

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently, especially: Pat Connolly, Anna McColgan & Rose-Ann Swinburn and the Months Minds and Anniversaries of: Molly Baker Stuart Campbell, Catherine Collins, Janice Green, Joseph McIntyre & Hugh Paterson

Please pray for all sick and housebound of the Parish, especially Henry McPhee

ST MARKS CUPPA CLUB

We will be holding our Christmas Celebration on **Wednesday 15th December in the church hall at 10.30am**. You are welcome to come and join us for this Fabulous Festive Fling.

FINANCE AND FABRIC TEAM

Thank you to everyone who attended the first meeting of the finance and fabric team. We now have a plan on how to maintain and manage our two Church buildings. Early in the new year the energy efficiency of both Churches will be assessed and we will then be able to plan for insulation and heating improvements.

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

Pope Francis invites us all to take part in the Synod which will reflect on these themes. Every parish is asked to come together in prayer, listening and discernment to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. In communion with each other, we experience that "we belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God" (1 Corinthians 3.23).

If you are interested, our Parish Pastoral Planning team will then meet on **Wednesday 15th of December at 7pm in St Mark's Church House** to plan the four parish synod meetings that will take place before Easter next year.

RORATE CAELI MASS

The *Rorate Caeli* Mass which is a Solemn, Candlelit, Votive Mass, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated in Advent, will be celebrated on Monday at 7am in St Columbkille's and Friday in St Mark's during the Season of Advent.

READERS AND EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

I'd like to ask that if you are reading or helping with the distribution of Holy Communion, could you please come to the Sacristy before Mass. We will all then process out to the Church together at the beginning of Mass.

DAY OF RECOLLECTION: READERS

The third of our Advent days of recollection is next Saturday at St Anthony's. The day will be led by Fr Sam Burke OP of the Dominican Order. The programme is:

- 10am: Mass
- 10:30am: Tea & Coffee
- 11am: Talk 1
- 12:00noon: Lunch
- 1:15 pm: Talk 2
- 2:15pm: Closing prayer.



All Readers are invited to attend. The invitation is also extended to anyone who would like know more about the Liturgy of the Word, or if you'd like to become a Reader.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

This weekend Fr Paul Annas will join us for all Sunday Masses. Fr Annas is the Chaplain of Trinity High School and he will hopefully join us every two months or so to improve the relationship between our Parish and our High School.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR THE 5TH OF DECEMBER:

Plate collection including Gift Aid envelopes: £1517.24
Gift Aid to Bank: £664
Total: £2181.24

ST ANTHONY'S & ST MARK'S

PARISH CLERGY

Father Charles Coyle Monsignor Thomas O'Hare (Retired)

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A Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell Scottish Charity No. SC011041

The Third Sunday of Advent (C) Gaudete Sunday 12th December 2021

SPACE (SUPPORTING PARENTS AND CHILDREN EVERYWHERE) CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Gift tags will be available from next weekend at both of the Churches. You can then choose a gift tag which will have the age, whether it's for a boy or a girl printed on the tag. Please then buy an appropriate gift, wrap it attach the tag and return it to the Church porch.

ST MARK'S PARENT COUNCIL

The parents of St Mark's are hoping to gift all children in the school a new Christmas t-shirt this year. Last year through covid, with your help we managed this, and we thank you all for your generous donations. We are asking for your kindness again. You can simply choose a gift tag from our tree, buy the t-shirt on the tag, wrap it and hand it back into the church or gift a cash donation (a box will be provided next to the tree) and a member of the group will buy the t-shirt for you. We thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

REAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS: WATER FOR A VILLAGE

As Pope Francis teaches us in his 2015 Encyclical *Laudato Si*, "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" are inextricably linked. During November, we've seen the world come to Glasgow for COP26 to decide on action on tackling climate change. Pope Francis recognises that we all share responsibility. "We need to strengthen the conviction that we are all one single family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide." A parish group has been meeting during COP26 to consider what action we could take as a parish. One of the suggestions was that we could donate through SCIAF to provide a Real Christmas Gift of a well for an entire community, which costs £1088.

There will be a second collection this weekend

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

A Service of Reconciliation will be celebrated at **6pm in St Mark's Church on Wednesday 15th of December**. This will give us all a chance to prepare for the coming of Christ by examining our consciences and making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The service will be in two parts, the first part will be a general examination of conscience, and during the second part everyone will have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation by going to confession, for which a number of Priests will be in attendance.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available at all Masses from the Stall in St Anthony's and the Porch in St Mark's.

THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday

SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER

(Readings: Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 125; Philippians 1:3-.68-11; Luke 3:1-6)

9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
10.00am	Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Advent (C) at St Mark's
11.30am	Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Advent (C) at St Anthony's
12.30pm	Sacrament of Baptism at St Anthony's
4.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation available
5.00pm	Holy Mass for the 3rd Sunday in Advent (C) at St Anthony's
6.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER

THE MEMORIAL OF ST LUCY

St Lucy (283-304) lived on the island of Sicily. She consecrated herself to Christ as a virgin. When she turned down an arranged marriage with a pagan aristocrat during the persecution instigated by the Emperor Diocletian, he reported her to the authorities as a Christian, and she was put to death.

(Readings: Numbers 24:92-7.15-17; Psalm 24; Matthew 21: 23-27)

7.00am	Rorate Caeli Candlelit Mass at St Columbkille's
At St Mark's	
9.00am	Morning Prayer for Memorial of St Lucy St Mark's
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memorial of St Lucy St Mark's
6.00pm	Evening Prayer Memorial of St Lucy St Mark's
7.00pm	RCIA meeting in St Mark's Church House
9.00pm	Night Prayer the Memorial of St Lucy St Mark's

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE DEDICATION OF OUR LADY OF GOOD AID CATHEDRAL, MOTHERWELL

The Church of Our Lady of Good Aid, Motherwell was opened on Monday 9 December 1900 and elevated to Cathedral status in 1948

(Readings: Zephaniah 3: 1-2.9-13; Psalm 33; Matthew 21:28-32)

9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
At St Anthony's	
6.00pm - 7.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
6.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church
6.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation available
7.00pm	Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Dedication of Our lady of Good Aid Cathedral (Homily Delivered by Fr Ryan Black: Joseph, the Genealogy and the Son of David) Followed by the Novena to St Anthony
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

THE MEMORIAL OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

St John of the Cross (1542-91) was born in Fontiveros, near Salamanca. He became a Carmelite friar in 1564, and in 1567 he met St Teresa of Avila who persuaded him to join her in reforming the Carmelites, male and female. He suffered much opposition, including a period of detention in a religious house. This was when he began to write deeply on spiritual things including using poetry. He is regarded as a the foremost poet of the Spanish Language. He experienced visions of Christ. After one he did line drawing of Christ on the Cross which inspired Salvador Dali to paint 'Christ of St John of the Cross' which was bought in 1951 by the City of Glasgow for the Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

(Readings: Isaiah 45:6-8.18.21-26; Psalm 84; Luke 7: 19-23)

At St Mark's

9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
9.00am-10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.30am	Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary
10.00am	Holy Mass for the Memorial of St John of the Cross
10.30am	Tea and Coffee morning in St Mark's Hall
6.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
6.00pm	Reconciliation Service at St Mark's
7.00pm	Meeting of the Ongoing formation group to discuss the current Synod
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER

(Readings: Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 144; Matthew 11:11-15)

At St Anthony's

9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Anthony's
9.00am-10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.00am	Holy Mass for Thursday of the 2nd week of Advent
6.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
7.00pm	Advent Book Club: Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

(Readings: Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19)

At St Mark's

7.00am	<i>Rorate Caeli</i> Candlelit Mass
9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
9.00am-10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.30am-9.55am	Sacrament of Reconciliation available
10.00am	Requiem Mass for Rose-Ann Swinburn R.I.P
6.00pm	Evening Prayer of the Church at St Mark's
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

(Readings: Sirac 48:1-4.9.11; Psalm 79; Matthew 17:10-13)

At St Anthony's

9.00am	Morning Prayer of the Church at St Anthony's
9.00am-10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
9.30am-9.55am	Confession available
9:30am	Recitation of the Joyful Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary
10.00am	Holy Mass in Honour of Our Blessed Mother Mary
10.00am-2.30pm	Day of Recollection for the Parish Readers

THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Next week John the Baptist identifies himself as who he is not. He is not Elijah, not the Christ, not the prophet, not the light. His own identity is much less important to him as the message he carries, and the work he must do. He points to Christ though his mission, ministry and martyrdom. We too must point to Christ in all we do, allowing him to live in us and shine through us. Like John, we must decrease, Christ must increase.

4:30pm	Confessions available
5.00pm	Vigil Mass for the for the 3rd Sunday of Advent (C) at St Mark's
6.00pm	Evening Prayer I of the Church at St Mark's
9.00pm	Night Prayer of the Church at St Mark's

JESUS OF NAZARETH BY POPE BENEDICT XVI

We will continue to meet on the Thursdays of Advent after Evening Prayer in St Mark's Church House. We will read 'Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives' by Pope Benedict XVI.