

**The Parish of St Mary, Inverness
The Presbytery, 30 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5PR**

(RC DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN CHARITABLE TRUST A REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY No 005122)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

8 Nov 16

Autumnal Gallimaufry.

As I write this, on the Memorial of Blessed John Duns Scotus, we have now entered the season of mists. The mellow fruitfulness has now past, the apples are stored, Ben Wyvis is again crowned with snow, and most of us are hunkering down to welcome winter. Those beyond the autumnal years are quite at home with the white and silver season. So we have a 'gallimaufry', a medley of assorted thoughts- perhaps a bit like your prayers. Even there we can find, and value, the fleeting thought, the occasional glimpse beyond the immediate, and sense that 'God is in all things', and that most of all we find Him in and with one another, in a world filled with the grandeur of God.

So here is a medley, a gallimaufry, of selected items to interest you, or simply to make you think about the opportunities that life brings us to get to know each other a little better, and in that knowing, learning more about the mystery of life itself- the gift we all share.

1. The Closing of the Holy Doors at St Mary's Inverness will be at the 6.30 pm Mass on Sunday 13 November.

During this Mass there will be Prayers for Healing and Anointing with the BALM of MERCY- from the Shrine of the Divine Mercy at Krakow.

YOU ARE ALL WELCOME

2. The Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Andrew Niski is at 3.00 pm on Fri 6 Jan 17. The ordination will be at here at St Mary's. Every parish in the deanery is likely to be represented by priests and people, and there will be guests from other parts of the Diocese, and from further afield. It would be helpful for planning purposes to have an idea of likely numbers, even at this stage. Please would you sign -up on the lists provided at the west end of the Church.

Choirs/singers : any singers who would like to join the St Mary's singers, the embryonic deanery choir, and members of the Aberdeen Diocesan Choir

(ADC) for the Ordination combined choir would be most welcome. Liz Meiklejohn of the ADC is co-ordinating the liturgical music. Our own Eddie Docherty has compiled some musical scores/texts and access to recorded music for singers. Please consider how you might help. Please speak to Eddie Docherty or myself, or drop us a note.

3. The Gabriel Society : The Meetings based at St Mary's, are to encourage and to promote further understanding of the Catholic Faith : sharing the Gospel – Our Common Life in the Body of Christ. See below :

Wed 21 Nov at 7.30 pm: In the Marian Room : Kit Fraser, co-owner of two Hootananny award winning music venues, pubs, (Inverness & Brixton), author of several books "Toff Down Pit", "The Joy of Talk", "Old Age: My Three Best Friends", has now written , "A Prayer Book – How to be Happy (not Easy)". Kit Fraser is as keen as mustard on 'telling our story". He will be sharing some of his insights and 'giving away' some copies of his book. You are most welcome – this should be stimulating!

Wed 7 Dec at 7.30 pm : In the Presbytery : Faith Sharing – "Go tell!"
Further reflections on Evangelisation – a discussion.

Fri 16 Dec at 7.30 pm : in the Marian Room : Readings, Reflection and Discussion of T.S.Eliot's "Little Gidding". The poem focuses on the unity of past, present, and future, and claims that understanding this unity is an indicator for salvation. It may be helpful for reflection and prayer in Advent. It is a most prayerful and beautiful poem.

4. The Seminararians' Appeal- a reminder that a new Mandatory Collection is to be taken every year on the Solemnity of Christ the King, beginning on Sun 20 Nov. Updated Appeal leaflets will be forthcoming from the Diocesan office.

The cost of Seminararians' fees and accommodation has risen. Happily we have five seminararians in formation – the Appeal last year was successful, so a renewed effort this year helps to reduce the amount that needs to be raised through levies. It is always good to get Direct Debits, Standing Orders, and even 'one off donations', Gift Aided. Please pray for all our seminararians- Emmet, Christopher, Dominic, Rafal and Malachy.

5. Young Believers Group : St Francis Xavier Day: Sat 3 Dec 16

**At Stratherrick a day of Faith Exploration and Fellowship for young people preparing for confirmation and the recently confirmed (12-16 +).
1000- 1630 (departing St Mary's, at 0915)**

Please encourage our young people to attend.

6. Deanery Day of Reflection at Stratherrick :

Thu 8 Dec 16 1000 for 1030, ends at 1600, after Mass at 1515.

Two short addresses on aspects of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Exposition-Rosary- Lunch- Exposition- Chaplet of the Divine Mercy- Anointing with the Balm of Mercy-Mass.

The lighting scheme for new chandeliers and side lighting, is well underway. We have received some very generous donations, and individual fund-raising by parishioners has augmented what has been given by regulars and visitors in our appeals. We are a little short as there are additional carpentry and electrical works to be completed. Work will begin in the loft from Mon 5 Dec and continue until work begins in the interior on Mon 12 Dec until completion by Sat 17 Dec.



7. Deacon Andrew has now finished the First Week of the Thirty Day Ignatian retreat with the Jesuits in Krakow. Please continue to pray for him as he prepares for his Ordination.

We will take two Collections towards a Parish presentation to him on the occasion of his ordination. These will be on Sun 13 Nov and on Sun 27 Nov. If you would prefer donations may be made by handing them into the Parish Office, clearly marked.

Deacon Andrew returns to be with us on Mon 5 Dec.

Please continue to support him day by day on the Way of Prayer.

Every Good wish and Blessing

Yours aye

Fr James

Fr James Bell