



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."

7th January, The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

First Reading—Isaiah 60:1-6

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

Responsorial Psalm

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord

Second Reading—Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

This mystery has now been revealed: it means that pagans now share the same inheritance.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord Homage. Alleluia!

Gospel—Matthew 2:1-12

We came from the east to do the king homage.

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

This week's events:

RCIA – **Catholicism by Bishop Barron** start this Sunday at 12 Noon in the Upper Hall

Monday is the **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** which brings to close the Season of Christmas. The 10am Mass will be led by teachers of St Mary's and attended by the whole school.

Feast—**St Kentigern**, Saturday 13th January.

Happy Birthday to Jenny (Eugenia Schiavetta) who celebrates her 100th Birthday this weekend. Please keep Jenny in your prayers. She is a witness to a long life lived in fidelity to God and the Church.



Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Stella Johnson, Jean Harris, Kerry McFadyen, Eddie Flood, Jimmy Niven, Brian Moore, Patrick McNally, Pearl Marshall, Betty Alexander and Noble Ovington; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Rena Mulreany, Joseph Clark, Gary Strachan, Basil Sydney Joseph, and Lewis Ritchie. 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: Chick Whytock, Wendy Birnie, Margaret Ann Young, George Charles Milne and Agnes Mulligan. (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;



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 Murphy

Finance Matters: Last week's collection: £1344 Restoration Fund: £1090 (including £750—'Buy a Brick')

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: Pauline Johnston (No. 111)

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 **Parish Leadership Team** meets every Monday outside holidays. This team helps me to make good decisions for the parish.

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).

Serra Mass, 6pm in St Mary's January 30th. Praying for Vocations

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.

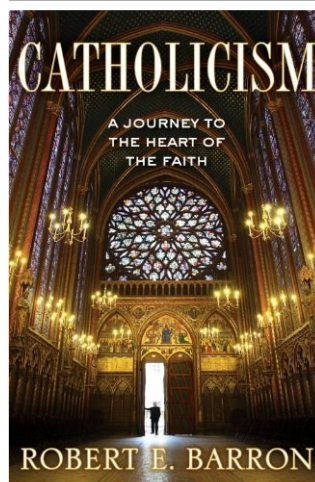
Please submit names/items for this newsletter no later than Thursday evening to



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.

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 beautiful gifts and cards which were much appreciated. It is a privilege to serve as your priest. Please continue to hold me in prayer in the New Year. Also, thanks to those who regularly hand in food to help a hapless cook.



A 6 week course designed to introduce people to the beauty of the Catholic Faith.

Starts 12 Noon this Sunday (7th Jan) in the Upper Hall.

Please come along and invite anyone who might be searching for meaning and beauty in their life.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom. Pray for us.

REFLECTION—A Manifestation to the World

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." [Matthew 2:1-2](#)

The Magi were most likely from Persia, modern-day Iran. They were men who regularly engaged in a study of the stars. They were not Jewish but were most likely aware of the popular belief of the Jewish people that a king would be born who would save them.

These Magi were called by God to encounter the Savior of the World. Interestingly, God used something very familiar to them as an instrument of their calling: the stars. It was among their belief that when someone of great importance was born, this birth was accompanied by a new star. So when they saw this new, bright and brilliant star, they were filled with curiosity and hope. One of the most significant aspects of this story is that they responded. God called them through the use of a star, and they chose to follow this sign, embarking on a long and arduous journey.

God often uses those things most familiar to us that are part of our daily life to send forth His calling. Recall, for example, that many of the Apostles were fishermen, and Jesus used their occupation to call them, making them "fishers of men." He especially used the miraculous catch of fish to clearly indicate to them that they had a new calling.

In our own lives, God is constantly calling us to seek Him out and worship Him. He will often use some of the most ordinary parts of our lives to send forth that calling. How is He calling you? In what way is He sending you a star to follow? Many times when God speaks, we ignore His voice. We must learn from these Magi and diligently respond when He calls. We must not hesitate and must seek to daily be attentive to the ways that God invites us to deeper trust, surrender and worship.

