



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."

31 December, Feast of the Holy Family (B)

First Reading—Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents

Responsorial Psalm

O Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways

Second Reading—Colossians 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Alleluia!

Gospel—Luke 2:22-40

The child grew, filled with wisdom

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: **Children's Party** after Vigil Mass.

Free meal—New Year's Day 12 Noon to 2pm at Lochee Larder, Whorterband. For anyone needing company or lunch. All are invited.

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Eddie Flood, Jimmy Niven, Brian Moore, Patrick McNally and Nobel Ovington; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Martin Wright, Joseph Convery, Mary Warden, Mark Hearn, Mary Bryan, Emily Heston, Betty Feeney, Tom Naughton, Harry Grieve Snr, Henry & Norah Mullholland. 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: Scott Brown, Tom Brown, 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, Jo Duncan, Dominic McBennett, Cathy McDonald 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.

Funerals: Nobel Ovington, Funeral Mass, St Mary's 10am on Thursday 11th January.

Patrick McNally, Reception and Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Sorrow's Fintry, Reception 6pm Tuesday 9th Jan; Funeral Mass 11.30am Wednesday 10th Jan.



Sacred Liturgy Schedule

Vigil Mass at 4.30pm.

Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed)

Monday (New Years 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

Please note that New Year's Day Mass is not a holy day of obligation, however, it is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and is the best possible way to start the New Year.

The Vigil for the Solemnity will take place on Hogmanay at 11.30pm and will **precede at 11pm with Taizé prayers for Peace**. January 1st is also World Day of Prayer for Peace, and Mass will be at 10.30am.

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

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

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 Murphie

Finance Matters: Last week's collection: £3,006 (including Christmas Collections) Restoration Fund: £1,698 (including £1,260—'Buy a Brick' scheme)

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas "minimarket" during Advent £750 was raised for SCIAF's Water project, Mary's Meals and The School in Pakistan. The 100 Club for the Restoration Project has raised over £3000 this year. There are some spare numbers left if anyone would like to join.

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: 100 Club: Congratulations to this week's winner, Frankie Dailly.

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.

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 Johny 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 stmaryslochee@dunkelldioocese.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

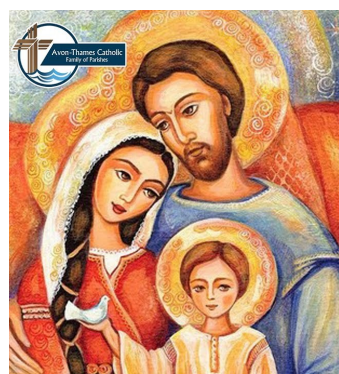
NATIONAL CHURCHES TRUST

We're funding repairs to your church.

St Mary's 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.

Many thanks to everyone for their kind thoughts, words and prayers over Christmas. Thanks also for the gifts and cards which were beautiful and much appreciated. It is a privilege to serve as your priest. Please continue to hold me in prayer as the New Year approaches.

Teas and Coffee after the Sunday 10.30am Mass have proven a huge success. Its popularity means that we require more people to help so that a rota can be put in place. Please speak to Janice Hearn, Lyn Smith of Fr Jim so that this enjoyable time can continue.



Feast of the Holy Family

REFLECTION

“The Final Frontier”

It is the rare soul who remembers particular lines from Scripture for reasons other than professional advancement or private absorption. But I remember, even as a child, being totally riveted by certain odder blunter saltier lines that made me elbow my wry patient dad, like be kind to your father even when his mind goes, or the ones where the Christos isn't so much godlike as he is a rattled guy, such as when he whirls and shouts who touched my clothes?!, after he felt the power leave him, what a phrase!

One of those lines for me has always been blessed are the poor in spirit. I heard it for the first time as a child, of course, at Mass, late in the morning, drowsing between my alpine dad and willowy mother, in a pew filled with brothers seated with parental buffers so as to reduce fisticuffery, and like everyone else I was puzzled and nonplussed. Wasn't the whole point to be rich in spirit? How could you be bereft spirit-wise but get a backstage pass to the Kingdom of Heaven? What was that about? Was it a major serious printer's error no one had noticed all these years? Was it supposed to be poor in spirit, or something artsy like that?

Diligent schoolteachers subsequently explained the phrase to me, and my gentle wise parents explained it, and learned university professors explained it, and able scholarly writers explained it, and I got the general idea, that the word poor there is better understood as humble, but humble never really registered for me because I was not humble, and had no real concept of humble, until my wife married me, which taught me a shocking amount about humility, and then we were graced by children, which taught me a stunning amount about humility, and then friends of mine began to wither and shrivel and die in all sorts of ways including being roasted to death on September 11th and I began, slowly and dimly, to realize that humble was the only finally truly honest way to be in this life. Anything else is ultimately cocky, which is either foolish or a deliberate disguise you refuse to remove, for complicated reasons perhaps not known even to you.

