

ST ANTHONY & ST MARK'S

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Parish of the Diocese of Motherwell Scottish Charity No. SC011041

All Masses in this Parish are livestreamed on YouTube

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) 22ND DECEMBER 2024

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT for 30mins before each weekday / Sat morning Mass

HOLY MASS	Tues	Christmas Eve: see below	Sat	5.00 pm Vigil at St Mark's
	Wed	Christmas Day: see below	Sun	10.00 am at St Mark's
	Thu	11 am at St Anthony's	Sun	11.30 am at St Anthony's
	Fri	11 am at St Mark's	Sun	2.00pm St Anthony's (Syro-Malabar Qurbana)
	Sat	11 am at St Anthony's	Sun	5.00 pm at St Anthony's
	HOLY ROSARY	Sat	10.40am at St Anthony's	
CONFESSION	Sat	9-9.20am St Anthony's	Sat 4.30-4.50pm St Mark's	Sun 4.30-4.50pm St Anthony's

SUNDAY READINGS

Reading 1	Micah 5:2-5a	From you shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel.
Psalms	Ps 80	Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved
Reading 2	Heb 10: 5-10	Behold, I have come to do your will
Acclamation	Luke 1: 38	Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.
Gospel	Luke 1: 39-45	Why is it granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who died recently, especially: Betty McCulloch (funeral reception Wed. 8th Jan 6.30pm; funeral Thursday 9th Jan 9.30am, St Anthony's); Janet Gallagher; Noella Lynch; Jacqueline Lynch; John Mooney.

Anniversaries: Teresa McKeown; Donnie McNaughton; George Walsh; Catherine & Patrick McCarry; Margaret McKell; Jim & Isabel McLaughlin;

Sick & housebound : Patrick Gallagher; Catherine Scott; Erin Lavery; Beatrice Hannah; Pauline Mahon; Mary McColgan; Ella Connolly; Isa Daniels, Finn McGuinness, Hope McKenna, May O'Donnell, Margaret Rice; Sandra Morgan; Neil Morton; Steven Murphy.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASSES AND SERVICES:

Tuesday 24th December:

Christmas Vigil Family Mass (St Anthony's) 5.00pm

First Mass of Christmas by Candlelight (St Mark's) – 8.00pm (with carol service from 7.30pm)

Christmas Day:

Dawn Mass (St Mark's) – 10am; Christmas Mass (St Anthony's) – 11.30am

Weekday Masses Wednesdays—Saturdays from 26th Dec— 4th January at **11AM** in the usual locations.

Hogmanay: Mass of Thanksgiving for 2024: 7pm St Anthony's

New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God: Mass 11am, St Mark's

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT THANKS

A huge thanks to everyone for this very successful and enjoyable community event, especially Siobhan and the Community Chor, our local schools, the S1 Trinity choir, and S6 Caritas singers, as well as the Cuppa Club for the hospitality & flowers. Roll on next year!

Bishop Toal's Christmas Message 2024

On the First Sunday of Advent, a phrase from the Reading from St Paul's Letter to The Thessalonians caught my attention – it was "more and more". In some ways "more and more" may sum up Christmas for many of us - more lights and decorations, more shopping and presents, more parties and festive treats, more songs and entertainment, more gatherings of family and friends. The list can continue and we are very lucky when we can enjoy many of these good things.

Why did St Paul use these words then? Here is what he wrote:

Brothers and Sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, That, as you received from us, how you ought to walk and please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

It sounds that he recommends making more and more room for Jesus in our lives, so that we can walk and please God in the way Jesus himself and the Apostles taught. We should certainly try to make more room for Jesus at Christmas as we listen again to the great story of his birth at Bethlehem and celebrate it in prayer and in song in our churches, homes, and schools. The true and full celebration of Christmas is a mark of our identity as Christians, and our joy that God became one of us to bring us salvation. In the spirit of St Paul's instruction let us be united in the Lord Jesus this Christmas and, through his grace, draw more and more closer to him, through our prayer and our charity to those more needy than ourselves. By doing this we strive to fully please God as true and faithful followers of Jesus, his Son and Our Lord

On Christmas Night Pope Francis will begin the Jubilee Year of 2025 by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's in Rome. Along with dioceses throughout the world we will begin the Jubilee here in Motherwell on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family. I invite you me to join me that afternoon for the Opening Service, followed by Mass in the Cathedral. Like Christmas, our Jubilee Year will be a period of more and more as we make extra efforts to celebrate and live our faith both at home and on pilgrimage. The theme for the year is Pilgrims of Hope, and as we continue our earthly pilgrimage in our difficult world we do indeed need more and more hope, flowing from our faith in God, and witnessed by our charity as members of Christ's Body. May the Lord bless you and your families with love and peace this Christmas and may our celebration of his birth bring renewed hope to all in hardship and distress.

HOLY YEAR OPENING EVENT SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

The Holy Year opens in our diocese with a pilgrimage moving towards the Cathedral behind the cross, beginning at Carfin at 1pm on Sunday 29th December for a short prayer gathering.

At 2.30pm, all people from across the Diocese are invited to gather in St Bride's Hall (across from the Cathedral) for the short pilgrimage to the Cathedral, the veneration of the Cross, a memorial of our baptism and the celebration of Mass.

ALTAR SERVERS & LIFETEEN GROUP CARNIVAL TRIP SATURDAY 4TH JANURAY

Following last year's successful trip we'll return to the In Bru carnival on Saturday 4th January, meeting at 11am at Rutherglen Town Hall (lifts also available from the churches), travelling by train and returning approx. 4pm. The trip is open to both altar servers and the S2-4 LifeTeen group. Information sheets / permission slips are available from the altar server sacristies/St Anthony's side chapel from this weekend. There will be lots of adult helpers but parents can attend if they wish.

FOODBANK NEWS

108 people came to our Foodbanks today and all were supported thanks to the efforts of our great team of volunteers and our supporters.

We have all been humbled by the outstanding generosity of so many people. We must thank The City Charitable Trust, SLC wishing tree donors and the many people who have donated via the Rutherglen Wonderful Winter Windows campaign- everyone has been so very generous. Thanks also to the many local businesses and residents who have been incredibly supportive.

Huge thanks to Dawn and the customers at Le Sorelle Home & Gift Boutique who provided gifts for pupils in our local secondary schools. The kindness shown was wonderful and is greatly appreciated by the schools and families involved.

We are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but will be running on the following dates / times during the holidays -

St Anthony's - Monday 23rd Dec, 9-10.30

St Mark's - Monday 30th Dec, 12-1.30

On behalf of everyone involved in the Foodbank we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA (WHITE FATHERS) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Missionaries of Africa in Rutherglen are looking for someone to add to their team who can provide holiday and sickness cover for the cook.

The successful applicant will be required to prepare, cook and serve a three course meal to be served at lunchtime to our community of six in their home. Lunch is served at 12.30pm. The hours are 9.00 'til 2.00pm which allows for food preparation, cooking and preparing the dining room before lunch.

If you are interested in working in a friendly and welcoming environment and would like to find out more about this paid position please contact Joan McLaughlin, Housekeeper on 0141 647 3800/07455 091749.

PARISH HOGMANAY PARTY SOLD OUT. RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED

Please hand in raffle prizes to the sacristy or chapel house, or bring them along on the night.

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 QR code (which is working again!)

