

St. Mary's, Inverness

30 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5PR.
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We invite you to
WATCH ONLINE
Mass from St Mary's
FACEBOOK
Sunday at 11:00

The Parish Bulletin

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Readings.

1st Reading: Isaiah 63: 16-17; 64: 1, 3-8
 Psalm: 79: 2-3
 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
 Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

Sunday 29 November	1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Highland Hospice	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Mass 12.30 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30
Monday 30 November	St Andrew	Live Stream Mass 10.00 Mass 18.00
Tuesday 1 December	1 st Week of Advent	Mass 10.00
Wednesday 2 December	1 st Week of Advent	Mass 12.30
Thursday 3 December	Memorial of St Francis Xavier	Mass 10.00
Friday 4 December	Memorial of St John Damascene	Mass 12.30
Saturday 5 December	1 st Week of Advent Stratherrick Vigil Mass at 17.00	Confessions 10.00 Mass 10.30 Vigil Mass 18.00
Sunday 6 December	2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT Second Collection: Highland Hospice	Mass 09.00 Live Stream Mass 11.00 Mass 12.30 Polish Mass 17.00 Mass 18.30

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Dear friends

Advent Sunday

Waiting, and waiting, and waiting has been the prevailing mode since we first became acquainted with the Coronavirus pandemic. Waiting for it to spread from China, as it did, to Italy, and from there to Switzerland, and to the United Kingdom. Waiting we were, for its inexorable spread throughout our islands, and then there was Lockdown. From March until July and August we were waiting for some relief, and we enjoyed a respite. Then we were waiting for the Second Wave, and it has duly arrived and now the four nations within the British Isles are in varying degrees of restrictions.

We have been waiting for a vaccine, and then there was one, then two, and three, then more, and now it would seem that widespread vaccination programmes will be introduced globally within the next month or so. We will be waiting for that.

Some folk are waiting for Christmas, not the Sacramental dimension for the most part, but the consumer-fest, the razzamatazz of parties, prezzies, trees and colourful lights.

Some of us will be waiting through the four weeks of the Advent season for a story to unfold. We will be reflecting, deeply aware of our personal responses, to the great story which has undergirded world history. In the Holy Scriptures, there is an unfolding story of waiting : waiting for deliverance from evil, waiting for just rule, waiting for kindness and compassion in the market-place and in the countryside, waiting for freedom from unjust oppressors, waiting for a sign from God, that there may be healing from the wounds that separate us from one another, and from God Himself.

Waiting for this sign from God were prophets, shepherds, kings and wise men. In the unfolding of the Christmas story, the

waiting becomes a 'coming', and the story of salvation, of healing is revealed in the Christ Child. *'The Word became flesh and dwells among us full of grace and truth....'*

We are still waiting for a wider profound response to the Good News that brings *'Peace to all people of Good-will'*. Pray that we do not retard this!

We are waiting for everyone to get the message. For true peace, in the healing of this nation, Europe, the whole Earth, there needs to be shared ideals and practice. Governments may seek to change patterns of behaviour, about social mixing, about plans for travel or isolation, and they are waiting patiently for their persuasive suggestions to be enacted. Herein is a problem as it may become necessary to impose sanctions to ensure compliance, and there is a reluctance to do this.

I would suggest that part of the problem is the cult of the paramountcy of the individual over and against the corporate notion of the Common Good. Catholicism, at its best, has always understood the integrity of the individual in matters of conscience and choice, and has equally emphasised, through Catholic Social Teaching, that our human solidarity imposes obligations on each of us to care for the vulnerable and the weak, and to safeguard the Common Good.

Are Christians better able to respond to the need to comply with Government guidelines and protocols? I hope so, as we should have a clear understanding of the 'bigger story', the narrative of Salvation that runs through human history. So many people, particularly among the young, have no adequate understanding of such a context, no clarity as to why we should behave for wider concerns than simply our own choices and advantages. There has been a huge loss of the Judaean-Christian narrative from the educational process, along with a decline in sympathetic understanding of the spiritual response that engenders worship. Apart from Church schools,

one might suggest that for some time there has been no real proclamation in the educational forum of the Christian narrative that undergirds our civilisation, and the sense of worship.

