

ST ANTHONY'S & ST MARK'S

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12th NOVEMBER 2023 PARISH SERVICES – THIRTY-SECOND WEEK OF THE YEAR

HOLY MASS

Tues 7.00 pm at St Anthony's

Wed 09.30 am at St Mark's

Funeral Mass – Annmarie Glencross

Thurs 09.30 am at St Anthony's

Fri 09.30 am at St Mark's

Sat 09.30 am at St Anthony's

Sat 5.00 pm at St Mark's (Vigil)

Sun 10.00 am at St Mark's

11.30 am at St Anthony's

5.00 pm at St Anthony's

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sat 9.00—9.20 at St Anthony's

Sat 4.30-4.50 at St Mark's

Sun 4.30-4.50 pm at St Anthony's

RECITATION OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Tues 6.30pm at St Anthony's

Wed & Fri 9.00 am at St Mark's

Thurs & Sat 9.00 am at St Anthony's

SUNDAY READINGS

Reading Wis 6: 12-16

Psalm PS 62:2-8 r.2

Reading 1Thess 4: 13-18

Gospel Matt 25 1-13

Wisdom is found by those who look for her.

For you my soul is thirsting, O God my God

God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus

The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently, especially : Annmarie Glencross; Maureen Clark; Betty McVey; Myra Barton ; John Boyce

Those whose anniversaries occur: John McColgan; John Markey; May and Michael McLaughlin; James Wylie; Greta McCormick.

All sick and housebound of the Parish: Mary McColgan; Ella Connolly, Isa Daniels, Peter Kavanagh, Baby Finn McGuinness, Baby Hope McKenna, May O'Donnell, Margaret Rice; Annie O'Donnell.; Ellen Collins; Pauline Mahon; Sandra Morgan; Teresa McKeown.

MASSES FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS

These Masses, during which we will remember and pray especially for those who have died over the past year, will take place in our parish churches on the following dates: St Mark's : Monday 13th November 7pm : St Anthony's : Tuesday 21st November 7pm. Refreshments will be provided in the halls after Mass : please do come along in order to welcome and support the bereaved families who may be visiting our parish from elsewhere. Refreshments will be provided in the halls after Mass: please do come along in order to welcome and support the bereaved families who may be visiting our parish from elsewhere.

IT HELP SESSIONS

The weekly drop-in sessions at St Mark's will restart on Monday 13th November 10.00 am to 11.00 am

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK

Plate collection including Gift Aid envelopes: £ 1404.50; All Saints £ 391.09 Gift Aid to Bank £ 669.50; Total Offertory £2465.09

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND—18TH/19TH NOVEMBER IS FOR THE CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

FOODBANK

This week we welcomed 74 visitors to our foodbanks. We were able to support them thanks to your continued donations. Thanks also to The City Charitable Trust for their ongoing help. This week we also received a donation from The ASN Group operating from lifestyles. Finally, thanks to the many local residents who support us, especially by donating clothing and household items. We are truly thankful for everything received. This week we are running low on the following items: Diluting juice, jam, pot noodles, packets of pasta, cuppa soup, cereal, shower gel, toothpaste, nappies - newborn, and sizes 3&5, baby wipes and baby food / pouches- 6 months. All donations can be left at the back of both Churches. Many thanks.

QR CODE FOR PARISH GIVING

If parishioners or visitors would prefer to use their mobile phones to make a donation at Sunday Mass, then please feel free to use the new QR code.



PROPOSED FABRIC ENHANCEMENTS TO BOTH CHURCHES

Fr Stephen intends to convene the Fabric Committee soon. In the meantime, here are some proposed enhancements:

St Mark's church:

- dimmable lights. The middle 4 candelabras have been fitted with dimmable lights which will greatly improve the atmosphere at events such as Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Eve Mass, and the Easter Vigil. Many thanks to Danny for doing this at minimal cost.
- a new Paschal Candle stand for St Mark's. This has already been actioned, as there was a sale at Ormsby of Scarsbick in Motherwell this week and Fr Stephen picked up a refurbished second-hand stand at a bargain price. Have a look and see what you think!
- removal of altar rails. The rails served a purpose in the pre-Vatican II liturgy but they are now obsolete, and they block the flow at the entrance and exit procession from Mass, and at the offertory procession, as well as at Baptisms. They can be stored in the choir loft in case a future parish priest wishes to restore them.
- repositioning of stair rails. The rails which readers use to go up and down the sanctuary stairs are very useful, but can be moved to the sides, to open up the space of the sanctuary.
- refurbishment of kneelers. Fr Stephen took the opportunity to ask Ormsby of Scarsbick to price the renovation of the underside of the kneelers, many of which are torn and very unsightly. This is likely to be quite an expensive job, and will be brought to the Fabric Committee and the Finance Committee for discussion.

St Anthony's church:

- renovation of the side chapel. The new boiler system allows heating to be put on in 4 separate zones: church, side chapel, hall and house, thus providing an opportunity to be smart in our use of space. An underused space is the side chapel. In addition, with the Poor Clares moving into the parish house, we will lose the storage space in the house and the current altar servers' sacristy. Fr Stephen proposes to use the current main sacristy as more of a working and storage space, and to move the vesting sacristy to the side chapel. If we remove all the benches in the side chapel and replace them with moveable soft chairs, we'll have flexibility to use that space as e.g. the vesting sacristy, a winter chapel/adoration chapel and mid-sized meeting room which will always be cosy at a fairly low cost. Please let Fr Stephen know what you think of these proposals: they will also be discussed at the Parish Council. If you have any other ideas to improve our fabric please be in touch!

PARISH COUNCIL

This is open to all parishioners and will take place on Tuesday 14th November from 7.30-9pm in St Anthony's hall. This will be an extraordinary council and differ from the usual format, as it will refocus on the pastoral planning process which was undertaken by Fr Dougan in 2019-20 and continued by Fr Charles, and it will begin to steer a way forward for the parish.

Project Wellspring – a statement from Bishop Toal

"I am pleased to announce that we have very recently launched a new renewal project entitled Wellspring which seeks to equip the Diocese of Motherwell for growth over the next 10 years. The primary focus of this new project will be to renew and re-energise our missions by setting-out a simple Gospel-centred vision and a fresh, new pastoral plan. It will also include a strategy for property and finance management. We are already engaged in the early stages of planning with the clergy, supported by a small team of unpaid lay professionals who will manage the process with us. The discussion phases will very soon engage parishes and laity so that we can all contribute to the important work of preparing for the future. I expect to engage the entire diocesan community, young and old, as we move into 2024. I am excited at the prospect of setting a new course as we look ahead with confidence to the next 10 years of mission in our diocese. Please pray that Wellspring will indeed be a great gift that renews and strengthens our bonds with the Lord and His Church. Pray, too, that it inspires our sisters and brothers who have distanced themselves to re-engage with the regular practice of our Catholic Faith. May Our Lady of Good Aid, our patroness and Mother, crown our work with her grace."

ENROLMENT MASSES

The Enrolment Masses for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation, will take place on the following dates: St Mark's: Sunday 19th November 10am St Anthony's: Sunday 26th November 11.30am

Please pray for the families of our young parishioners, that they will support their children in the life of faith and in their preparation for these sacraments. Any family whose child does not attend St Mark's or St Anthony's primary and who wishes their child to be prepared for the Sacraments in 2023-24, should contact Fr Stephen asap.