

ST ANTHONY'S & ST MARK'S

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3rd DECEMBER 2023—THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY MASS

Tues 7.00 pm at St Anthony's

Wed 9.30 am at St Mark's

Thurs 9.30 am at St Anthony's

Funeral Mass for Amanda Laing

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 Mark's

Sun 4.30—4.50 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 Is 63: 16-17, 64: 1.3-8
Psalm Ps 79

Reading 1 Cor 1: 3-9
Gospel Mk 13: 33-37

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down.
God, the pagans have invaded your heritage, they have defiled your holy temple, they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
If he comes unexpectedly he must not find you asleep.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently, especially Amanda Laing; Margaret Lowe

Those whose anniversaries occur: Mary O'Hare; Ann Barrett; Kathleen Harkin

All sick and housebound of the Parish: Rev Stuart McQuarrie; 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.

SICK LIST

The parish sick list - i.e. the list of those who would like to receive Holy Communion regularly from an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and a visit from Fr Stephen - is rather out of date. Can you please contact the parish if you'd like to be included, or you know if anyone who would like to be included?

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

Plate collection including Gift Aid envelopes: £ 1396.33; Gift Aid to Bank £ 267.50 Total Offertory £ 1663.83

Thank you for your generosity. THE SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND 2/3 DECEMBER IS FOR LOCAL HOSPICES

SALE OF CALENDARS

The Caritas students from Trinity High School will be selling calendars after every Mass next weekend 9th/10th of December. Please support them if you can.

JINGLE AND MINGLE

The pupils of Trinity High would like to invite our parishioners to this Christmas-themed event on Tuesday 5th December 12-2pm. It will feature lovely food and Christmas entertainment by the pupils. If you'd like to come along, please get in touch with Fr Stephen or

2024 WILL BE "YEAR OF PRAYER"

Pope Francis has announced that the year 2023, in preparation for the Jubilee 2025, will be dedicated to prayer. The Pope made this announcement when he met with a group of shrine rectors and workers at the Vatican on 11 November. "I wanted next year, in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee, to be entirely dedicated to prayer. Next year will be dedicated to prayer."

PARISH HALLS

The halls are working well from many points of view, but there is a need for someone to keep an eye on them, e.g. making sure the heating is on for hires, phoning tradespeople if required, keeping essential supplies stocked up. Would anyone be prepared to volunteer to take on this important but not too demanding role in one of the halls? Please let us know.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Following on from discussions at the parish council, we have created a parish Christmas card with Mass times etc, and ordered 1,000 copies, with the aim of outreach in our community. We'll be delivering them to neighbours, new housing estates, families of primary school pupils, foodbank guests etc. We'll be asking you to take a handful of cards and put them through your neighbours' doors: more instructions will be given at Mass.

TRAVELLING NATIVITY CRIB

In the same outreach vein, the parish has ordered 7 travelling Nativity crib sets for our primary schools. Every primary 1-4 pupil will take home a crib for one night during Advent, accompanied by family prayers. Watch out for photos of the crib in different homes on our parish social media!

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

This very beautiful and popular event will take place on Thursday 21st December at 7pm in St Mark's church. It will feature carols by the Community Choir, Trinity High choir, and the choirs of St Anthony's and St Mark's primary schools, as well as singalong classics. We also be trying out our new lighting system, with dimmer lights and multi-coloured backlighting. It's free of charge, but we'll be taking up a collection for the St Anthony's and St Mark's primary school Christmas trips.

YOUTH GROUP PROPOSAL

Another outcome of the parish council is a proposal that we start up a young group after Sunday 5pm Mass aimed at P6/7 and S1 parishioners. We'll have an exploratory meeting about this on Wednesday 13th December at 5.45pm in the St Mark's Presbytery: please come along with no obligation if you have an interest in this idea.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP PROGRAMME Thursdays 7-8pm, St Mark's Parish House

Our very popular and enjoyable video& discussion study sessions on The Bible and the Virgin Mary continue apace. All are most welcome to join the discussion sessions, even if you haven't attended before. Thursday 7th December (Vigil of Immaculate Conception): Session 5: The Ark of the New Covenant: FINAL PRE-CHRISTMAS SESSION

FABRIC COMMITTEE.

The committee will discuss and advise on aspects of parish buildings and fabric. We're looking for those with expertise in any building trades, fire/health and safety, interior design etc, as well as interested parishioners with general interest, skills, and knowledge of three parish estate. We'll have an introductory meeting on Tuesday 12th December at 6pm in St Anthony's parish house. If you can't make the meeting but would like to join the team, please speak to Fr Stephen or email the parish email address.

FATHER CHARLES

We have received a card from Father Charles to all in the parish—"Thank you for the recent party that the parish organised on my behalf. Thank you also for the generous gifts I received. I will always be grateful for my time at St Anthony's and St Mark's. Please pass on my best wishes and thanks to everyone.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Masses will be as follows:

St Anthony's : 5pm Vigil - St Mark's : 8pm (with carols from 7.30pm)
St Mark's: 10am - St Anthony's : 11.30am

(We won't be able to do Midnight Mass this year as there will already have been 4 Masses that day with it being Sunday).

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.