We are waiting, and waiting and waiting, for a human response that will change the face of the Earth. That is what Advent is about, but it is not about some imaginary world beyond our ken. The human response is yours and mine, now, as by example and encouragement we serve to lead our contemporaries in compliance with health and safety regulations, in humble service to our actual neighbours, in kindly regard for all those who are isolated and distressed.

Advent, the Coming of Christ, this is roll-up-your-sleeves time for Catholics. We are waiting and caring that the tables are being spread for the Eucharistic Banquet. Holy Mass at Christmas is our obligation to ourselves, and the well-spring of our duty to God and all our brothers and sisters.

Emmanuel, God is with us, as He reconciles the world to Himself. It is nothing less than the Coming of the Kingdom of God. For this we are waiting, and acting, doing and praying. God is with us. He will give the increase- a surfeit of Loving-kindness that will renew the face of the Earth. It is a waiting-game, but it is worth waiting for, through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost – when all is renewed by the Creator God, whose spirit brings order from chaos, *'All shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well'*.
[Julian of Norwich]

May the Advent Hope bring you joy and a consecrated resolve to wait in Love for the Happiness of the seasons.

Every Blessing,

Fr James

Lord, Father of our human family, you created all human beings equal in dignity: pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit. Move us to create healthier societies and a more dignified world, a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.



Pope Francis – Pontifex Twitter

~GENERAL NEWS~

SECOND COLLECTIONS IN AID OF HIGHLAND HOSPICE ON SUNDAY 29 NOV & 6 DEC 2020

As we approach Christmas and the end of this extraordinary year, we can see glimmers of hope that 2021 will be better for everyone. On a seemingly weekly basis we hear of a new vaccine with a high success rate. Recent restrictions across the UK are turning the tide on the second peak and now we know we will be able to gather as extended families at Christmas. It will be hugely important to so many people that they can share this special time with the folk they love. Here at Highland Hospice we know that Christmas can be especially hard for our patients and their families. For many patients this will be their last Christmas and it is so important that they can spend it with the people that matter the most to them. For some families this will be their first Christmas without their loved one; bringing back feelings of loss as well as many happy memories. I'm sure all of us have shared these feelings at different times in our lives.

Thanks to your support, our amazing team are able to look after people as they navigate this difficult time. Nurses in our Inpatient Unit will make sure that Christmas Day for those staying with us will be the best it can be. Our Helping Hands befrienders will maintain contact with their new friends and reduce, as best they can, feelings of loneliness and isolation often amplified while others gather to celebrate as families. Our Bereavement Support Team will be on hand to lend a listening ear for those struggling with the loss of someone special to them.

Across the Highlands your contributions will be helping our staff and volunteers make a real difference to individuals and families in need. Thank you, we are so grateful for this support. All of us at Highland Hospice wish you, your families and loved ones a truly special Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With best regards
Andrew Leaver, Head of Fundraising

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS FOR MARY'S MEALS

Our Christmas Day collections will be taken this year in aid of Mary's Meals. These collections will be taken at all Christmas Masses along with the second collection on Sunday 27 December the Feast of the Holy Family. Donate today and double your love! Give until 31 January 2021 and public donations to Mary's Meals will be doubled by the UK government, up to £2 million – meaning we can reach even more hungry children in Liberia with life-changing school meals. It costs £15.90 to feed a child for a whole school year with Mary's Meals – and now you can Double The Love and feed TWO children for just £15.90. Details can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk You may also consider buying your Christmas cards and gifts by visiting www.marysmeals.org.uk/shop

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are now available to purchase from the Piety stall please ask Cathy, Carol or one of the volunteers for help. We have also got some beautiful Christmas cards which have been hand made by a parishioner, for sale in aid of Church funds at a cost of £2 each, please see the poster on the table in the porch which shows the cards which are available. These can be purchased from the parish office.



Collections and Donations: The Collection Box is displayed on the table in the porch: Sunday General Collection {Main Collection}, and Fabric/Special Collections. The Donations Box will also be available.



MASS

Entry for Mass will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure a seat please ensure that you arrive in good time, as once the capacity of the Church is reached, no further admission is possible, due to Government limits. The times of Masses are advertised in this Bulletin, on the Parish website and on external notices on the Church doors.

Confessions will be available on Saturdays from 10-10.30 and after Mass on request, also 5.15-5.45 pm before the Vigil Mass.

FORTHCOMING CELEBRATIONS Sun 6 Dec 20: Second Sunday of Advent

At the 12.30 Mass two young people [Eilidh and Amber] will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Again there will be small groups of family and supporters.

CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS:

Excerpt from a Memo from The Diocese

The First Minister will relax the current Covid restrictions over the festive period.

From 23-27 December inclusive, people are permitted to form a “bubble” of up to three households. It is not possible to ‘change the bubble’ (i.e., the composition of the individuals, or households) once it has been formed. Travel restrictions will also be relaxed from 23 – 27 December, to allow people to travel between local authority areas, and between the four nations of the UK, in order to join their designated

“bubble”. According to the gov.scot website, a “bubble” of people can meet in a private home, in outdoor public places AND in places of worship.

Therefore, people from various parts of the country and beyond will inevitably be travelling to locations within our Diocese, to celebrate Christmas with family members. Some of them will want to join us for the celebration of our Christmas liturgies. We are lucky that the transmission rate in the Diocese of Aberdeen is relatively low: the Highland and Moray deaneries remain in Level 1, with the Shire and Aberdeen City in Level 2. Prudence and common sense dictate that we continue to remain vigilant and to do all that we can to minimise unnecessary transmission risks.

With this in mind, during Christmas week – in other words, from the Christmas Vigil Mass on Thursday 24 December until Sunday 27 December inclusive – every parish and Mass centre in the Diocese offer seat booking for the festive Masses to their own parishioners in the first instance.

In the interests of safety, and of effective infection control management, everyone is welcome to join us ‘virtually’, via the live-streamed Masses offered by a number of parishes in the diocese.

Fr. Domenico Zanre VG

The following arrangements will be in place at Christmas;

Thu 24 Dec 20

Stratherrick: 18.00 hrs Mass [anticipation of Night Mass]
St Mary's. : 18.30 hrs and 20.30 hrs [anticipation of Night Mass]
23.30hrs [Polish Night Mass]

Friday 25 Dec 20

St Mary's: 09.00 Dawn Mass
09.15 Mass in Prison
11.00 Morning Mass
12.30 Mass of the Day

The Church will be closed in the afternoon- no further Masses

Given the expectation that there will be a demand for seats at these Masses, in conformity with practice elsewhere, it has been decided that parishioners should obtain a TICKET from the Parish Office for the Mass which they wish to attend. In this way we will know how many 'visitors' we will be able admit, given the restrictions of Covid 19. The tickets will be colour coded for each Mass.

In the Christmas Octave admittance to all other Masses will be on the present basis of first arrivals until the seating limit is reached.

Thursday 31 Dec 20

St Mary's: Mass 10.00 hrs
Vigil Mass at 18.00 hrs

Friday 1 Jan 21 [New Year's Day]

St Mary's: Mass at 12.30 hrs
Polish Mass at 17.00 hrs

The Church will be closed after Masses.

First Holy Communion:

Following last week's First Communion, classes will continue in the Marian room for a further two sessions at 1700 hrs on Wednesdays. There will always be two or three adults present, including one of the Sisters / Daughters of Divine Love.

Session 8. Wed 2 Dec:

Session 9. Wed 9 Dec:

Please get in touch with me as soon as possible if there are any difficulties. Fr. James Bell

LIVE STREAMING OF MASS

The 1100 hrs Mass on Sundays will be recorded/streamed so that the housebound will be able to participate to some extent. Thank you for your continuing vigilance and understanding.

Parish Confirmation, Sunday 6 Dec 20, (Deferred from June)

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at the 12.30 Mass on Sunday 6 December 20. The candidates are: Eilidh Peteranna and Amber Tait. The Rehearsal will be at 16.15 Sat 5 Dec. Confessions at 17.00

MYSORE SANDAL SOAP

Handwashing and handwashing and handwashing— one can get to enjoy it. I use a particularly pleasant soap, exported from India “Mysore Sandal Soap”. You may be persuaded to buy this fragrant, soothing and very traditional soap. Sometimes, something different makes the effort of frequent handwashing something sought and celebrated. Bars of this fragrant and soothing soap are available from the Presbytery Office at £1.80 per bar. Happy washing, stay safe and keep well. Many thanks to all who have purchased the soap already.

New Parish Mass Books

We have purchased 100 copies of the Parish Mass Book Year B volume 1. If you would like to purchase one for your own personal use at Mass they can be obtained from the Parish office or by asking any of the volunteers at a cost of £4.

