



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.

10th March, 4th Sunday in Lent (B)

First Reading—Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23— God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people.

Responsorial Psalm—O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Second Reading—Ephesians 2: 4-10—You have been saved through grace.

Gospel Acclamation—Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Gospel—John 3:14-21—God sent his Son so that through the world might be saved.

Sacred Liturgy Schedule

Vigil Mass at 4.30pm.

**Sunday Mass 10.30am (livestreamed)
(refreshments after Mass in hall...all welcome)**

Mon - Sat Mass 10am

Confessions:

Saturday 10.30-11am

Saturday 3.30pm-4pm

9.20am Stations of the Cross 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

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 50; Hebrews 5:7-9; John 12: 20-33

Palm Sunday (24th March)—Procession, Blessing and Distribution of Palms

4.30 p.m Vigil Mass; 10.30 a.m Mass; 3pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

Tuesday of Holy Week—6pm Penitential Service with General Absolution

Wednesday of Holy Week— 7pm The Mass of the Chrism, St Andrews Cathedral.

Holy Thursday of the Last Supper—10am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer; 2pm The Way of the Cross by the P7's of St Mary's P.S; 7.00 p.m. The Mass of the Lord's Supper with the washing of feet; 9.00 p.m Night Prayer concludes the watching

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion—10.00 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer; 3.00 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion; 7.00 p.m. Stations of The Cross; 9.00p.m. Night Prayer round the Cross

Holy Saturday—10.00 a.m Office of Readings and Morning Prayer; 8.30 p.m. THE EASTER VIGIL (Highlight of our year.)



HOLY WEEK

Our Beloved Dead: Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently: Allan Gourlay, Arthur Harvey, Zena Foster, Dorris Easton and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Scott Brady, James Timmons, Alan Timmons Jnr, Veronica Jackson. William Bird, Richard Haliday, Irene Brannan, Mary McCabe, Eddie Folan, Margaret (Peggy) Young and Peggy McIntyre.

Prayers for the sick: Please continue to remember the sick and the terminally ill in your prayers, especially those mentioned on our sick lists: Fiona Keith, Margaret Turner, Billy Higgins, Billy McDonald, Ann Reilly, Margaret Burke, Scott Lyons, Agnes Mulligan, Gillian Boland, Lesley Ianetta, Loraine Anderson, Angus MacAulay, Jim Gibson, Martin Conroy, Chic Whytock, Wendy Birnie, Scott Brown, Brian Davie, Cathy McDonald, Laura Bennett and Ann McCann. (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 at St Mary's: James Thomson, Funeral Mass, Tues 19th March @ 10am; **Arthur Harvey** (husband of Cathy Harvey) Funeral Service (not Mass) Tues 19th March @ 1.30pm; **Dorris Easton,** Reception, Weds 20th March @ 6.30pm.

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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: £1533 Restoration Fund: £338—(including brick money and donations).

Thanks to everyone who financially supports the parish; and enables the Church to reach out to those in need.

Special Collection today will be for the **Papal & Episcopal Charities (including SCIAF)**.

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, H. Grieve (92).

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

On SCIAF Sunday, we pray for all mothers around the world. We thank you, Lord, for giving us this precious gift and thank our mothers for the love and care they provide.



Dates for your calendar:

9/10 March, Cake and Candy Sale & Mothers' Day Tombola for SCIAF, after mass on Saturday and Sunday.

Across Bingo Fundraiser—Friday 15th March, in St Mary's Church Hall, eyes down at 7pm . Tickets £1 (includes refreshments).

Alpha Course begins Sunday 14th April at 12 Noon in Upper Hall. Please make an effort to attend.

Parish Workers Social—Friday 19th April

Ceilidh in aid of Restoration Fund—Friday 17th May

Aiming High—play by Gerry and Clare Fulton—Friday 24th May 7pm

Regular Events—Weekly:

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.

Monthly:

Dunkeld Serra Mass: Note change of date for March as last Tuesday falls during Holy week. Mass for vocations and prayers for our priests will be on Tuesday, 9th April. Holy hour at 6pm followed by Mass at 7pm.

Taizé Holy Hour: as last Thursday of the Month is Holy Thursday this will be rearranged.

