

#### Leadership Team—Request.

At the Leadership Team on Monday we discussed the need for having refreshments after the Reception of Somebody's Remains. This would allow families a pleasant environment in which to share memories (an important part of the grieving processes) and allow the parish to show hospitality. If you are interested in being involved in this ministry please contact Fr Jim or any other member of the Leadership Team.

Thanks to those who painted the Sanctuary, 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.

**Thanks** to all those who helped with the Christmas Party last Sunday. It was a magnificent meal prepared and served with good humour and festive cheer. Several people have since remarked what an enjoyable afternoon it was.

Thanks also to those who helped and provided the music for our Singalong Carols: edging us closer to the real Spirit of Christmas.

**Ongoing work:** this week 2 new flat roofs were installed above one of the stairwells in the hall, this leaves a further 2 flat roofs and the balcony over the entrance door to be completed once the appropriate grant is approved. Also, a section of the tower gutter above the sanctuary was sealed with Fibre Glass as a temporary fix over the winter; and the remaining plastic sheets covering the windows were made as secure as possible. The Bellcote was also cleared of accumulated filth and made as weather proof as possible. Both companies are due back this week to tidy up.

## LOCHEE HARP CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL

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.**

Thanks to the **Knights of Malta** who have dropped off 80 bags of clothing to be distributed with the Food Bags from the Church House Door. If you need please just ask.

<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.

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**'Carol Irons and family wish the congregation and their families a happy, holy Christmas.'**

**'Christmas blessings to all my friends and have a peaceful Christmas . Love from Vi Brady, Steve & Lynn's Mum .'**

**'Wishing All Parishioners a happy, peaceful, joyful Christmas. Veronica Scott.'**

**'Fr Jim wishes all parishioners a blessed Christmas.'**

**Are you or someone you know feeling like you can't go on?**

Are you struggling to see a way ahead?

Hope Point, Dundee Wellbeing Support is open **day & night**

Let us help you stay safe and together find a way to positively solve the difficulties you are facing.

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