

# ST ANTHONY'S & ST MARK'S

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## 31st DECEMBER 2023—THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

### HOLY MASS

**Mon—New Year's Day**  
11.00 at St Mark's

**Tues 6.30 pm Reception James Anderson**  
at St Mark's

Tues 7.00 pm at St Anthony's

**Wed 9.30 am Funeral Mass James Anderson at St Mark's**

Thurs 9.30 am at St Anthony's

Fri 9.30 am at St Mark's

Sat 9.30 am at St Anthony's

Sat 5.00 pm at St Mark's (Vigil)

Sun 10.00 am at St Mark's

Sun 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—4.5— 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 Sir 3: 2-6.12-14

Psalm Ps 127

Reading Col 3: 12-21

Gospel Lk 2: 22-40

Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood.

God's blessings in the home.

The faith of Abraham and of Sarah.

My eyes have seen your salvation.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Those who died recently, especially** James Anderson; Teresa McKeown; Jane Therese MacDonald; Anne Johnston; Thomas Tinman; Margaret Toal; Peter Carton

**Those whose anniversaries occur:** Cathie Bowman; Chris Murphy; Very Rev Henry Canon Allison; Arthur Johnstone

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

### WEEKDAY MASS—ST MARK'S

After consultation we have decided that weekday Masses in St Mark's will take place in the Sacristy until further notice.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK INCLUDING CHRISTMAS DAY

Plate collection including Gift Aid envelopes: £ 4384.39 Gift Aid to Bank £ 742.50 Total Offertory £ 5126.89

Retiring Collection at Carols by Candlelight in aid of Primary Schools £ 468.77. **Thank you for your generosity.**

**Next weekend 6th/7th January there will be a SECOND COLLECTION for Justice and Peace.**

### THANK YOU

Fiona, Ann and Karen from SPACE, thank you for your generosity! There would be lots of very happy children on Christmas morning. A big thank you to Susan and Willie Haughey for their donation of toys!

### 11 AM MASS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Weekday Mass will take place at 11 am instead of 9.30am from Boxing Day until New Year's Day inclusive, with the exception of the funeral on Thursday 28th at 9.30am. Masses will be in the usual locations, with New Year's Day Mass taking place in St Mark's.

### ALTAR SERVERS IRN BRU CARNIVAL TRIP

The trip will take place this Friday, 5th January. All the details are contained in the letter to parents: more copies of these are now available in the sacristy. Please make sure that the permission slip is returned to Fr Stephen before the trip

### ANNUAL CRIB APPEAL

Many of you like to visit the Cribs in both St Anthony's and St Mark's churches. Each year, all donations collected at the cribs are passed on to St Margaret's Children's and Family Care Society which was initially founded in 1955 as an Adoption Society and has since developed its education service offering support to all children, families and professionals.

### CHRISTMAS THANKS FROM FATHER STEPHEN

Fr Stephen would like to thank all parishioners for their kind wishes, cards and gifts over the Christmas period. All will be remembered at Mass.

### Letter From Bishop Toal on the Appointment of Fr Francis Dougan as Bishop Galloway.

I join with everyone in the Diocese of Motherwell in congratulating Fr Frank Dougan on being chosen by Pope Francis to be the new Bishop of Galloway. We will pray for him through the coming weeks before his Ordination, and assure him of our continued prayers and support as he settles into his ministry in Galloway. The fact that his mother came from Ayr, and that he enjoyed many visits there in his young days, does make it sound quite appropriate that he should return as Bishop.

It is a great honour to be chosen as a Bishop in the Catholic Church, and with it comes much responsibility and challenges. It is necessary to trust in the presence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in order to be a Good Shepherd formed in the image and likeness of the Lord. As Shepherd, care of the flock and leading them in the celebration of and practice of our faith is at the heart of the Bishop's ministry. Fr Frank's ministry as Parish Priest in St Mark's and St Anthony's, and the other areas of pastoral and administration work he has undertaken in Motherwell Diocese, have prepared him well for the ministry of Bishop. As a Diocese we are grateful for Fr Frank's ministry, particularly in the parishes he has served in. We will miss him and I am very aware of the gaps which will need to be filled when he leaves! Although there may be some sadness, there is gratitude also that he has accepted the call to serve as a Bishop, recognising little opportunity is given to say no, but admiring his willingness to serve the Lord and his Church in the apostolic ministry in these challenging times.

The announcement of Fr Frank's appointment has been made towards the end of Advent as we focus on the Annunciation of Our Lady and her openness in accepting God's will in her life whatever that might entail. At the same time she was richly blest, and addressed as "Highly Favoured". As Bishops we are "highly favoured" also, and with that comes the necessity to respond anew to God's call and fulfil what is asked of us. In our prayer therefore, we seek the intercession Of Our Lady, that of the Apostles, and of St Ninian, for Fr Frank as he looks forward to his ministry as Bishop of the Ancient See of Galloway, filled with trust in the Lord and ready to serve Him joyfully.

+ Joseph Toal

### FOODBANK

Despite the dreadful weather, we welcomed 43 visitors to our Foodbanks today. Thanks to your generosity as well as that of The City Charitable Trust, the ASN group at Lifestyles, the staff and pupils at Trinity High School, as well as many local donations some of which came via the Wonderful Winter Windows appeal, we were able to support them all. We do appreciate your generosity at this most expensive time for everyone, so please only donate if you can.

On behalf of the 6000+ families we have supported this year and the wonderful team of foodbank volunteers, we wish you all a happy, healthy, peaceful 2024.

### PARISH OUTING TO "HAMILTON"

Would all of those who have booked a place on the Parish Outing to see "Hamilton" please arrange to make final payment to Karen Smith by the 10th of January.

### JUSTICE AND PEACE COLLECTION

The annual Justice and Peace collection for the Feast of the Epiphany will be taken up at all Masses next weekend. This collection supports the vital work of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Bishops' Conference

### 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.

