

St Anthony's and St Mark's
20th December 2020
4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14-16

Your house and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me

Psalm 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord

Romans 16:25-27

The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages

Luke 1:26-28

I am the handmaid of the Lord

Sick

Baby Emma Burnett, Robert Blair, Thomas McKell, Jon Land, Margaret Harris, Tommy McKenzie, John Shields, Moira Boyce, Baby Harris Little, Mary Husband, Chris Wetson, Tony Reilly

Recently Dead

Jane Kemp Everett, Mary Ferguson (funeral Tues 10.30am), Findlay Marr

Anniversaries

James McLaughlin, Francis Torley, Charles McLaughlin, John Cassidy, Catherine and Patrick McCarry, Margaret and Patrick McKell, George Walsh, Peter Mullen, Anne O'Donnell

BISHOP TOAL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - 2020

In recent days, Pope Francis announced that the Church would celebrate a Year in honour of St Joseph, marking the 150th Anniversary of St Joseph's proclamation as *Patron of the Universal Church* by Blessed Pius IX. In doing so Our Holy Father has written a beautiful Apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, offering some personal reflections on St Joseph, "*this extraordinary figure so close to our own human experience*". In extolling his greatness as spouse of Mary and legal father of Jesus, he acknowledged how St Joseph placed the whole of his life in God's hands and at the service of God's plan of salvation in a quiet, discreet way, unnoticed almost, but vitally important in caring for and protecting Mary and Jesus through the years he shared with them in Bethlehem, Egypt and Nazareth. His figure in our Christmas cribs portrays this quiet reassuring presence who lovingly looks down on the infant Jesus, accepting the vocation as father and guardian which God has asked of him.

Pope Francis encourages us to discover in St Joseph an intercessor, a support, and a guide in time of trouble, and reminds us that it is often those who appear hidden or in the shadows who play an incomparable role in God's plan for our salvation. Indeed he makes a comparison between St Joseph and the many wonderful people who have assisted us through the present time of pandemic, remarking that "*our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper or magazine headlines, or in the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history.*" We have certainly become very aware through recent times of how much we depend on the "*essential*" workers and volunteers in our society, and, in recognising in them a reflection of the generous and self-giving qualities of St Joseph the Worker, Pope Francis offers a word of recognition and gratitude to them all. I am sure we echo these sentiments as we hope and pray for the health and well-being of all who continue to suffer in our present situation.

As we ponder with Joseph and Mary, the shepherds and wise-men, the child in the manger, we place our hope in him as Our Lord and Saviour, and renew our desire to serve and love him in the fullest way possible with the help of his grace. He is indeed "*the loving kindness of the heart of our God, who*

visits us like the dawn from on high” as proclaimed in the lovely prayer of Zechariah, the Benedictus, in St Luke’s Gospel.

The Benedictus concludes *“He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace”*. May these words dwell in our hearts as we implore the Lord’s blessing on all our loved ones, and indeed the whole of humanity. May the Lord grant us his peace this Christmas.

+ Joseph Toal
December 2020.

Reflection on the Readings

David is challenged by the Lord through Nathan to make a suitable dwelling for God. We are temples of the Holy Spirit; are we suitable dwellings? Part of preparing for an important date is making a space suitable, whether a visitor or a dinner party. What state is our heart in, and is it suitable for God to be born in there? If not, there is still time to do something about it.

Christmas Masses

Unfortunately, all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have been fully booked. I know many people will be disappointed but there was never going to be a way to accommodate everyone. The weekend Masses on the 26th and 27th will also be celebrated as Christmas Masses so hopefully some of those who have been disappointed will be able to attend one of those.

Christmas Decorations for the Churches

Many of the children who normally come at Christmas will not be able to attend this year. To help them be part of this, I am inviting all the children to bring a decoration for the trees or for the altars in our churches between now and Christmas. If you phone me at St Mark’s, I will arrange for you to bring them and I will put them in the church of your choice. Homemade decorations are definitely the best but anything will be gladly received.

Advent Hospice Appeal

Bishop Toal is encouraging us during December to support our hospices. There are two in the Diocese: our local Kilbryde Hospice EK and St Andrew’s Hospice, Airdrie. If you donate on the Diocesan website (www.rcdom.org.uk) your donation will be shared between the two. If you wish it to go to one of the hospices, you can make a direct donation to them.

School Masses

The Mass from Friday with videos from St Anthony’s PS can still be seen on YouTube. This coming Tuesday at 9.15am there will be a Mass including videos from St Mark’s PS.

SCIAF Real Gifts

This Advent, SCIAF has a new Real Gift of a water filter for £37, which can give the gift of clean water to a family for years to come. Water is life but, globally, a staggering 1 in 10 people do not have access to clean drinking water.

More than ever before, we have pulled together to protect our family and friends from coronavirus.