Diocesan Events

SPUC Afternoon for Life: Saturday 16th March 12.30 for 1pm until 4.30pm. Speakers: Bishop John Keenan, Richard Lucas, and Dr Gillian Wright (see poster for more details). Also "**Catholic Families for Life**" Newsletter Issue 2 now available on www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk (a production of the Bishop's Conference of Scotland).

The Episcopal Ordination of our Bishop Elect Martin Chambers will take place in St. Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, 27th April, 2024 at 11.00 a.m. More information once we have the ticket allocation for St Mary's.

Cecilian Choir Charity Concert 22nd May, St Mary's Lochee, Church Hall.

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 **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.

Pilgrimage to Knock , Mon- Fri,14-18 October 2024—Cost £709 (per person sharing) £909 in single room. £45 travel insurance. The cost includes return flights (Edin-Knock), 4 nights half board. For further info phone 01382 778449/Mob: 07488276858 or 07867950633, Email: stpiusx@dunkelldioocese.org

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

The Governance of the Parish

As parish priest I am ultimately responsible for the running of St Mary's, Parish, however, I cannot do this alone with any great effectiveness given the size of the parish and the renovation project currently underway. Also, moving the parish from 'maintenance to mission' requires good leadership but also collaborative ministry from every single parishioner.

To help move the parish from maintenance to mission I have enlisted the help of James Murphie (trainee deacon), Marian Milne (sacristan); Moira Leck; James Milne and Anne Hampton. These faithful parishioners form the Parish Leadership Team which I meet every Monday for 2 hours to discuss what's going on in the parish and decisions that have to be made.

This does not mean that the Parish Council is defunct, however, it does mean that its primary function is reporting to me what's happening in the parish.

Another important aspect of Parish Administration at this time is management of the Restoration Project. This has evolved over the last year to entail a Restoration Steering Group (a large group involved with fundraising, advertising and liaising with partner groups) and a Restoration Core Group (a small group that liaises with Maria Ogden [grant consultant] and then feeds back to the larger group. Without the help of all those people in the Leadership Team, Parish Council, Restoration Steering Group and Restoration Core Group it would be impossible to run St Mary's. At this juncture we also need to acknowledge the support of the Diocesan Curia especially John O'Meara (Diocesan Property Manager) and Melissa Walton (Diocesan Accountant). If you feel that you have any skills that could be used in the running of St Mary's please speak with Fr Jim, or any member of the Leadership Team.

Thanks to all those who took part in the Ministries Morning.

The feedback from the workshop leaders was positive.

Suggestions that came from the Readers group that will be adopted:

- Readers sit together at the front and after reading go back to their own place.
- Two seats have been placed behind the Lectern for the cantor and 2nd reader.
- The following Sunday's readings will be noted in the Newsletter. Readers' bow to the priest on approaching the altar, and to the altar with the priest when leaving.
- Reading at a slow pace is best.
- A readers' night will be arranged in the Church for practise and feedback. This will take place Tues 19th March at 7pm in St Mary's Church. **All readers please attend** as this will assure uniformity in practice.

Welcome Ministers' workshop after Mass on Sunday 17th March. Could all Welcomers please attend.

MINISTRY OF CANTOR

'Among the many signs and symbols used by the Church to celebrate its faith, music is of pre-eminent importance. As sacred song, united to the words, it forms an integral part of the liturgy' (*Music in Catholic Worship*)

The ministry of Cantor is to sing the verses of the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation and to lead the people in singing the Antiphon. It is not like a soloist entertaining an audience: the role of the Cantor is to communicate, to lead, to facilitate – the Cantor's role is to lead the people in prayer at that point in the liturgy.

We need to build up a bank of people who can be Cantors at Mass and to make up a rota (just like Readers and Eucharistic Ministers), to assist those who already give their time and talents to this ministry and spread the load a little.

If Ministry of Cantor is something you would like to try or you would like to find out more about it, please come forward to the organ after Sunday Mass and speak to Karen (organist) or Jim (trainee Deacon).

The Restoration Wall

Thanks to the fantastic success of the 'Buy a Brick' appeal, we have now sold all of our full bricks. As a result, we have now decided to release the perimeter half bricks for sale for the reduced price of £25 (due to the smaller surface area thus accommodating fewer characters).

