



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."

24 DECEMBER, 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B)

First Reading—Samuel 7:1-5, 8-11,16

Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me.

Responsorial Psalm

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Second Reading—Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel—Luke 1:26-38

'I am the handmaid of 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.

See in the New Year with the **Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** on Hogmany; starting at 11pm with Taizé prayers for Peace; then Mass at 11.30pm followed by refreshments.

Sacred Liturgy Schedule

Vigil Mass at 4.30pm.

Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed)

Christmas Eve 7pm (Carols 6.30pm)

Christmas Day 10.30am

Tues - 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

This week's events:

Sunday 12 Noon—Advent Faith Sharing.

Festive Free Meal—Christmas Day and New Year's Day: 12 Noon to 2pm at Lochee Larder, Whorterband. All are invited.

Children's Party—after Sat Vigil Mass on 30th Dec

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ged Mulholland, Nessie Blyth, The Feeney Family & Samuel Tinney. 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, Fr Colm McGlynn, Brian Davie, Ann Reilly, Margaret Robertson 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.

The last fortnight has bowled me over with people's generosity. It all started with the Knights of Malta handing in 70 bags of thermal clothing and toiletries, then the Harp JFC donated £300 to the parish larder, then St John's High School donated 93 bags of food, and then dropped off another 10 baskets (all of which had been donated by the pupils in the school), whilst this morning the children from St Mary's Primary School presented 6 boxes of food during their Carol Service. In the meanwhile St Mary's SVDP has been working tirelessly to make sure the food and clothing gets to where it's needed; quite literally delivering to dozens of homes in the area. Add to this the Christmas Hamper raffle that took place in Kiddie's Bar and raised £365 for the Restoration Fund. St Mary's at the heart of the community for 160 years.

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

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www.youtube.com/@StMarysLochee Parish Website - www.stmaryslochee.org.uk

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

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

Finance Matters: Last week's collection: £1444 Restoration Fund: £1102 (£365 from Hamper raffle)
Thanks to David Pilling and Billy Grant for making up a hamper and arranging for it to be raffled at Kiddie's bar. Thanks also to Paula and the staff for their support. The substantial sum of £365 was raised for the Restoration Fund. 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, Melissa San Luis.

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>

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.

The Missionaries of Charity are hosting a children's party in the hall after the Vigil Mass on Saturday 30th December. All are welcome.

St Joseph's 150th Anniversary Mass on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 6pm. All are welcome to this sacred milestone.

Burns Afternoon: Thursday 25th January, 1-4pm, Tickets £5 (available in the New Year).

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

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

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 Jorney 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.

Please submit names/items for this newsletter no later than Thursday evening to



St Mary's Christmas Calendar

Advent Faith Sharing

Final session, this Sunday 12 Noon

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 Taizé Service 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, An ideal way to get into the real spirit of Christmas.

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.**

Santa's little helpers at St Mary's Christmas party.



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B): GLANCING THOUGHTS —THE BUILDING IS GOD’S

By the time of the [First Reading](#), David is King. He has won a lot of victories, and he is rich and prosperous too. His house is built of wood and stones. But the ark of God is housed only in a tent.

David thought about the fact that God had only a tent while he, the King, had a real house; and so he made a decision to build a house for God too. He made it his responsibility to take care of God, you might say.

And God laughed at him. God told David, “I will build you a house!” And so he did. The Son of God, born of David’s lineage, is that house. The kingly line of David’s lineage finds its everlasting fulfillment in Christ. And every Christian finds a home there, too, in the body of Christ that is the Church.

David’s son Solomon did eventually build a house for the ark of God in Jerusalem, and it was magnificent. But any earthly building, even the great temple in Jerusalem, is puny by comparison with the house that God built for David and for all God’s people in Christ the Lord.

David did well to revere the ark of God, just as we do well to revere the Church. But it was foolish of David to feel that it was his responsibility to care for God. God wants our love, but he does not need our protection. Without our help, God is still, himself, Lord of heaven and earth.