Of course you do your absolute best to find and hone and wield your divine gifts against the dark. You do your best to reach out tenderly to touch and elevate as many people as you can reach. You bring your naked love and defiant courage and salty grace to bear as much as you can, with all the attentiveness and humor you can muster. This life is after all a miracle and we ought to pay fierce attention every moment, as much as possible.

But you cannot control anything. You cannot order or command everything. You cannot fix and repair everything. You cannot protect your children from pain and loss and tragedy and illness. You cannot be sure that you will always be married, let alone happily married. You cannot be sure you will always be employed, or healthy, or relatively sane.

All you can do is face the world with quiet grace and hope you make a sliver of difference. Humility does not mean self-abnegation, lassitude, detachment; it's more a calm recognition that you must trust in that which does not make sense, that which is unreasonable, illogical, silly, ridiculous, crazy by the measure of most of our culture. You must trust that you being the best possible you matters somehow. That trying to be an honest and tender parent will echo for centuries through your tribe. That doing your chosen work with creativity and diligence will shiver people far beyond your ken. That being an attentive and generous friend and citizen will prevent a thread or two of the social fabric from unraveling. And you must do all of this with the certain knowledge that you will never get proper credit for it, and in fact the vast majority of things you do right will go utterly unremarked. Humility, the final frontier, as my brother Kevin used to say. When we are young we build a self, a persona, a story in which to reside, or several selves in succession, or several at once, sometimes; when we are older we take on other roles and personas, other masks and duties; and you and I both know men and women who become trapped in the selves they worked so hard to build, so desperately imprisoned that sometimes they smash their lives simply to escape who they no longer wish to be; but finally, I think, if we are lucky, if we read the book of pain and loss with humility, we realize that we are all broken and small and brief, that none among us is ultimately more valuable or rich or famous or beautiful than another; and then, perhaps, we begin to understand something deep and true about humility.

This is what I know: that the small is huge, that the tiny is vast, that pain is part and parcel of the gift of joy, and that this is love, and then there is everything else. You either walk toward love or away from it with every breath you draw. Humility is the road to love. Humility, maybe, is love. That could be. I wouldn't know; I'm a muddle and a conundrum shuffling slowly along the road, gaping in wonder, trying to just see and say what is, trying to leave shreds and shards of ego along the road like wisps of litter and chaff.”

— One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder by Brian Doyle

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.



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.

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

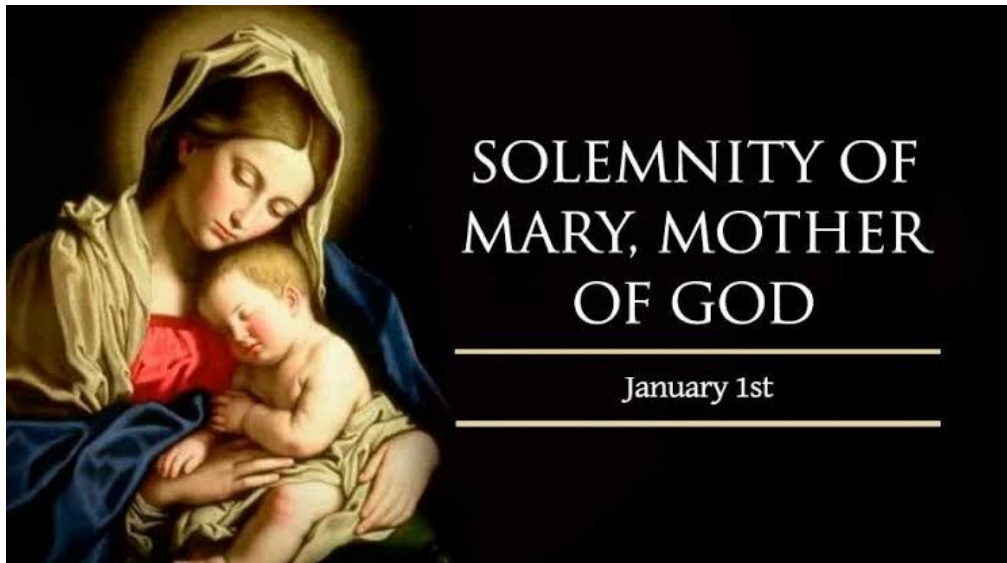


Leadership Team—Request.

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.

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



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st

Let us come together to pray for peace this Hogmanay. January 1st is the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Let us gather as a Christian Community and pray for those suffering in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Russia and every other war zone around our planet. Our liturgy will start at 11pm on Hogmanay with Taizé Prayer (a prayer built on peaceful Adoration around the Blessed Sacrament). The Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God will commence at 11.30pm followed by refreshments. New Years Day (January 1st) 10.30am Mass of the Solemnity.



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.

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 Strip."