We are in the process of producing new order forms and as such, we will not be taking any further orders. We hope that the new forms will be ready for next weekend (2nd / 3rd March 2024) at which time we will be taking orders for half bricks only. Please note that the number of characters and words on these blocks will be significantly reduced compared with the full bricks.

Thereafter, we plan to extend the current wall to accommodate more full bricks. This may take a number of weeks to implement, therefore we will not be taking any more orders for full bricks until such a time the extension is in position. We will provide an update nearer the time.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and ask for your patience in the interim.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and extremely generous donations. The wall looks fantastic and has been admired by many. The wall has raised £8,600 so far for St Mary's Restoration Fund.

Thank you, Ged Fitzpatrick.

Glancing Thoughts—Heartbreak

As the First Reading describes it, the enemies of the Jews smash Jerusalem. The walls of the city are torn down. The Temple of God is burned up, and all its holy things are destroyed. And the people are taken captive to Babylon. It's all lost, their country, their customs, their language, their cult, their Temple.

In the Psalm, there is a poignant picture of the people's heartbreak over this destruction of their home. The enemies who had wrecked Jerusalem wanted the Jews to sing Hebrew songs for them. "How can we sing the Lord's songs in a strange land," the captive people say to themselves in their grief.

The Second Reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why doesn't God protect his people from the heartbreak that his people had when Jerusalem was destroyed? The answer to the question lies in the Readings.

God doesn't want to destroy people and God doesn't allow suffering for the sake of hurting people either. Instead, God is looking for a remedy, as the First Reading implies. God is willing to use desperate measures, even the heartbreak of his people, to save them.

And not only that, but God is willing to use his own suffering too. As the Gospel Reading says, God gave his beloved Son to save the world. Christ was betrayed by his disciples, shamed in front of his family and friends, mocked by his community, condemned by the legal authorities, publicly flogged, and put to death by crucifixion. Any one of these things is enough for heartbreak, isn't it? And so, in the incarnate Christ, God uses his own great suffering as the final remedy to bring people from death into life, when all other remedies have been tried and failed. Heartbreak by us, by Christ, is for life not for death.

And here is what else we need to see. Jerusalem was rebuilt and the Temple was restored, as the First Reading explains. Christ's death was followed by his resurrection. In each of these cases, heartbreak was turned into joy.

And so heartbreak is not the last word. Elsewhere (Ps 37:3-4) the Psalmist says, "put your trust in the Lord, ... and he will give you the desires of your heart." When the story is God's, heartbreak is not the end of the story. Joy in finding your heart's desire is.

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Think Vocations 2024—4th Sunday of Lent

"Whoever lives by the truth comes out into the light." Could God be calling you to step out into the light and be seen as a person of faith, one who can inspire faith in others too as a priest, deacon or in consecrated life?

Speak to your local Vocations Director (Fr Jim Walls) or visit the *Priests for Scotland* [website](https://priestsforScotland.org.uk) - (<https://priestsforScotland.org.uk>) or our [Facebook](#) pages ([PFS](#) or [VocationNetworkScotland](#)).

Faith Sharing Groups after the Vigil and Sunday Morning Masses in St Mary's Church Hall. All are welcome...no previous experience necessary. Material provided weekly. Come along and prepare for Easter...filling your cup with God's grace...

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

The Architects have now provided us with a timetable for Phase 1 of the Restoration Project: the Exterior of the Church. Work is due to start in August 2024 with the majority of the work being completed by March 2025.

Phase 2 would be the hall; Phase 3 the interior of the church; and Phase 4 the Church House.

Working with other partners is an integral part of St Mary's Restoration Project. To this end Professor Graham Morton will be bringing students from Dundee University to visit and explore St Mary's history, architecture, and social engagement on Friday 15th March.

Between September 9th and 11th Forgotten Skills Workshops will take place at St Mary's involving pupils from 3 local Secondary Schools.

A Church Maintenance Course will be hosted by St Mary's on Wednesday 25th September and led by the project architect.

Last Friday, St Mary's P.S. Camperdown House visited the church as part of their Love Lochee project. The children were amazed by the well and the bell.

Thanks to all of those who donate food and toiletries for distribution from the Church House Door. Please don't be shy to approach a member of **The Society of Saint Vincent De Paul (SVDP)** or Fr Jim in confidence.

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.