From Bishop Hugh Gilbert

Dear Parishioners

Please find here two links to a talk of mine in two parts on behalf of Pope Francis.

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/macnmUy6s68> <<https://youtu.be/macnmUy6s68>>

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/VJZERVt07fc> <<https://youtu.be/VJZERVt07fc>>

Devotedly,

Bishop Hugh

The Prayer of St. Gertrude for the Souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen

POLISH-LANGUAGE ADDICTION MEETINGS OFFERED TO CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGHLANDS.

POLISH-language addiction meetings are now being offered to several thousand Central and Eastern European people living in the Highlands.

Pawel Wyderka runs the SMART programme both in person and online on a voluntary basis. Under government guidance, adult addiction meetings can still take place under strict precautions during the Covid restrictions. Having achieved a diploma from the University of Highlands and Islands in Inverness, he is currently working as a counsellor

“SMART Recovery is a mutual support meeting where, through open and confidential discussion, we help each other and ourselves with recovery from any type of addictive behaviour.

“If we have chosen to maintain an addictive behaviour, it is possible that we can choose to stop it. We therefore discourage the use of labels such as alcoholic and addict in our meetings.”

Meetings for the Polish-speaking community are held in the Salvation Army Hall at 20 Tomnahurich Street every Saturday at 4pm. Mr Wyderka also holds online SMART meetings for the Polish-language group every Thursday at 8pm.

St. Vincent de Paul Society(SVDP)

Requests for assistance and support can be made by contacting Mark Jones in confidence or any SVDP member. Mobile number: 07988 670 997 Visit www.ssvpscotland.com

Magdalena Bargiel MPsych.

Person - Centred Counsellor MBACP. MCOSCA. MBPsS. MPPA.

I offer you a safe space to talk, to be heard and support you to build healthier relationships with self and others. I provide counselling in Polish and English I offer. Contact:

magdalenabargiel.counselling@gmail.com or 07858129725.

St Faustina's Diary

I went to the cemetery at dusk. Although it was locked, I managed to open the gate a bit and said, “ If you need something, my dear souls, I will be glad to help you to the extent that the rule permits me.” I then heard these words, “ Do the will of God; we are happy in the measure that we have fulfilled God's will.” DIARY: 518.

~PARISH FINANCES~

Following the receipt of our October bank statement, we can now provide an update of our present financial situation. This is the No.1 working account, the No.2 account is money held for specific purposes and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Balance as of 25/09/20	£565.30
<u>Income</u>	
Offertory	1,810
Direct Debit & Standing orders	2,495
Cash Donations	3,241
Donation box	445
Fundraising	
(Mask donations & soap)	193
Clergy Support (2 months)	990
Hall rent from school	3,000
Bible Alive & Newspapers	60
Piety Stall	99
Paypal refund	33.41
Total Income	£12,366.41

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Diocesan Expenses	2,390
Power costs	455.54
Council tax	355
Office expenses(including quarterly charges for Phone system)	616.99
Insurance	173.43
Provisions	409.20
Hospitality	35.38
Mileage expenses(July to October).	527.53
Salaries (2months)	2791.19
Piety stall	103.60
Newspapers	18.90
House expense(including TV Licence)	31.30
Church expense	
(Masks & Sanitising materials)	100.62
Transfer of Fabric donation (paid to wrong account)	150
Transfer of Hall rent to NO. 3 A/c (minus power costs)	2039.45
Total Expenditure	£10,198.13
Balance as of 30/10/20	£2,733.58

We are extremely grateful for the recent donations from our own Parishioners and previous visitors from other parts of Scotland. This has helped us maintain a small working balance in our account. The burden of the Diocesan Levies has also seen a modest reduction which will also go some way to helping maintain our balance.

Please consider making donations to the General Account: - (St Mary's No. 1 account) or the Fabric Maintenance Account: - (St Mary's Inverness No 2 account). Details can be obtained from the Parish Office.

We have received all our gift aid tax rebates on our 2019/20 claim, this is vital income to the Parish, every year but especially in these difficult times for the Parish, financially. We are extremely grateful to all who participate in the Gift Aid scheme.

If you are a UK taxpayer and have not yet considered helping the Parish in this way, we ask that you think about signing up to this scheme. It costs you nothing, but the Parish receives 25p for every £1 you contribute, no matter how small your contribution. If you wish details of the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Parish Office.