Like David, we can love the holy things of God, and we can give our service to God’s Church. But it is not our responsibility to make the Church big, strong, and successful. If we think that God’s church, or anything built for God, will lose and go down without our building it up, we will be as foolish as David in the first Reading.

The building is God’s.

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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, Fourth Sunday

Mary, The Ark Of God’s Covenant

Today’s mass is a great song to the everlasting love of God revealed in his covenant (love-pact) with his people. We praise the mystery of his love kept secret for endless ages, but now revealed through a new ark of the covenant, Mary of Nazareth.

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.

As you will have seen the Power Point projected onto the screens is a great way of engaging the children at school masses. It is also a good way of displaying the hymns at our Sunday Masses especially those not printed in the hymn books. It also saves paper, money and the environment. Would you have an old laptop that is still in good working order that you no longer use, so that we can have one set up specifically for projecting onto the screens. If so, please contact Fr Jim, or any of the computer operators before or after Mass.

Thanks to the **Lochee Harp JFC** who have donated £300 towards St Mary’s Food Larder. This will be converted into food bags for distribution.



This week **St John’s H.S. SVDP Group** handed in 93 food bags for distribution from St Mary’s. Our profound thanks to the young people of St John’s and Mr Cecil (PT RE) on behalf of those who will benefit.

Thanks also to St Mary’s P.S.’s Mini Vinnies Group who handed in half a dozen boxes of food for those in need.



St Mary’s Restoration Wall 2023-24 is now located in the entrance of the Church. To purchase a brick please speak with either Ged Fitzpatrick or Alison Houston before or after Mass. The wall will find a permanent location once all the bricks are purchased either in the Church Entrance or Church Hall.



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.

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.

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.

On the parish's behalf I would like to say a **big thank you** to all those who dedicate their time and talents to the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God via the parish. In particular the Leadership Team, the Restoration Group, the Parish Council, the SVDP Conference, those who provide hospitality, the Welcomers, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, those who take up the collection, Church and Hall Cleaners and Coordinators, the Children's Liturgists, the altar servers and MC, Flower arrangers, the Sacristans, Alpha Team members, the Computer Team, the musicians and choir members. May others be inspired by your efforts.

<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

Thanks to all those who provided refreshments after Mass in St Mary's. The soup during Advent has been a real bonus. Thanks also to those who provide refreshments at all the other varied activities in the parish. Hospitality and welcome are two key elements for renewing our parish.

Christmas Greetings in the Newsletter.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul wishes all our parishioners a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR in 2024. Thank you all for your generous donations throughout the year. Without your support we could not do the work we do. God bless you.

From Robert Law (our resident astronomer): Many theories exist about the Star of Bethlehem: In the book of numbers the prophecy was that the coming of the Messiah would be indicated with signs in the heavens. The wise men or Magi were priests and astrologers who studied the heavens.

The astrological star sign of Judea (the country where Jesus was born) was Leo the Lion; the brightest star in this constellation is Regulus which means Kings star and the planet Jupiter is the king of the planets. It (Jupiter) takes approximately 12 years to orbit the sun while the earth takes one year. This causes Jupiter to move forward getting brighter and backwards dimmer as we over take it. It passes through one star sign of the zodiac each year.

The Magi saw it in Virgo (child birth) and move to Leo (King) and back to Virgo. The wise men followed the star (Jupiter) for three years and noticed Jupiter merge with Regulus to form a big star, this is what we call opposition, and it happened when the wise men arrived in Bethlehem on the 25th December 2 BC on our calendar. Jupiter in conjunction with Regulus.

Fr Frank Dougan (a priest of Motherwell Diocese) has been appointed the new Bishop of Galloway. Please hold him in prayer. This means we are one step closer to getting a new Bishop.

Thanks to all those who donated Socks for the homeless. Transform Homelessness (Brewery Lane) have phoned to express their appreciation. The parish's thanks to Kathleen Duffy for organising and disturbing the socks to 5 hostels throughout Dundee.

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.

Phone, text or face to face.

There is always help.
There is always hope.

Call: 0800 955 0008

Text: 01382 604 123

4 South Ward Road, Dundee, DD1 1PN



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.