

# ST ANTHONY'S & ST MARK'S

**Address:** St Anthony's and St Mark's Parish Office,  
St Mark's Catholic Church,  
Fernhill, Rutherglen,  
South Lanarkshire,  
G73 4DA

**Telephone:** 0141 634 3053

**Mobile:** 07553 824 944

**Email:** [stanthonystmark@rcdom.org.uk](mailto:stanthonystmark@rcdom.org.uk)

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

**Parish Priest:** Father Stephen Reilly



**Twitter:** [@StAandStM](https://twitter.com/StAandStM)



**Facebook:** [facebook.com/stanthonystmarkrutherglen](https://facebook.com/stanthonystmarkrutherglen)



**Instagram:** [standstm](https://www.instagram.com/standstm)



**YouTube:** St Anthony's & St Mark's Rutherglen

## SVDP

**Telephone:** 07977185826

**Email:** [mw09004rutherglen@svpscotland.com](mailto:mw09004rutherglen@svpscotland.com)

**Hall Enquiries: Telephone:** 07941214608

**Email:** [hallbooking@stanthonystmark.org.uk](mailto:hallbooking@stanthonystmark.org.uk)

## 7th January 2024—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### HOLY MASS

Tues 7.00 pm at St Anthony's

Wed 9.30 am St Mark's

**Thurs 9.30 am St Anthony's**

### Funeral Mass Teresa McKeown

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 Is 60: 1-6

Psalm Ps 71

Reading Eph 3:2-3.5-6

Gospel Mt 2: 1-12

Above you the glory of the Lord appears.

For you are my rock, my fortress.

It has now been revealed that pagans share the same inheritance.

The visit of the Magi

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Those who died recently, especially:** Teresa McKeown; Jane Therese MacDonald; Bernadine Sloan; Sarah Tierney; Anna Devlin; John Gleeson

**Those whose anniversaries occur:** Fred Wylie; Edward Lawrie; Sheila Quigley; Tony Reilly; Ian McDougall; Bobby Roney; Michael McCormick; Kathleen Cochran

**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.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**—If you can, please stay behind after 10:30 mass next Sunday the 14th for a little while. We need to get the tree and decorations down. Many hands make light work!

**TAIZÉ WORSHIP**—The Community Choir and Justice and Peace Group are organising a parish Taizé worship evening for peace on Thursday 1st February at 7pm at St Mark's. If you enjoyed Carols by Candlelight you'll love this, as it has a very similar atmosphere with the candlelit Taizé cross, reflective readings, reflection and above all the beautiful and world-famous Taizé chants. Our theme will be prayer for peace in the world, especially in the Holy Land. We will also be inviting the local churches of various denominations to join us (a suggestion from the Parish Council). All parishioners are warmly invited to the prayer time, and to the tea afterwards in the hall.

**Justice & Peace**—The next meeting of the Justice & Peace group is this Wednesday 10th January in St Mark's at 7:30pm. We will be looking at specific plans for the coming few months including Taize, Refuweegies and working with the Trinity Caritas group. If you would like to find out more about what we are doing, do come along.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR LAST WEEK INCLUDING CHRISTMAS DAY

Plate collection including Gift Aid envelopes: £ 1580.93 Gift Aid to Bank £ 277.50 Total Offertory £ 1858.43 . Offertory paid to Diocese of Motherwell £ 445.00. **Thank you for your generosity. THE SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND IS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE.**

**DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**—The very fruitful Parish Council meeting in mid-November suggested a wide range of ideas for pastoral growth in the parish. Fr Stephen has been studying these and reflecting on them, as well as looking for emerging challenges and opportunities. Here are some initial thoughts for the months ahead:

**Our mission:** If there was any 'headline' from the Parish Council, it regards mission and outreach. As a parish we have to overcome the understandable instinct to look inwards as a community, and rather to look outwards, thinking like an outsider: why would someone want to be an active part of our parish, and how can we help them to return?

**Consolidation:** the autumn was an important time to consolidate the positive initiatives of the past few years noted at the Council, such as the tutoring and bible study. These are now pretty firmly established.

**Parish fabric:** the open meeting after the Parish Council underlined the importance of having a modern, warm and welcoming environment in our parish buildings as an essential backdrop to any pastoral growth and outreach. A parish Fabric Committee has now been formed, which is establishing a maintenance programme based on fulfilling our statutory duties and following a priority/cost matrix. The Committee next meets on 13th February.

**Family engagement:** This emerged as a priority at the Parish Council. Fr Stephen will establish a family engagement team on his return from Peru: this group will become the forum for a pastoral strategy encompassing such issues as events; a welcoming environment; outreach initiatives; and liaison with parents via schools (such as via the very successful Travelling Cribs).