Please consider creating a Regular Standing Order or Direct Debit. This is the easiest way of maintaining your regular contributions. Information can be obtained from Carol MacLean. Please leave a message with your contact details by contacting the Office on the telephone number 01463 233519.

If any of you are in a position to make an increase in your giving, this will be welcomed.

Please ensure that all your regular weekly plate offerings are continued. This can be done by sending in a cheque to the Parish office or posting an envelope through the letterbox. Please use the internal letterbox if the outer porch door is open.

~~FOR YOUR PRAYERS~~

+ Sick +

+ Christopher Brown + Mary Cumming + Kate Fraser + George Taylor + Maureen Rattray + Florian Alvaran +
 + Ian Cameron + Leslie Allan + Evelyn Farry + Catherine Stewart + Louise Hendry + Hilary Smith + Mary Grant +
 + Leslie Murray + Sabrina MacAllen + James Connelly + Ruth & John Huggett + Louise Bestau + Emmy MacNicol +
 + Claude & Hilary Hayward + Patrick Daniel Finnerty + Joyce Connelly + Margaret Carr + Margaret Dow +
 + Ann Cameron + Stewart MacLennan + Alexandra (Sandra) MacDonald + Isobel Kelly + Winifred Kelly +
 + Margaret Harrison + Roddy Corbett + Tommy Robertson + Brian Lamond + Hazel Collins + Lynne Williams +
 + Tom Gillan + Marjory Trace + Ian Mackenzie + Rena Mackintosh + John Daniel Peteranna + Mary Macdonald +
 + Marvia McCulloch + Dale Swanson + Mary Mackinnon + Eilidh Gillespie + John and MaryBell +
 + Mary Fraser + Helen Mulgrew + Brian Kearney + Andrew +

+ Anniversaries +

+ Margaret Kerin + Julia Bieinal + Patrick McCann + Evelyn Kennedy + Christopher Harling + Helen Rae +
 + Mary Brogan + Alexander McCulloch + William Friery + Margaret Cameron + Anne Bowyer +
 + Simon MacDonald + Rosaline Kearny + Sr Raphael Anakwuo DDL + Mary Fyffe + William Kavanagh +
 + Joseph Conway + Emma Duncan + Eva Regan + Winifred Munro + Catherine Adameic + Jackie Mokwa +

Please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood; Deacons Christopher and Malachy and for our Seminarian Aidan Matheson and for the students from Vietnam Anh & Quynh.

~~SICK OR HOSPITAL VISITS~~

Please contact the Parish Office if you require a visit or know of anyone who is sick, housebound or in hospital and wishes a visit and or Holy Communion.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Sacrament of Baptism
 Weddings**

We are now able to participate in these Sacraments: please contact the Clergy for Detail

~~CONTACT DETAILS~~

Fr. James Bell	Parish Priest	01463 233519
Fr. Andrew Niski	Priest for Polish Community	01463 233519
Fr. Dominic Nwaigwe	Assistant Priest	01463 233519
Dcn. Patrick Darbyshire	Parish Deacon & Prison Chaplain	01463 233519
PJ Faferek	Parish Office	01463 233519
Carol MacLean	Finance & Gift Aid Organiser	01463 233519
Stephen Dunphy	Safeguarding Officer	01463 233519
Daughters of Divine Love Convent (Sr. Grace)		01463 718690
St Joseph's Primary School		231837

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Aberdeen



The Parish of the Immaculate Conception, Stratherrick Day Retreat for Twelve People: Tue 8 Dec 2020

- 10.00 : Gather at the Steading Hall - Coffee & Chat
- 10.30 : Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 10.45 : Retreat Address [Fr James Bell]
- 11.00 : Contemplative Prayer & Opportunities for Confession
- 12.00 : Angelus & Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 12.30 : Mass
- 13.00 : Lunch in the Steading
- 14.30 : The Joyful Mysteries [Outdoor Shrine]
- 14.45 : Exposition and Benediction
- 15.15 : Depart

The Cost of the Day Retreat will be £5 per person for lunch and a small donation to the Parish to cover expenses. To remain within the Safe Practices of Covid19 protocols the Retreat will be limited to TWELVE visiting Retreatants. Social distancing will be observed, and masks will be worn except when in the Steading for Coffee and Lunch. Sanitising materials will be available.

Retreatants should make their own safe travelling arrangements.