SCIAF is asking people in Scotland to buy a water filter as a Christmas gift to help parents in Ethiopia to protect their children from preventable diseases caused by dirty water, unsafe water. When you buy a water filter as a Christmas present, SCIAF will send you a beautiful card to pass on to the lucky recipient. In return, your generosity will enable us to provide a family with a durable source of clean drinking water. And women and girls who would normally spend hours walking to fetch often dirty, dangerous water, can get an education and learn the skills they need to break the poverty cycle.

www.sciac.org.uk/real-gifts-store

Comboni Calendars

These will be available at the back of the churches for £1 each. Please only handle the calendars you are taking. Anyone not at Mass can come to St Mark's house to get one.

Advent Holy Hour

Last week's Holy Hour was interrupted by a drop in the internet here. We didn't know at this end so carried on regardless! We will have another go this Wednesday (23rd) at 7pm. Here's hoping.

Weekday Mass

Now that Mass numbers have returned to 50, there is no need to book for weekday Masses.

Re-opening for Mass

The restrictions for Sunday Masses are as follows:

- Limited numbers subject to government guidelines
- The contact details of all those attending must be retained by the parish (in order to contact people in the event of an outbreak)
- Face coverings, sanitising and social distancing still apply
 - There must be no singing (not even the priest!)

We therefore are going to have to apply a booking system for Mass.

For those who do not have access to the internet, they can telephone 07746 221205

Masses will be at the usual times (**Sat 5pm, Sun 10am, 11.30am & 5pm**).

To book a Mass go to:

<https://stanthonystmarkmass.eventbrite.co.uk>

Parish Contributions

There are now two ways to make an offering online. The first is as given on the parish website. There is also an easier way via the Diocesan website:

1. Go to: https://www.mygivinghub.com/detailed/donate?charity_id=1086524
2. In "search" type in either St Mark or St Anthony and it will take you to the payment page
3. Follow the instructions

The same page also allows you to make to donations to things like Peter's Pence.

Please let me emphasise: if this were to put you under a burden then do not make an offering!

Online Masses (Youtube Channel CatholicG73)

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 10am

Sunday 11.30am

Tues 7pm (with Novena to St Anthony)

Wed-Fri 10am

Online Rosary

Sat 10am

Online Addresses

Facebook: [@stanthonyandmarkrutherglen](#)

Twitter: [@AnthonysandSt](#)

Website: <https://www.stanthonystmark.org.uk/>

Email: stanthonystmark@rcdom.org.uk

YouTube: [CatholicG73](#)

Other Resources

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

<https://www.rcdom.org.uk/>

<https://www.universalis.com/>

<https://camglenradio.org/>

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.
Since I cannot receive you Sacramentally now,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you were already there,
I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;
permit not that I should ever be separated from you.
Amen.

THE NINE TUESDAYS IN HONOUR OF ST ANTHONY

Novena

O glorious St Anthony, safe refuge of the afflicted and distressed, who hast revealed that all who piously invoke thee on nine consecutive Tuesdays shall experience thy powerful help, I a poor sinner, come to thee. Encouraged by thy promise, in all confidence, I implore thy counsel and thy protection.

Obtain help for me, O Blessed Anthony, in my present need.
(silently mention it)

If, however, the favour I ask be opposed to the Will of God and the welfare of my soul, do thou obtain for me such other graces as shall be conducive to my eternal salvation.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be (3 times)

O gentle and loving St Anthony, in whose arms the infant Jesus did linger, grant the intercessory aid and at thy word our prayers shall be heard.

Leader: Pray for us O Blessed Anthony!

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, give ear on our behalf to the intercession of thy holy confessor Anthony, upon whom, adorned with heroic virtue, thou didst bestow the gift of miracles, even unto working prodigious signs and wonders.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If then you ask for miracles, death error, all calamities,
the leprosy and demons fly, and health succeeds infirmities.

Response

*The sea obeys and fetters break, and lifeless limbs thou dost restore,
while treasures lost are found again,
when young and old thine aid implore.*

All dangers vanish at thy prayer, so too incessant care and need,
let all who know thy power proclaim, Padua tell, tis so decreed

Response

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

Response

Leader: Pray for us O Blessed Anthony!

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, may the intercession of Blessed Anthony, thy confessor, be a source of joy to thy Church, that we may be always fortified by thy assistance and deserve to enjoy eternal happiness.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Brief of St Anthony

Behold the Cross of the Lord: Fly ye powers of darkness;
The Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the root of David has conquered.
Alleluia

Hymn to St Anthony

St Anthony, our Father dear, we meet around thy throne once more;
Thy wondrous praises to proclaim, and make them sound from shore to shore.

O ye who for great wonders seek, go visit once his sacred shrine;
Ah there you'll hear that even death has yielded to his power sublime.

Before his wisdom's wondrous rays, dark error takes its rapid flight;
The demons even cannot bear the starlight gleam of his chaste light.

And raging sea obeys his voice, and from the shore doth quickly fly;

For health, things lost and liberty, both old and young to him do cry.
Repeat 1st verse



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