**Communication.** The importance of good communication was underlined at the Council. The refreshed Communication Team has already begun to implement a strategy across social media, the church screens, local press etc. Themed communications initiatives such as the parish Christmas card distribution have also begun.

**Encouragement of African-origin Parishioners.** In reading the signs of the times around us, one clear area of potential is the number of young African-origin families attending our parish, especially the 10am Mass at St Mark's. Many are taking responsibility as readers, altar servers, welcome ministry, or attending the children's liturgy. Fr Stephen will soon organise a gathering for interested African-origin families to discuss how our parish can be further enriched by their gifts, and how they can grow as agents of evangelisation in the wider community.

**Sacramental preparation.** Sometimes pastoral priorities find us rather than the other way round! One emerging area is sacramental preparation, a wide ranging area encompassing school-age children seeking Baptism; children attending non-denominational schools seeking First Reconciliation (including many of the African-origin children noted above); and teenagers/adults wishing to complete their initiation. This provides a complex but very rich opportunity which will develop over the next few months to the summer. Please consider whether you could be part of the solution as a catechist, sponsor or befriender.

**MARY IN THE BIBLE STUDY SESSIONS**—Our very popular and successful Bible study sessions will begin again on Thursday evenings during Lent, from 15th February onwards.

#### LETTER FROM BISHOP TOAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I wish you all a very Happy New Year and every blessing for 2024.

The first Reading at Mass today on the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God is a very fitting blessing for all God's people from the Book of Numbers as we begin a new year: may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."The desire for God's blessing is very strong in people of faith and it is particularly sought after at times in life when we feel weak and vulnerable. We ask for this blessing frequently in our personal and communal prayer, and at times we ask a priest or deacon to pray with us and make the sign of the cross over us. This offers us a sense of God's love and mercy, and his consolation and protection in our particular time of need. The recent Declaration from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Fiducia Supplicans*, offered a reflection and direction on the Pastoral Meaning of Blessings, extending the possibility of giving a blessing to couples who are living in irregular relationships in the eyes of the Church, including same-sex couples. In the foreword Pope Francis made it clear that the Declaration remains firm on the traditional doctrine about marriage, not allowing any type of liturgical rite or blessing similar to the Rite of Marriage or other liturgical rites, so that any confusion is avoided. The value of the document is that it permits a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding of blessings, based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis. Since this is a development which has caused much comment and debate in the Church, I recommend that you read the Declaration and gain an appreciation of the rich teaching offered on blessings. On the particular possibility of offering a blessing to those in irregular sexual relationships, I quote No. 31 from *Fiducia Supplicans*: "Within the horizon outlined here appears the possibility of blessings for couples in irregular situations and for couples of the same sex, the form of which should not be fixed ritually by ecclesiastical authorities to avoid producing confusion with the blessing proper to the Sacrament of Marriage. In such cases, a blessing may be imparted.....that involves the invocation of a blessing that descends from God upon those whom – recognising themselves to be destitute and in need of his help – do not claim a legitimisation of their own status, but who beg that all that is true, good, and humanly valid in their lives and in their relationships be enriched, healed, and elevated by the presence of the Holy Spirit. These forms of blessing express a supplication that God may grant those aids that come from the impulses of his Spirit – what classical theology calls "actual grace" – so that human relationships may mature and grow in fidelity to the Gospel, that they may be freed from their imperfections and frailties, and that they may express themselves in the ever-increasing dimension of divine love." The possibility of blessings being given by the clergy to those in irregular situations, not within the liturgical or sacramental life of the parish, "but in other contexts, such as a visit to a shrine, a meeting with a priest, a prayer recited in a group, or during a pilgrimage" is very much in line with Pope Francis' often repeated desire that the Church reaches out to all her children, particularly those who feel isolated or on the margins. Such blessings can reassure that God loves and cares for them in their particular circumstances, and that the Church accompanies each of us in the often difficult journey of Christian faith and love. As Bishop, I welcome the initiative taken, and the possibilities it offers, and pray that it will assist the clergy in caring for those who seek our pastoral care and support, so that they experience the desired blessing from the Lord, who loves us so much that he took on our nature in order to save us all, May Our Blessed Lady, Mother of God, be with all her children, and help us grow in faith and love. Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Toal

**FOODBANK**—Firstly let me begin by wishing everyone a happily, healthy 2024! We had 60 visitors at our Foodbanks today. All left with food and toiletries thanks to your continued generosity. We must also thank The City Charitable Trust, The Sweeney Family and other donors for their support. It is always greatly appreciated. We don't want to ask for donations this week as we know what a difficult time this can be financially for everyone. However, if anyone can donate an item, it will be appreciated.

#### 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.