Reflect, today, upon God's call in your life. Are you listening? Are you responding? Are you ready and willing to abandon all else in life so as to serve His holy will? Seek Him, wait on Him and respond. Doing so will be the best decision you ever make.

Lord, I love You and pray that I will be open to Your guiding hand in my life. May I always be attentive to the countless ways that You call to me each and every day. And may I always respond to You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

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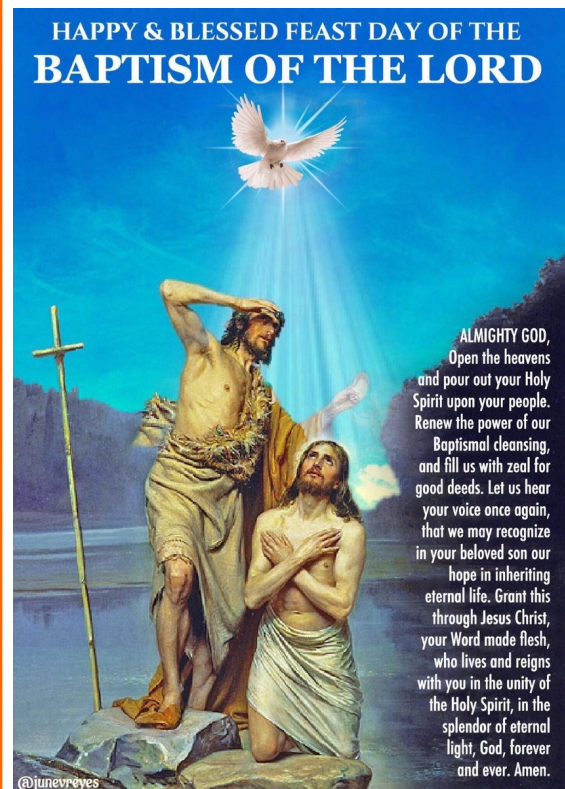
Prayer for a good and holy Bishop:

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.

Baptism Preparation Course

This course runs for 3 Sunday's after Mass; starting Sunday 4th February. This course is for parents looking to have their child baptised in St Mary's. During the baptism itself the parents/guardians of the child are asked : 'You have asked to have your child baptised in doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her *in the practise of the faith*. It will be your duty to bring her/him up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are doing?' And the parents respond: 'We do'.

'*In the practise of the faith*' principally means bringing the child to Mass. This is a promise to God that shouldn't be taken lightly, however, it has been my experience that the majority of parents seldom bring their child to Church again. In essence this is a lie at the heart of what it means to be Church, and has exacerbated the decline of the Church in the Western World. To help those presenting their child for baptism to truly live the promises they make during baptism this course will explore the Baptismal Rite and the commitments that the parents/guardians are taking on. It will also enable the families to get to know each other and create a sense of belonging, and most importantly to have a genuine experience of God. Please pray that this course encourages real faithful commitment to Jesus and His Church in all those who participate.





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.

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 955 008

Text: 01382 604 123

4 South Ward Road, Dundee, DD1 1PN



<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 Strip."



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.

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.

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.

Many thanks to those who have donated a laptop. It will make such a difference not needing to move the office laptop every time the PP is required. It is a wonderful tool for helping to break open the Word of God, especially to the young, and broadening our hymn selection out with those in the hymn book. Please say a prayer for the benefactors.

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 deepens 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.

Several times over the last year I have preached on the need for us to look after our planet and to do our own small part in protecting our environment. I also mentioned that it was no longer morally acceptable for me to be driving around in a diesel car especially one 10 years old. Thanks to God (and money from my mum's estate) I have now been able to invest in an electric car. As Christians we should all be thinking of ways to care for God's creation. Unfortunately it has been the Western World that has led the way in unsustainable living: greedily consuming the world's resources without thought for our brothers and sisters in less well developed nations. What are the ways that we need to act now (immediately): we need **to live simply so that others may simply live**. We can do this by changing cars, taking public transport, car sharing, not flying, recycling, becoming a green volunteer, and perhaps more importantly praying that all of us who have become accustomed to a comfortable consumerist lifestyle may repent and learn once more to live in harmony with God and His creation.