



St. Mary's R. C. Church

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St. Paul's R. C. Church

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Newsletter

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4th 2022

My dear parishioners,

Last Sunday we began the very beautiful season of Advent, which opened for us the Church's new liturgical year. How truly blessed we are, that for one more year we are here to take our place in the church's great liturgical prayer of thanksgiving for the luminous mystery of Christ, our Saviour. We know that the risen Jesus lives in his liturgy and is present to us in tender ways, especially in the devout reception of Holy Communion.

I offer the following words from Pope Benedict for your reflection:

“In Advent the People of God begin again on the way to living the mystery of Christ in history. Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever; history, instead, changes and requires constant evangelization; it needs to be renewed from within and the only true novelty is Christ; he is its fulfilment, the luminous future of humanity and of the world. Risen from the dead, Jesus is the Lord to whom God subjects all enemies, including death itself. Advent is therefore the propitious time to awaken in our hearts the expectation of he “who is and who was and who is to come” (Rev 1:8).”

Pope Benedict XVI

Very sincere thanks to all who came to St. Mary's last Tuesday for our special Mass for those who died in 2022; thanks also to Peter and the choir for the lovely music at the liturgy, and thanks to those who provided hospitality in the hall.

It was indeed a special evening.

The many donations placed inside the November Remembrance envelopes came to £1,500 and this will be shared equally with International Refugee Trust, Friends of the Holy Land and the Hamilton Drop-in-Centre, which provides a hot meal to those in need every evening at 7.30pm. *Sincere thanks to all.*

Parish Coffee Morning next Sunday after the 10.30am Mass; please come around to the hall and enjoy some tea/coffee/juice and cake; it's also a good way to come to know other parishioners in a relaxed setting.

I offer here the times of the liturgy in the days ahead:

Saturday December 3rd

Vigil at St. Paul's at 4pm

Vigil at St. Mary's at 5.30pm

Sunday December 4th

Mass at St. Paul's at 9.15am

Mass at St. Mary's at 10.30am

Monday December 5th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Reception of the body of Mark McGuire at 6.15pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at 7pm;

Tuesday: December 6th: Requiem Mass for Mark McGuire at St. Mary's at 10am

Wednesday December 7th: Mass at St. Paul's at 10am

St. Paul's Primary School will be with us for Mass

Thursday December 8th: Mass at St. Mary's at 10am

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; *this is a mystery of our Faith; it is one of several moments where Our Lady was treated in a privileged way by God, emphasising her unique place in God's Plan of Salvation. As a doctrine of the church it was only promulgated in 1854, but had been a strong popular belief for centuries. Scotland's own Blessed John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) was one of the greatest champions of this dogma. Please join us for the liturgy if you are free.*

CREDO, the parish prayer group will gather in the meeting room this Tuesday, December 6th at 1pm and afterwards enjoy some tea together around 2.30pm. *New members are always welcome.*

A Message from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP): very sincere thanks for your ongoing support of our work which allows us to continue to reach out to those in need; whatever you place in the boxes at the back of the church will go towards supporting local people in need.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently Deceased: Mark McGuire, Patrick Murphy, Johanna Gallagher (Omagh), Mima Kelly, Paul McGinn, Tommy Collins, Patrick Healey, Derek Bergin, Allan Patterson, Ann O'Neill, John Fagan, Patrick Warren

Special Remembrance: Jim Cox, Peter Maxwell, Cornelius (Neil) McMurray,

Essie and David McDonald, John McParland, Les Graham, Neil and Margaret MacFadyen, John and Edna Wilson, Mary Snaith and all our deceased relatives and friends and the benefactors of St. Mary's and St. Paul's, *requiescant in pace*.